

The Fulton County News.

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PROF. THOMAS EXPLAINS.

Resents the Accusation That Plans For Commencement Were Changed On Account of "Colored Girl."

NORA WATSON TO BE VALEDICTORIAN.

EDITOR OF NEWS:—

I copied the following paragraph from an article in an issue of the Fulton Democrat dated April 8, headed "Color Line Drawn."

"The newsgatherer for the Democrat has heard it rumored that the High School of the Borough will hold no commencement exercises this spring, and the reason given for this omission is that a very bright colored girl, the only one in the schools of the borough stands at the head of the graduating class, and would easily take first honors," etc.

Now, Mr. Editor, in reply to the above I wish to say that the commencement exercises have been planned for a month, and the valedictorian, the aforesaid "colored girl" Miss Nora Watson, has had her address prepared for two or three weeks, and has been given the most desirable place on the program, as those who attend the final exercises will see for themselves. It is true that the commencement exercises, as such will consist only of the valedictorian's address, but this will be followed by a good jolly play.

Now, for the reason of the play. Last year (1908) while the High School was preparing a play, I asked one of the County Commissioners for use of Court House in which to have a play. He said the commissioners were in session, and that he would bring the matter before the board and let me know. I saw the same commissioner shortly afterwards, and he said that we might use it so far as he was concerned. Shortly afterwards I saw another of the commissioners, and he assented to our using it, but said he wished that we would get the New Auditorium in the Public School Building furnished before we would hold our Commencement Exercises, as there was some dissatisfaction about using Court House for entertainments. I mentioned the matter (that there is nearly always trouble to get the use of Court House for entertainments) to Dr. Mosser at the dinner table, I think the next day after having conversation with second commissioner. He proposed two plans for furnishing Auditorium. First, by subscription, and he further stated that he would give as much as any one else if it did not exceed \$25. Second, that we could raise the money without interest, those investing it to wait until High School could pay it by entertainments. He further stated that he would invest \$100 in this plan. We both agreed that the money could not be raised by subscription. I am sorry to say that I cannot claim the honor of originating the plan used in furnishing the new auditorium as shown above, but I did carry plan into effect. Again, after the new board of County Commissioners were sworn in, in January (1909), I asked one of them for use of Court House in which to have a play by High School shortly afterwards. The satisfaction I received made it very doubtful, the commissioner assigning apparently good reasons. Shortly afterwards I met the school board of this place, and made the following proposition, that I believed we could get men to put up the money without interest to furnish the new auditorium, and wait until the High School could make the money to refund by entertainments. Further, I told them that I had \$100 in bank which I was willing to be used in raising the fund. I knew that the board could not (for time to come) furnish the auditorium at the expense of the taxpayer.

FIRE BURNS CAMP GROUNDS.

Many Cottages at Newton Hamilton Destroyed by Flames.

Fire believed to have been started by tramps destroyed nearly all of the 250 wooden cottages on the grounds of the Juniata Valley Camp Meeting Association at Newton Hamilton, Tuesday night of last week. The hotel and a few isolated buildings alone escaped the flames.

Because of a very high wind nothing could be done to check the fire and all efforts were devoted to saving the town. Fiery embers were blown there by the wind and two or three buildings ignited, but there was no serious damage.

I want to add that the taxpayers are not responsible for a cent of the \$600 put in the furniture of the new room, nor for a cent of the lighting outfit. Those of us who furnished the money for furniture of room have this contract with each other, that we hold the seats as security for payment of the above sum until it is paid by entertainments, each one receiving his proportionate share of proceeds from each entertainment. We easily raised the money on the above condition, and the persons furnishing it, as copied verbatim from contract, are Merrill W. Naco, \$100; D. L. Grissinger, \$200; Emery Thomas, \$100; Dr. J. W. Mosser, \$100; G. W. Reiser, \$50, and S. B. Woollet, \$50. I believe that the persons who thus put up the money were confident that I would make the greatest effort possible to return the money. The High School had intended to give two entertainments this year, from which I had expected to net about \$1.50. The plans of the first one have been frustrated.

From two entertainments given last year, the borough teachers returned to the schoolboard \$115. This the board has used for putting the lights into the building. The first thing necessary for any entertainment is a place to hold it. The High School had no such place, they having been refused the Court House. I put into effect the above plan of furnishing the auditorium. For putting which plan into effect, I admit that I had expected praise. The plan saves the taxpayers more than \$700. When I made the above proposition to the board, it was for the High School either to raise money by entertainments to prepare a place to hold such entertainments, or to prepare the entertainments without a place to hold them.

Now a word with regard to "Color Line." I asked these three questions in the High School on the same day that I noticed the article in the Democrat: First, how many of the graduating class are willing to be qualified that I never suggested to any one of you, in any way, any thing about having a play on account of the colored girl in the class? All members were willing to be qualified that I did not. Second, has any one of you ever suggested to me in any way that we should have a play instead of commencement exercises on account of the colored girl? All members of the class were willing to be qualified that they did not. Third—to the colored girl—did I in any way, whatever, ever attempt to take advantage of you? The answer was, "No Sir." It seems to me that any fairminded person can easily see that gossip has established the Color Line, and that the colored girl is perfectly at home in her school, and that necessity and not color, has fixed the plan of our final entertainment, consisting of the valedictorian's address and a play.

People of McConnellsburg, you now have the facts governing the case. Decide for yourselves whether the plan deserves criticism or not.

Respectfully,
EMERY THOMAS.

A Worthy Object.

Now that base-ball is about ripe, and the festival season about to open, we would suggest that some mite society take up the matter of holding a swallop supper or giving a dance to raise funds for the replacing of the steps on the east side of the jail. The pile of rocks that has been doing service there for "to these many years," looks as though it had felt the influence of some seismic disturbance. Not to refer to the inconvenience of the Sheriff and his family having to crawl in and out over that stone pile, the most shocking thought comes to mind, when we contemplate what might happen to prisoners attempting to escape by the front doorway some night. Unless they were provided with a lantern they would be sure to fall and break their legs, and maybe their necks.

Surprise Party.

A very pleasant surprise was held at the home of Oliver Oakman one of Licking Creek township's oldest citizens, to celebrate his 75th birthday, and that of his daughter Mrs. Grant Ficks. About 10 o'clock, Wednesday, April 7th, Mr. John Deshong called at the home of Mr. Oakman and asked him to go to the woods with him to hunt a piece of timber.

When they returned a number of Mr. Oakman's children, grand children and neighbors were assembled and had a bountiful dinner prepared to which all did ample justice. The day was spent very delightfully, and all departed for their homes about 5 o'clock wishing Grandpa and daughter many more such happy birthday occasions. Both received a number of useful presents.

Those present were: Oliver Oakman and wife, Grant Ficks and wife, and children—Dessie, Harry, Louella, Hildred and Rosalie; John Deshong, wife and children—Leroy, Lewis, George, Guy, Hazel, Edith and Margarette; L. D. Oakman, Edith Sipes, Pearl Sipes, and Mrs. Mae Lake and children—Bruce, George and Maude.

ONE WHO WERE THERE.

Business and the Outlook.

The most striking, if not the most important, commercial event of the week was the official crop report, indicating that the condition of winter wheat was much below that of a year ago and substantially lower than that of an average of the past ten years at this date. Of course, there was wild speculation, and prices went up higher than they have been for more than twenty years except during the Leiter corner. On Saturday in Chicago July wheat, which has been selling 14 cents under May, at \$1.11, was rushed up to \$1.15, and the other options went up four cents. Europe, it is said, will need 50,000,000 bushels of our wheat in the next four months. But the total visible supply in America and Europe is less than 7,000,000 bushels below that of a year ago, and the price of May wheat is 2 1/2 cents higher. It is reported that 5000 bushels of No. 2 red has been sold to an Ohio miller for \$1.85, but generally the millers are taking a calm view of the situation and intimate that there is no immediate occasion for an advance in flour. Pittsburg dealers, however, have advanced prices 10 to 25 cents a barrel. New wheat will be coming on the market inside of three months, and the estimates of wheat in farmers' hands March 1 indicated a good supply for home consumption and 30,000,000 bushels or more for export. The Modern Miller's report on weather conditions is favorable. Corn prices broke under general selling. Selling on stop orders was general. Receipts of corn are light, and the firm tone of the cash market and the strength in wheat and oats have a tendency to rally prices.

Mrs. Rhoda Garland.

Mrs. Rhoda Garland, widow of the late Abram Garland, died at the home of her son, Aaron M. Garland, in Belfast township, Friday evening, April 9, 1909, aged 77 years, 8 months and 16 days. Her funeral, conducted by Eld. C. L. Fund, took place Monday at 10 o'clock, and interment was made in the cemetery at the Siding Hill Baptist church.

Mrs. Garland was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Lake, of Belfast township. Her late husband preceded her to the grave about thirty-three years ago. She is survived by 13 grand children, 33 grand children and nine children, namely, Job L. Bethel township; Rev. William Garland, Buffalo Mills, Bedford county; Rev. J. Calvin Garland, Belfast township; J. Lake Garland, Ayr township; Uriah, Artemas, Bedford county; Maggie, wife of Jonathan P. Peck, Tod township; Etta, wife of Reuben Sipes, Licking Creek township; and Aaron M. Garland, Belfast township.

Mrs. Garland was a consistent member of the Primitive Baptist church for over 50 years. While she had been in failing health for a long time, the immediate cause of her death was pleuro-pneumonia, from which she had been sick but a short time.

Dearest mother, thou hast left us,
Here thy loss, we deeply feel;
But 'tis God that hath bereft us,
He can all our sorrows heal.

Reducing Lumber Duties.

The House last Tuesday by an overwhelming vote decided on the reduction in the duty on lumber and struck out the proposal that a countervailing export duty abroad should be added to the duty here. Free lumber was defeated largely by Democratic votes.

The imports of lumber ran to \$31,576,546 in 1907, the largest on record. The average for five years has been \$25,000,000. One-half these imports come in as sawed lumber and pay \$2 per thousand feet under the present tariff. In 1907, 859,339 thousand feet came in this way, valued at \$14,623,656.

This is the center of the tariff on lumber. The duty was \$1 in the McKinley tariff, free in the Wilson tariff, and \$2 in the Dingley tariff. The Payne tariff cuts this to \$1, as it was in the McKinley. For thirty years half our lumber and wood imports fall under this item. Much else is brought in, but this settles the market.

The timber lands of Canada are owned by the provinces. They lease them and impose a stumpage charge. This varies in Ontario the export of logs is prohibited altogether. Lumber must be manufactured at home. Quebec puts on a countervailing duty. British Columbia is satisfied with a stumpage charge on all alike.

The Payne tariff, as reported, would have added all or part of these to the duty, making it substantially equal to the present charge. The House wisely proposes to make it easy to import lumber. Under the present tariff about 5 per cent. of our lumber supply is imported and under a duty averaging about 15 per cent. The new duties will average about half this, and as prices rise, less. It is possible that 10 per cent. of the lumber consumed will come from Canada under lower duties—not much more. Prices will change little, but Canadian forests will be used instead of American.

While seated at the supper table Monday evening with the family of M. Luther Kirk, of Hustontown, where she was visiting, Mrs. Margaret Lyon suffered a slight stroke of paralysis, and was unconscious from that time until Wednesday morning, when she seemed to be regaining consciousness somewhat. Mrs. Lyon's many friends hope for a speedy recovery.

McConnellsburg Schools. Seventh Month.

PRIMARY.

Number enrolled, 45; average attendance, 37; per cent. of attendance, 88; attended every day, John Black, Ted Hamil, Carl Houpt, Charles Lynch, Donald Nace, Floyd Sipes, Chester Woodal, Tommy Woodal, Marion Bender, Mary Fisher, Mazie Hamil, Beulah Johnston, Erma Kennedy, Nettie Mellott, Mary Pittman, Anna Mary Sipes, Helen Steach, Ethel Stevens, Martha Taylor.—Nora Fisher, teacher.

INTERMEDIATE.

Number enrolled, 39; Average attendance, 33; Per cent. of attendance, 92. Attended every day during month: Eleanor Sinnott, Minerva Pittman, Dorothy Hamil, Fath Reed, Raymond Grissinger, Guy Reed, Ross Hamil, Harry Steach, Robert Hamil.—Gertrude Hoke, teacher.

Could Do It For Nothing.

Among the many bright youngsters in McConnellsburg is one George—age five years—whose last name may be guessed correctly by any one residing in the neighborhood of Court House Square. A few days ago, George was watching with a great deal of interest a carpenter driving nails, and noticing the supply fast diminishing, George offered to go to a nearby store and get some more nails provided the carpenter put up the price for the nails. "And what would you charge me for your services?" asked the carpenter.

"O, I usually charge five cents; but if I can't get that much, I will take a cent." Then sizing the carpenter up thoughtfully for a moment, he added, "If you have no cents, I guess I can do it for nothing."

A Shower.

Last Sunday morning being Easter, Mr. C. L. Bard was preparing to go to church, when there was a shower—not of the usual kind, but as if a paper mill had exploded, and upon investigation, it proved to be a shower of post cards from his numerous friends. It then dawned upon him that it was his 58th birthday anniversary, and his friends had taken this plan to surprise him. When the shower was over and all cleared away, it was found the post cards numbered just 118, of as beautiful an assortment as one might wish to see. Mr. Bard thinks a post card shower a more complete surprise than a birthday dinner. While it is a little harder on the nerves, it is not so hard on the digestive organs. Mr. Bard wishes to extend through the NEWS his most sincere thanks to his many friends for the cards and greetings. UNO.

Harrisonville M. E. Church Notices—Sunday, April 18th.

Siloam: Sunday school, 9:30, a. m.; preaching at 10:30. Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:30.

Ebenezer: Preaching at 2:30 p. m.

Asbury: Sunday school at 10 o'clock, a. m.; preaching at 7:30 p. m.

Come and hear the new preacher, and get a blessing by resolving to attend faithfully the worship of God during this Conference year.

L. W. MCGARVEY, Pastor.

Baseball.

Knobsville played Woodburn last Monday afternoon on the latter's grounds. Score 6-3 in favor of Knobsville. The line up was as follows:

Gunnells	p	E. Glunt
Peck	c	Kelso
W. Glunt	1b	Peightel
Campbell	2b	Snyder
H. Kerlin	3b	Stinson
B. Fore	ss	Wagner
B. Kerlin	rf	B. Wible
Allen	lf	M. Fore
Hamil	cf	Wible

Umpire, Wash Kelso.

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CHARLIE ROSS' MOTHER IS INTERESTED IN EYSTER'S STORY.

Has Sent a Man From Germantown to Investigate Case of McKees' Rocks Brakeman.

Pittsburg, April 12.—Serious consideration is now being given to the suspicion of William Grant Eyster, of McKees Rocks, a brakeman on the P. & L. E., that he is Charlie Ross, who as a child was kidnapped 35 years ago from Germantown, Philadelphia.

Mrs. Christian K. Ross, of Germantown, mother of Charlie Ross has sent a man to McKees Rocks to confer with Eyster. The latter says that he was raised by a family named Eyster at Shamokin, Pa., and that although he was calling the heads of it father and mother when his first doubts as to his identity came to him, he at no time could recall a feeling that he was really a member of the family. His suspicions in confirmation of this were afterward supported by various incidents.

The description of Charlie Ross as a boy, he says, tallies with that of himself in every detail. He will make a trip to Philadelphia shortly to confer with members of the Ross family, who are now aiding him in an effort to establish his identity.

Back From California.

Mr. William Reed, of Ayr township, called at the News office while in town last Saturday. Last May, Mr. Reed, in order to gratify a desire he had long maintained—to see the Pacific Coast—set out upon a journey. His first stop was in Chicago, where he stayed a week or two, then went on to Iowa and stayed a short time with friends there, and then went on to San Francisco. From San Francisco, he made side trips, visiting Los Angeles, the Big Tree Country; Oregon, Washington, and even taking a little trip across the border into Canada. Mr. Reed is glad he made the trip, and feels that the information he gained, and the pleasure that the trip afforded him, more than compensated for the expense attending the outing. While Mr. Reed found in California many things that were pleasant to an Easterner, he says there is too much difference between the temperature in the daytime, and that at night. The temperature through the day is warm and pleasant, but about four o'clock in the afternoon it begins to grow cool, and through the night there is a damp chilliness that is anything but comfortable.

END.

Geo. S. Edwards, of the University, is spending his Easter vacation with his parents, A. G. Edwards and wife.

Harry Lockard, of Altoona, spent a few hours with his mother last Saturday.

Frank Keith and family and Will Keith, of Altoona, spent a few days at home recently.

W. R. Keith is quite poorly at this time.

The Easter services at the Valley M. E. church last Sunday evening were well attended.

Robert Early finished his school at Robertsdale last Thursday, and is now at his home in the Valley.

The schools of the Valley, with the exception of the High and No. 4, will close this week.

Some person with little to do set the mountains afire in the upper end of the Valley last Sunday.

Many Animals Burned.

The large barn on the farm owned by Jacob F. Sharretts, six miles from Gettysburg, was destroyed by fire last Saturday morning, together with eight horses, 21 head of cattle, 11 hogs, 1,000 bushels of corn, a lot of wheat, and farming implements. Loss, \$5,000 with insurance. The family slept during the conflagration and awoke at the usual time to find the property in ruins.

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

H. E. Palsgrove, of Hustontown, was in McConnellsburg on Monday.

Mrs. G. J. Mellott, of Gem, was in town a few hours last Saturday.

Burgess Wm. H. Nesbit, spent a few days last week in Baltimore.

Mr. Robert Everts and son Denton were in town last Saturday attending to business.

Orville Taylor, of Hustontown, called at the News office a few minutes while in town Monday.

Miss Lillian Fleming, of Clear Ridge, spent Saturday and Sunday with Miss Katie Fore in Tod township.

Mr. Aaron Kuepper, one of Taylor's substantial farmers, spent last Saturday in town attending to business.

Miss Mamie Speck, of Burnt Cabins, is spending the time this week in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Nelson Sipes.

George W. Chesnut, one of Bethel's representative citizens, came up to the County Seat Tuesday and returned Wednesday.

Russel Runyan, who is home on a vacation from Perkiomen Seminary, is making good use of his time yielding the yard stick behind the counter in J. K. Johnston's store.

Miss Maude Cunningham, of New Grenada, and Miss Grace Lodge, accompanied by Dr. R. B. Campbell, also of New Grenada, spent some hours in Huntingdon on Saturday. These ladies are teachers—and very good ones.—Mount Union Twice-a-Week Republican.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Comerer, of Thompson township, spent the time from Saturday until Monday in the home of the latter's mother, Mrs. Sarah Pittman in this place. Mrs. Pittman, who has been in frail health for a good while, is now very uncomfortable from a bunch of boils on her scalp.

HUSTONTOWN.

A few days of cold weather accompanied by an Easter snow sets hard with the potatoes and oats that are now in the ground.

Miss Hester Witter, of Robertsdale, is spending some time at the home of Gideon Ritchey.

Miss Elsie Laidig, of Dublin Mills, was in our town last week.

H. P. Barton, one of our most ambitious young men, left for the Shippensburg State Normal School last Monday. Pete, we wish you abundance of success.

Miss Lydia Mumma spent a few days very pleasantly among friends and relatives at Laidig last week.

Mr. Nevin Laidig, of Owl Creek spent a few hours at his home in this place last Saturday.

W. F. Laidig purchased a new plow weighing 3200 lbs. and is now ready to do the best of work.

Miss Mae Mamma and Miss Sallie Fields were a couple over land tourists to Laidig and back last week.

Dr. A. K. Davis attended a horse sale at Everett last Thursday, but came home without an extra horse.

B. H. Shaw and wife who have been at Saxton for the past two weeks returned home Sunday.

Misses Gertrude and Louella Laidig, of Hiram, called to see their Uncle John Laidig Saturday afternoon.

Our new preacher, Rev. Harry Moyer, preached a very good sermon in the M. E. Church last Sunday evening.

Subscribe for the "News," only \$1.00 a year.