

The Fulton County News.

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KANSAS SCHOOL MARM.

Writes of Educational Conditions Out There, and Thinks Those in The Keystone State Suffer in The Comparison.

FORMERLY A TAYLOR TOWNSHIP GIRL.

DEAR EDITOR:—One of the copies of your paper came to me the other day and brought old memories back to mind—memories of old friends, old times, and old scenes in the dear home county; and, while I am thinking of those dear old days of the past, I will write a few lines to you, trusting they will not drop into the waste basket.

A six years' sojourn in the West has not taken the love for the hills out of my heart; yet since I left Pennsylvania, I have met many other strange wanderers, who seemed to wear strange expressions on their faces which reminded me greatly of the map of Pennsylvania. However, there is always a kind of brotherly feeling conveyed in that kindly smile, and I don't feel so far away from home after meeting such friends.

I had the pleasure of spending my Christmas vacation in Emporia with my sister Alice and brother Gilbert, who are both teaching near there. My brother John, also, who is farming in western Kansas, spent Christmas with us. We have been wandering over the earth for so long, that it seemed a rare treat to have that many of the home folks together at one time. We sang all the old songs, told all the old tales over, and talked about the old times, until we almost felt that we were back again among the hills of the woody haunts of "Dear Old Fulton."

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," was uttered by one who "spake as never: man spake," and as I am endeavoring to help the Kansas youth up the stony path of knowledge, I will try to give you some information about the schools and the "Teachers' Fraternity."

First of all, I want to say the system of managing rural schools in Kansas is far in advance of the system used in Pennsylvania in rural schools. The system in the city schools is about the same. The rural schools do not have long enough term. Most of them have seven or eight months, but in western Kansas, where teachers are scarce, six months is the average term in rural schools. Nine months makes a good term for a rural school.

Teachers' wages range from \$35 to \$60 a month. A few inexperienced teachers will teach for less, but they don't have it to do. If teachers ask for a good price and stick to it, they will get it. Of course, these salaries are paid in rural schools. The cities pay about the same, according to grades, but principals get from \$60 to \$100 in second and third class towns the size of McConnellsburg—or, probably not so large. Inexperienced teachers get from \$35 to \$45 per month. In western Kansas where my brother is, teachers' wages are from \$50 to \$60 per month, and six months is the average term.

Teachers holding a professional or first grade certificate of any county, may have it endorsed in any other county in the State. Second and third grades may be endorsed if the County Superintendent sees fit to do so. No one can hold a professional who has not taught, at least, thirty-two school months, and no one can hold a first grade unless he has taught at least twelve months; and the average grade of all subjects must be ninety per cent. or more. The State Board of Education makes out all questions for teachers' examinations. All examinations are held throughout the whole state on the same day, and have the same questions. This makes it convenient for the teachers and county board of examiners.

Kansas is now in one of the

greatest eras of prosperity, that she has ever known. Crops have been excellent for the last five years. I heard a farmer remark the other day that he had cleared \$1800 outside of all expenses, from his crops this year off three "eighties." Another farmer near here, made \$1700 in three months feeding sheep; that is, counting all expenses except his own labor. He bought the sheep in New Mexico, and shipped them home and fattened them for Kansas city markets. Of course, he will not always do this well; but he can easily make good interest on his investments.

When I first came to Kansas, I found it difficult to accustom myself to the level plains—they seemed so silent and lonely, but I have conquered that feeling. The prairies have taken on a different appearance. When decked in a royal vesture of dark green, it looks like a vast garden with its teeming wheat fields or cornfields gleaming under its brilliant sun; or, showing its soft tints under the glorious moonlight. Here and there a golden sunflower showing its face above the hedgerows; long days, without a cloud in the blue depth of heaven, and cool nights bringing refreshing sleep—are only some of the natural beauties that people hardly seem to notice. One thing compensating in the Kansas climate when the weather is intensely hot during the mid-summer days, is the cool nights which never fail us. No one ever suffers with heat in the night time through the hottest weather. When winter comes and covers the earth with the dazzling robe of snow, the plains present a most beautiful aspect. The rolling prairie shows up best then. The hills represent the waves of a great white sea, sparkling with millions of jewels under the dazzling sunlight.

To the north of my schoolhouse is a low range of bluffs, which are used as pasture lands. All pasture land is unbroken prairie, and the native grass is the principal food for cattle and horses in the grass season. Wheat averages from 25 to 45 bushels per acre in a good season in this (Jewell) county, and alfalfa is the principal hay crop. Many of the farmers pasture the wheat in the fall after it is high enough. This does not hurt the next spring's crop. Many think it does the wheat good to pasture it. There is one thing that Kansas will never be able to do, and that is to raise fruit with the flavor Pennsylvania fruit has. It lacks the juiciness of eastern fruit. Some believe the cause of this is that Kansas fruit matures too soon.

During this fall and winter we have had delightful weather. We have had one snow of about four inches, but it only lay on the ground a few days. We have plenty of time yet for winter, and I expect we will have a blistering time when it does come. Kansas smiles under her years of prosperity, and I don't believe you will find a jollier or better class of people than the average Kansan. They are good natured and in for a good time in this world.

Kansas has always reminded me of a big, overgrown, homely baby with a sweet disposition. You must get acquainted with it before you can see its good qualities.

NOHA K. STEVENS.
Jewell City, Kas.
January 12, 1907.

Farmers' Institute.
Those interested in agriculture are cordially invited to attend the local institute to be held in the school house at Webster Mills, February 13, 1907. The exercises will commence at 1 o'clock p. m. The cash road tax question will be discussed as well as other questions of interest. A large turnout is desired.

W. C. PATTERSON,
Secretary.

WHO PAYS THE FREIGHT?

McConnellsburg School District Brings Suit Against the Neighboring District of Ayr, to Recover

TUITION OF HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS.

The McConnellsburg school district and the neighboring school district of Ayr, are having a little legal tilt, the outcome of which will be watched with some interest by the school boards in other parts of the State.

The facts in the contention are about as follows:

For many years citizens of the districts of Ayr and Tod living adjacent to the Borough, have sent their children into the Borough schools, for the reason that it was more convenient to do so than to send them to their own township schools, which, in some cases, were at a greater distance from their homes; and, also, because they could obtain better facilities in the Borough schools.

For this privilege, a sum fixed by the Borough board, was paid by the citizens sending the pupils; and thus the matter passed along from year to year without any friction.

But, in 1905, the legislature passed the following act: "That children residing in school districts in which no public high school is maintained, may attend a high school in some other district, located near their homes; provided the consent of the directors of the district in which such high school is located, be first obtained; the cost of tuition and school books, which shall not exceed that of the tuition and school books of children in the same grades or courses in the district maintaining such high school, shall be paid to the district receiving such children, out of the moneys raised by taxation for public school purposes in the district in which said children reside; provided, that before admission to a high school, such pupils shall be examined and found qualified for high school work, by the principal of such high school."

At the opening of the schools in 1905, in compliance with a resolution passed by the Borough board, the citizens of the townships named who sent pupils into the Borough high school, paid to the Borough school board the sum of six dollars, it being one-half the amount the board had fixed per pupil for the term. Later it was discovered that there was a law fixing the responsibility upon the districts from which the pupils came, and the Borough board presented bills to the respective townships for the amount of the tuition for the term.

By calculation it was found that the pro rata cost of each pupil in attendance at the high school was \$21. As four pupils were attending from Tod, and seven from Ayr, Tod's bill was \$84 and Ayr's \$147. The school board of Tod paid their bill promptly, and the six dollars paid at the opening of the term was refunded to the citizens who had paid that sum. The board of Ayr refused to pay their bill. Among other reasons for their refusal to do so, was, that the so-called high school in McConnellsburg was not a high school in the strict sense of the law.

To settle the matter judicially, the Borough school board sued the Ayr board for the amount of their claim before Justice of the Peace H. S. Daniels, of Licking Creek township, and the hearing was set for last Saturday afternoon. The defendants not appearing, judgment was given the Borough by default.

The probability is, that as Ayr did not appear, an appeal will be taken from the decision of Justice Daniels, and the matter settled in the Court of Quarter Sessions in March before Judge Swop.

With reference to whether the McConnellsburg high school with its three years of graded course

IT RAINS ALL THE TIME.

Elmer E. Peck, a Former Well Known Traveling Salesman in This County, but Now Touring The South. Writes of

A STRANGE PHENOMENON IN GEORGIA

There is a land that lies far to the North which is known as the land of perpetual snow; a little farther still is the land of perpetual light; but it remains for Georgia to furnish the region of perpetual rain.

About five miles from the town of McRae, within a stone's throw of where the lines of Telfair, Montgomery, Dodge and Laurens counties converge, there is a spot some fifty by one hundred feet where through winter and summer, through heat and cold, through day and night, rain falls constantly.

With a genial companion, we recently repaired to this point from whence had come so many wonderful rumors—rumors which almost everyone discredited.

Gum Swamp, where the spot is located, is about three hundred yards wide; at the particular point where the phenomenon occurs is about two hundred yards from the bed of the outer edge.

A slight chilliness comes over one upon entering the enchanted spot, and upon exposing our thermometer, it fell two degrees, within five minutes. All the while this rain or mist, or rather an admixture of rain and mist, was making a merry patter on the dead leaves about us. For ten seconds the rain would be coming down through the foliage of a beautiful magnolia, ten seconds more and it could be seen falling from a mammoth birch tree.

Scaling the magnolia we were surprised to find its leaves comparatively dry, with the exception of here and there, a drop of water as if a heavy dew had fallen.

Our view from the tree top towards the sun was good, but considerably clouded by the spray. Upon investigation no cataract or waterfall was found anywhere within a half mile of this strange occurrence.

Areas four or five feet wide and the same in length, are mushy sodden with water, while the next few feet are almost dry. Upon perfectly calm days, with bright sunshine and high temperature, the precipitation is greatest. When the weather is cold and the wind high, there is but little of the rain. Within the past two months more than a thousand people have visited this place and no one as yet has furnished a satisfactory solution.

Notice.

There will be a meeting of the lot holders of Union cemetery in the church at 1:30 p. m., Tuesday February 12, 1907.

By Order of Board.

of study is in reality a high school the reader may get some light from the opinion of State Superintendent Schaeffer in his Seventy-second Annual Report. Dr. Schaeffer says: "What constitutes a high school? Not a fine building, nor a liberal salary, nor a large attendance, nor a course of study on paper, but pupils fitted for study beyond the common branches, and corresponding instruction by competent teachers; constitute a high school."

"In due time the growth of educational sentiment will always demand fine buildings, liberal salaries and teachers who are specialists; but these are not necessary when a high school is first organized. One efficient teacher and a suitable room in which the pupils may study and recite, are sufficient to start a high school with a two years' course of study."

It looks a little like Ayr was hunting another Road-plow case.

AGAINST RACE SUICIDE.

Thinks Eleven a Decent Average Number of Children for Each Family to Have.

SO SAYS A FORMER FULTON PASTOR.

Race suicide was discussed by the delegates of the Pennsylvania Auxiliary of the American Society of Religious Education, which held a three days' convention at Reading, last week.

"Childlessness is the distinguishing crime of the American home," said the president, Dr. R. H. Gilbert, Methodist minister, now of Berwick, and formerly pastor of the Huntington charge in this county, in speaking on "The Family—the Divine Institution for Producing Men." He thought eleven a decent average number of children for each family. To the clergymen present he emphatically recommended the exploiting in the pulpit of the Bible's teaching of the increase of the family and its influence.

"There should be large families in Christian homes," he added. President Roosevelt's exhortation relative to large families was alluded to, and Napoleon Bonaparte's exclamation, "He is the best citizen who raises the best and largest family," was quoted.

DRASTIC MEASURE.

Mr. Savidge Would Eliminate The Cigarette From The State.

The most drastic anti-cigarette bill ever offered to the Legislature is that from Mr. Savidge, of Philadelphia, offered in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg last week. There is a law at present on the statute books which provides a penalty for anyone who gives or sells cigarettes to any person under twenty-one years of age, but the Savidge bill would abolish the cigarette in Pennsylvania. It holds that "it shall be unlawful for any person, directly or indirectly, upon any pretence or by any device, to manufacture, sell, exchange, dispose of or give away, or keep for sale, any cigarettes, cigarette papers, cigarette wrappers or any paper made or prepared for the purpose of being filled with tobacco for smoking, or keeping, owning or being in any way connected, concerned, engaged or employed in handling or keeping any such cigarettes, cigarette wrappers or cigarette papers."

A violation of the act is a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not less than \$20 or more than \$100. The act does not apply to the sale of jobbers doing interstate business with customers outside of the State.

WOULD TAX BACHELORS.

Indiana Legislator Proposes Thus To Provide Teachers' Salaries.

Representative Victor Oberling, a member of the legislature out in the state of Indiana, failing to procure advanced salaries for teachers, now proposes to tax bachelors to pay teachers' salaries. His bill was referred to a committee, addressing the Ways and Means committee, Mr. Oberling said:

"It is not good for man, to live alone, and if he does he ought to have to pay for it."

Mr. Oberling explained the purpose of the bill, and pointed out how it would operate successfully. His plan was to require unmarried men between the ages of 25 and 40 years to pay \$2.50 a year into the school fund. Bachelors between 30 and 35 years he thought should pay \$4 a year, and those between 35 and 40 might be assessed at \$5. His bill provided a tax of \$7 a year for confirmed bachelors—those who are between 40 and 50.

Local Registrar John S. Harris, has been confined to the house for several days. Of course, we will blame it on gripe.

OUR OBITUARY LIST.

After a Long Period of Suffering, Mrs. William Harr Dies at Her Home at Big Cove Tannery.

HANNAH BROWN, AT CLEAR RIDGE.

Mrs. Hannah Brown died at her home near Clear Ridge at five o'clock, last Sunday evening, in the 70th year of her age. Funeral on Tuesday, services conducted by Rev. Harry Daniels, of Hustontown, and interment was made in the cemetery at the Methodist church at Clear Ridge.

Mrs. Brown had been in failing health for several years, but her last illness in which she was bedfast, lasted only about eight weeks.

She was a consistent member of the M. E. church for a period of twenty-five years prior to her death, and was always seen in her place in the church at services, when her health would permit.

She leaves to mourn her departure three children, namely, Mrs. Nettie Winegardner, of Clear Ridge, and Bert and Charles, near the latter place. She also leaves a sister, Mrs. Jane Madden, of Three Springs, and two brothers, John Starr, of Huntington county, and Isaac, in Minnesota.

The bereaved relatives have the sympathy of a host of friends, who will miss the kindly influence of this good woman, who was ever ready to lend a helping hand to the needy and distressed.

HAIR.

Amelia Josephine, wife of William Harr, died at their home near Big Cove Tannery, Thursday morning of last week, after a lingering illness, of which she had been confined to her bed for a period of nearly two years.

Mrs. Harr's maiden name was Mattheus, and she was a native of Allegheny county, having been born on the 20th of September, 1833. For many years a consistent member of the Reformed church, she bore her suffering with Christian fortitude, and welcomed the day when it was the will of her Heavenly Father to take her to that home where pain and suffering are not known.

Besides her husband, she is survived by three sons and two daughters, namely, Robert, of Pittsburg; Gilbert, in the Regular Army, stationed in Texas; Edward, residing at Riddlesburg, Pa.; Maye, wife of Mervin Kluck, of Gettysburg, and Grace, wife of Charles E. Bender, McConnellsburg, Pa.

Funeral last Saturday. Services conducted by Rev. S. B. Houston, and interment in Union cemetery.

BEATTY.

Rosa, wife of Mr. Isaac Beatty, died at their home in Buck Valley on Wednesday, January 29, 1907, aged 89 years. Funeral on the following Friday conducted by Rev. A. W. May, and her remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at the Buck Valley Christian church.

For many years Mrs. Beatty had been a consistent member of the Christian church, and her loss to the church, the community, and her immediate family will be keenly felt.

A husband and three children survive, and they have the sincere sympathy of their many friends in this hour of sore bereavement.

We may be a little late in telling that Judge Peter Morton is helping to run the law-mill down at Harrisburg this winter. Through the courtesy of Senator Miller, the Judge was made assistant doorkeeper in the Senate at a little salary of six dollars a day. The Judge is too practical a man to fool away any time, and when the lawmakers shut up and go away for a few days for their health, he comes home and hauls ice.

ABOUT PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Snapshots at Their Comings and Goings Here for a Vacation, or Away for a Restful-Outing.

NAMES OF VISITORS AND VISITED

Merchant J. Kendall Johnston is confined to his room this week with an attack of gripe.

Dublin's hustling lumbermen, Walter M. Comerer and Geo. C. Fraker, were in town Monday.

Mrs. Jane Ann Snyder and daughter Miss Addie, are both suffering from a severe attack of gripe.

Geo. W. Fisher and wife, of Thompson, took advantage of the snow, to take a sleigh ride to McConnellsburg, and were registered at the Fulton House yesterday.

At the residence of the officiating clergyman, Elder C. L. Funk, near Needmore, on Sunday, the 27th ult., Henry Deshong and Miss Ella Thomas, both of Ayr township, were united in marriage.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

To The Memory of Miss Belle Stouteagle Who Died While Teaching in Franklin County.

The following resolutions to the memory of Miss Belle Stouteagle were adopted by the teachers of Peters township, Franklin county, at a recent local institute.

WHEREAS, It has pleased God in His infinite wisdom to remove from our midst our esteemed fellow teacher Miss Belle Stouteagle; and

WHEREAS, While we deplore the loss of a valued worker in the cause of education; and

WHEREAS, While we bow in reverence to His omnipotent will; and

WHEREAS, It is our privilege to pay a small tribute of respect to the memory of one who has taught for sixteen terms in our county; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That in the death of Miss Stouteagle, the township has lost a teacher who was faithful and conscientious in the discharge of her duties and uplifting and inspiring in her influence on the young.

RESOLVED, That the cause of education has lost one of its earnest supporters, and the community a loved, valued, and highly appreciated teacher.

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased and also published in the local papers.

OLIVE KENDALL,
SARAH WALK,
SUE McCULLOH,
Committee.

Death of Mrs. David McNulty.

McNULTY—In Laurel, Md., on January 10th, 1907, Lucretia E., wife of Mr. David L. McNulty, in the 73d year of her age.

Mrs. McNulty, whose maiden name was Sterrett, a daughter of Col. Sterrett, who was a Colonel in the Mexican war and who died in 1848, was born in Chambersburg, March 12, 1834, and was married to Mr. McNulty in McConnellsburg, on Dec. 6, 1855. She was the mother of twelve children, 8 of whom were at the funeral.

Mrs. McNulty was a good mother, devoted to her children, a loving wife, who for more than fifty years was a helpmate to her husband, a good neighbor and above all, a true Christian, one who believed in prayer and who always prayed. She lived a noble life and died in the assurance of eternal life. For many years Mrs. McNulty was a member of Centenary M. E. Church, of Laurel. As she was married by a Methodist minister she clung to that church as her spiritual home. She has gone home to rest and her works will follow her. Truly it can be said of her:

"For weary feet await a street
Of wondrous pave and golden,
For hearts that break the angels' wake
The story soft and olden."
—Laurel (Md.) Democrat.