

Republican News Item.

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LAPORTE, SULLIVAN COUNTY PA. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 1907.

75C PLR YEAP

\$24,000—\$44,000 Which Do You Prefer ?

The average man earns about \$1,100 a year. He works 40 years and earns a total of \$44,000 in a life time. The average day laborer gets \$2,000 a day or \$600 for a year of 300 days. He earns \$24,000 in a life time. The difference between \$44,000 and \$24,000 is \$20,000. This is the minimum value of a practical education in dollars and cents. The increased self-respect cannot be measured in money. Why not stop plugging away at a small salary when the International Correspondence Schools, of Scranton, Pa., can give you an education that will make high salaried man of you? No matter what line of work you care to follow, this great educational institution can prepare you in your spare time and at a small cost to secure a good-paying position. Our local Representative will show you how you can triple your earning capacity. Look him up today. He is

C. F. BRENNAN,
C. I. S. Representative. TOWANDA, PA.

COLE'S HARDWARE.

No Place Like this Place
For Reliable

STOVES and RANGES,
COAL OR WOOD.
HEATERS;

ONE OF WINTER'S GREAT DELIGHTS.

House Furnishing Goods, Tools of Every
Description, Guns and Ammunition

Bargains that bring the buyer back.
Come and test the truth of our talk.

A lot of second hand stoves and ranges for sale cheap.
We can sell you in stoves anything from a fine Jewel Base
Burner to a low priced but satisfactory cook stove.

Hot Air, Steam and Hot Water Heating and
General Repairing, Roofing and Spouting.

Samuel Cole, Dushore, Pa.

The Shopbell Dry Good Co.,
313 Pine Street,
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

Ladies' White LawnWaist

The stock is at its best just now, and any ideas you have may be readily satisfied here, as we have all the newest styles that have been shown this season, and above all a large assortment to choose from. They are neatly made and are reasonable in price.

Ladies' and Children's Embroidery for Corset Tan Hose Covers

Ladies' plain and lace Tan Hose, extra good qualities for
12c to 50c a Pair
Children's Tan Hose in all sizes for
15 and 25c

We are showing some very handsome and new designs of 18 inch Corset Cover Embroidery; the prices range from
25c to 75c a Yard

Infants' Dresses and Wearables for Babies.

We have just opened some Infants' Long Dresses with lots of taste and baby-like beauty in them. Some plain, others with laces and tucks. Prices start at 25c and up to \$2.75

Short Dresses for older babies. All dainty and well made from fine Cambric or Nainsook, at 25c and up.
Infants' and Children's long or short Skirts on waists at 50c to \$1.00

Infants' and Children's Hand Crochet ed Sacques, in plain or white or pink and blue trimmings, 25c to 1.50.

Baby's and Children's White Mull Caps, at 25c to 75c.

Infants' Cashmere Bands, 25c and 50c

Infants' Wool and Cotton Hose in white, pink, blue, tan and fast black extra qualities, for 15c and 25c.

Ladies' White Dresses.

Ladies' White Lawn and Swiss Dresses in the newest styles. Neatly made and trimmed with embroidery or laces. It doesn't pay to make them when you can buy nice dresses here for \$3.00 to 17.50.

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In last week's issue of the Gazette I find a reference to me as follows: "As before stated we are unable to say and unable to learn and can only infer what influence brought about the results. Judge Ingham is the acting counsel for the commissioners and we are told that E. P. Ingham figured in the settlement for Baron Connell. If this be true the situation was this. Baron Connell upon one side assisted by Ellery, and Sullivan county upon the other side assisted by Judge Ingham. We learn that commissioner McDonnald did not favor the settlement."

As this affects public interests I deem it proper to notice it.

As County Solicitor it became my duty to render to the County Commissioners such legal assistance as they required of me, and in reference to the legal aspects of the recent triennial assessment, I have been occasionally consulted. I can say with truth that from the beginning to the end of this difficult task, I have observed in the Commissioners nothing but a steady effort to do their duty to the County and to the taxpayers.

When they examined the assessments as returned by the assessors they observed that the valuations all over the county were substantially the same as they had been established by their predecessors in office. The last board of commissioners had raised the valuation on real estate, as returned by the assessors, to the extent of ten per cent, and that raised valuation was retained, but the commissioners observed that valuations on timber lands, and coal lands and tanneries were not fixed at their proportionate value.

As it required much investigation, and the testimony of those who had knowledge of all of these properties, to enable the commissioners to form a just estimate of their value, they deemed it proper to employ Frank W. Meylert Esq., to give special attention to this part of the business. Mr. Meylert's knowledge of the Sullivan coal fields especially fitted him for this employment.

Sitting as a board of Revision the commissioners heard the testimony of witnesses on all of the interests involved, and on this testimony raised the valuation on such of the said lands as seemed to them to be assessed too low. This action of the commissioners was, as the law requires, *ex parte*; the property owners were not heard. Immediately after the assessments had been raised, days were appointed for appeals in every township, and at the county seat.

The owners of the timber land and tanneries were heard at Laporte. Witnesses were sworn and examined on both sides, and the lands were considered tract by tract, and classified as follows: 1st hemlock timber land; 2nd hardwood timber land; 3rd barren land. After a full investigation the valuation was amicably adjusted as follows: the valuation on the hemlock timber land was raised from 18 to 40 dollars per acre, the hardwood timber land from 2 to 5 dollars per acre, and the barren land left as heretofore at one dollar per acre. The acreage was also examined and added to when required, and some tracts heretofore omitted added to the list. The valuation of the tanneries was raised from \$98,000 to \$172,000.

From such information as the Commissioners could gather, while sitting as a board of revision, they raised the valuation of the Cherry and Colley coal lands from \$18 to \$350 per acre.

On the day fixed for the appeal Mr. Connell, Mr. Jackson and others interested in the coal lands, appeared with E. J. Mullen, S. T. McCormick and A. Walsh as their attorneys. The situation was discussed at some length, but the attorneys representing the coal interests did not offer any evidence nor make any proposition for settlement. They stated tersely that they would go to a higher Court. They afterwards entered an appeal to the Court of Common Pleas.

The Court of Common Pleas convened at Laporte on the 3, of September to hear the appeal, Judges Terry, Kshinka and Richlin being upon the bench.

Attorneys E. J. Mullen and S. T. McCormick appeared for the appel-

lants, and Thos. J. Ingham, F. W. Meylert and Rodney A. Mercur appeared for the County. A large number of witnesses on both sides were in attendance.

Before the case was opened in Court an effort was made to get an amicable adjustment in the Commissioners office. Mr. Connell presented his side of the case very strongly, and was answered in an able argument by Mr. Meylert. The best offer that could be got from Mr. Connell was for a valuation of fifty or sixty dollars per acre, which the Commissioners refused; but offered to reduce it to \$175 per acre; which the coal men refused. The case therefore had to go to trial. The Appellants first offered in evidence the Commissioners Journal, and all of the assessment books of the county for the year 1907, and then called Nathan Persun to the witness stand. Mr. Persun testified that he had examined a large number of farms and buildings in Cherry and Colley townships and in Dushore borough, and then proceeded to state the valuation which he put upon a great number of properties; and the valuation he put upon them was compared with the valuation put upon them by the township assessors. He was on the stand until the adjournment Tuesday evening and was called upon the stand again on Wednesday. He was followed by G. L. McHenry of Dushore, who testified that he went with Mr. Persun to examine the various properties upon which Mr. Persun had estimated the cost values; that they had agreed upon a valuation in every case, and he expressed the opinion that all the valuations mentioned by Mr. Persun were correct.

Mr. S. Hurst was next called, and testified that he went with Persun and McHenry and examined real estate in Mildred, Bernice and Lopez, and corroborated the valuations made by them, so far as related to those villages. Several other witnesses were called who occupied the time of the Court until Thursday noon.

The testimony thus far adduced indicated that the assessed valuation of the real estate in the townships of Colley and Cherry, excluding the coal lands, did not exceed from one-third to one-fifth its real cash value.

In the afternoon session of the Court Thursday Judge Terry suggested that it might be advisable for the parties to settle. He said it was now evident that it would take a long time to try the case and be very expensive, and he thought if the parties would get together in an amicable spirit they might make a fair settlement and save a great deal of cost. He said the Constitution provided that taxation should be equal, and that if the case was left to the Court, the Court would have to conform to the evidence in the equalization of the taxation. Acting on this suggestion the Attorneys representing all parties interested requested the Court to grant a recess to give them an opportunity for consultation.

The Commissioners and the coal men were so far apart that it was difficult for them to get together. Propositions and counter proposition were made and rejected for about two hours. Finally the coal men made an offer as their ultimatum, to consent to the valuation of \$101 per acre. The Commissioners were reluctant to accept this offer but by the advice of their Attorneys finally consented to do so.

In reaching this conclusion due consideration was given to five points in the case, 1st. It could not be controverted that the assessments on real estate in the County were much below the cash value. 2nd. That as we could not produce evidence of any sales of coal lands in the county it was difficult for us to establish its marketable value by the usual mode of proof, and in so far as what is called "expert testimony" was concerned the coal men had more "experts" than we had; 3rd. If the Court of Common Pleas of Sullivan county should sustain us in our positions, an appeal would probably be taken to the Supreme Court, which would cause long delay and great expense; 4th.

If we failed to sustain our assessments in the Supreme Court, a large amount of costs would probably fall upon the county; 5th. The trial was likely to last two or three weeks; the expense to the county for witnesses, lawyers, officers of the Court etc., amounted to several hundred dollars per day. These costs were likely to exceed the amount which the County could get from increased taxation on any increased valuation which we might get on coal lands above the \$101 per acre offered to us.

In reference to the settlement some may say, "You had a just cause why did you not fight it out?" To this it may be answered, "Who knows the result of a lawsuit?" And further, that so long as the litigation was lingering, and the costs accumulating, the taxes would remain in the pockets of the coal men, while the commissioners were borrowing money to pay current expenses.

Summing up what the commissioners have accomplished we have the fact that the commissioners have largely increased the valuation of the taxable property of the county without imposing any increased burdens on the farmers and laborers of the county. The increased taxation will be, where it justly belongs, on timber lands, coal lands and tanneries.

And this raised valuation, LET IT BE REMEMBERED, is established by AGREEMENT with the property owners and all parties interested.

Most of our people will be surprised to learn that this increased valuation exceeds HALF A MILLION OF DOLLARS.

The editors of the Gazette say in their newspaper that "For many years it has been well known that the coal lands of Sullivan county, lying in Colley and Cherry townships, were being assessed at a very small fraction of their valuation, and as a result that the owners of these properties were bearing a grossly inadequate share of the public burden."

At the time of the triennial assessment three years ago the two editors of the Gazette controlled two influential newspapers. They found no fault with the commissioners who assessed these same coal lands at eighteen dollars per acre, and at the same time raised the valuation on all of the farm lands and village real estate of the county ten per cent above the valuation made by the assessors.

It appears therefore that these editors should be the last men to condemn the commissioners who have raised the valuation on these same coal lands more than five hundred and fifty per cent, without raising the valuation on the farm lands and village real estate in the county, one cent.

THOMAS J. INGHAM.

Harrisburg, Sept. 14.—The auditor general's department has refused to pay more than five cents a mile mileage in primary election bills, and has returned to county commissioners all bills exceeding that rate. The charges for mileage by judges of election in making returns present as much variation as charges for ballot boxes, printing, clerical work and other details, and suggest the necessity of a state law fixing such expenses. In almost every instance the bills for the winter primaries and many for the summer primaries have been returned.

Austin, in Potter county is waging war against an evil that has recently come to light in that place. According to the returns of an Austin constable, made in open court at Coudersport, Frank J. Welsh, a local druggist, and his agent W. J. Alexander were guilty of selling powdered cocaine to the people so promiscuously that from 50 to 100 of Austin's young people are victims of this deadly drug habit. Both men were arrested on the charge of selling the drug in this way.

Justices of the peace and magistrates throughout Luzerne county will have something on which to reflect through the action of the grand jury last week which put the costs in many trivial cases upon the committing magistrates. It has been the custom throughout that county among the magistrates to return cases in which costs were not paid no matter how trivial the offense might be. The magistrates had been repeatedly warned by the court but the evil continued to grow. Last week when the grand jury came across a lot of these cases, to show its disgust placed the cost of the proceedings upon the magistrates.

BERNICE ITEMS.

Mr. and Mrs. T. F. McLaughlin, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. McLaughlin were Laporte visitors Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Miner were Nordmont visitors Sunday.

Thomas Walters was visiting Laporte friends Friday.

C. E. Jackson was a Sayre visitor Tuesday.

Miss Maude Turnbull of Reynoldsville, was visiting Mildred friends last week.

John O. Conner and Thomas Ramsey were at Colley playing ball Saturday.

Atty. A. J. Bradley of Laporte, was calling on friends at this place Wednesday.

Sheriff Buck of Laporte was a visitor here Thursday.

The game of ball between the Bernice Stars and Dushore on Saturday was called off on account of some of our players getting cold feet.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGee of Sayre, were called to Mildred Sunday on account of the sudden death of her father Timothy Ryan who died at Mildred Saturday.

Another landmark has passed away in the death of Mr. Timothy Ryan. For the repose of his soul, Father Enright celebrated requiem high mass at St. Francis church. Few men were better known than was Mr. Ryan in this section. Socially he had few equals, for hospitality he had no peer. The community has lost a good citizen and a most charitable neighbor. The surviving family are his wife, two daughters, Mrs. Robt. McGee, of Sayre, and Clara, at home; one brother, William, of Mildred. Interment was made in St. Francis cemetery.

Muncy Valley, Sept. 14, 1907.

Mrs. Sarah A. Webb, wife of Col. E. E. Webb of this place passed away September 4th, after a year's suffering with rheumatism and diabetes. The funeral services were held at the house and also at Mt. Zion Lutheran church in Penn township. The sermon was preached by Rev. S. B. Bidlack. A large number of people from this place attended these services. Mrs. Webb was a good woman of splendid character and with a kind disposition. She was the daughter of Daniel F. Smith of Penn township. She was married to Col. Webb in the year 1882. Their union was blessed with a daughter who at the age of three years died. This was a severe blow to Mrs. Webb, but recovering from the sorrow, she became a sympathetic and loving neighbor highly esteemed by all. She leaves beside her husband one daughter and one sister, Mrs. Mary Ann Houseknecht who lived with the family. Mrs. Dell Edkin of Hughesville, a niece, and Thomas, Phillip and Jake Houseknecht, nephews, attended the funeral. The Muncy Valley choir sang three consoling hymns at the funeral. Interment was made at Mt. Zion cemetery.

A very pleasant social affair occurred at the home of Mrs. H. L. Par-doe, Forksville, Tuesday evening, September 3, the occasion being a reception given by the ladies of the Forksville Womans' Christian Temperance Union to the School Board and the teachers and pupils of the Forksville High School. A short literary program consisting of reading, essays, recitations and music given by members present was much enjoyed. At the close of the program Miss Sara A. Huckle, Co. Pres., presented a picture of Mrs. Mary H. Hunt to the High School which was graciously received by Principle N. B. Lundy. Elegant refreshments were served and a good time enjoyed by all.

D. E. Hunihan of Pittsburg has been appointed an inspector for the state insurance department. Mr. Hunihan takes the place of Representative Andrew R. Hitchcock of Tioga county, whose appointment was declared illegal by Attorney General Todd on the ground that a member of the legislature cannot be appointed to a State office during the term for which he is elected.