

Meyersdale Commercial.

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THE MEYERSDALE COMMERCIAL,
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The Mexican Problem.

A critical point is approaching in this nation's relations with Mexico. Huerta has declared himself Dictator, and the opposing deputies in his country are imprisoned. The former President died at the hands of assassins while under the protection of the government. It has been a difficult matter ever since to convince the world that, that crime was not committed, to say the least, with the knowledge of Huerta. These deputies are evidently in dire peril.

Our government has spoken through the Secretary of State, demanding that the lives of the representatives of Mexico must not be imperiled.

The lawlessness continues, life is unsafe, a dictator governing with a high hand, and while the government has exercised patience yet there is a limit to the reckless waste of life and the wanton destruction of property.

The great law in behalf of humanity will assert itself and the strong arm for the suffering and the oppressed will eventually be raised.

Can the neighboring Republic solve its own problem? It is beginning to look as if the real crisis were near at hand.

Good Roads.

The fifty-million dollar bond issue is a live question and will be discussed in town and country until the people have the opportunity to express themselves at the polls. Then according to the American habit they will abide by the decision of the will of the people. The people generally want good roads, its economic value is generally recognized, but there is evidently much opposition to the bond issue because there is much distrust in the handling of so large a sum of money. That appears to be the biggest objection which the opponents of the bond issue have. The advocates of the measure furnish many and plausible reasons why the measure should meet the approval of the voters. This is a vast sum that the state contemplates spending. The handling of the money implies big business, and while the people have had experience in seeing large sums handled by the state in which graft on a large scale was evident, it is clearly evident that much machinery must be put into operation to carry out the plan in case of its adoption under the wisest and most economic operation, and then should it not be wisely expended and large sums be turned into private gain, would be an unnecessary burden on the people.

Suppose the bond issue is approved and the money judiciously expended with the knowledge we have of road building, will the results of road building be what we expect?

Pennsylvania for many years has held a very primitive place so far as roads are concerned, and Somerset county is perhaps no worse or no better than the rest of the communities and counties of the state, although when the mountainous districts are considered there seems a reasonable excuse for bad roads in many localities, due to our present road making system, but there is not a term of court that the president judge of the county does not have some supervisor before him on account of poor roads. We only in recent years have learned to make good roads and have not been afraid to spend money. The good roads that are now made are splendid roads for horse and wagon. Roads as they are now made cost the state something like \$13,000 per mile. It appears that at last we have reached the period when road making is pretty well mastered for wagons, but this is not the age of wagons only; it is the automobile age as well, or at least the beginning of the automobile period, and the superior road which is now made and so excellent for wagon travel, is after all not enduring the test for automobiles. It is generally admitted that a road where automobiles make it their highway does not last more than two or three years.

Thirteen thousand dollars a mile for a road lasting but two years is going to be an immense drain on the taxpayers which will cause complaints without number and an intolerable burden.

The system of good road making now in vogue is not of such a nature that it can withstand the wear and tear of rain and the automobile. In the great question before the state for passing the bond issue measure, there ought also be implied the road making that carries with it some semblance of permanency. If our data are approximately correct, viz that it costs from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for every mile of road making, and the roads used for automobiles last only about two years, then some better method and some better material should be used than at the present time. Let us now remember that the good roads as we now have them are good wagon roads but totally deficient so far as good and permanent roads for automobiles.

The people want good roads, are we take it, willing to pay for good roads, but the material ought to be such that roads when once made at so great an expense, ought to last for years with comparatively little expense in repairing.

Yes the Athletics are in a class by themselves, and it is observed that the Pirates have lots of company; but there is only one real Connie Mack,

It looks as if the West Virginia congressional district which elected a congressman recently, is willing to give the new Tariff law a fair chance.

Curfew time is 8:00 o'clock at night, but--

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Killed by Flying Splinter.
A curious death befell a child at St. Die, France, the other day. A man was cutting up tree trunks for firing. He was splitting some of the large ones by boring a hole, putting in a little gunpowder, and exploding it. A girl of eight watched him from behind a first-floor window which closed. Suddenly a trunk exploded, and a splinter flew up, smashed through the window, and pierced the child's heart. She died immediately.

Over the State

(Western Newspaper Union, Special News Service.)

Smithfield.—A marker presented by Mrs. Jessie Perry Lehman of the William Hammond Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Fairmont, W. Va., was placed on the grave of Abel Jones, a Revolutionary war soldier, by the Jerry Jones post of the Grand Army of the Republic. The post was named for Jerry, who starved to death in the Salisbury prison.

Hershey.—Only 5 years old, reads well in the second reader, is good in numbers and writes a fair hand is the remarkable record of Master Lester Foreman, son of Edwin Foreman of Hockersville. He attended the school last term 158 days in an eight months' term in Foreman's school, in Derry township, about two miles south of this place.

New Germantown.—Between the Tuscarora and Conococheague mountains, in Jackson township, Perry county, near the Toboyn township line, there was once a thrifty little settlement, known as Allcorn's Orchard. It is said that Commodore Allcorn, who figured in the American navy in its early days, was born in this little settlement. There were four farms in the "orchard" and on these four farms were good farm buildings, besides a sawmill, run by water power. Today there is only one vacant log house.

Beaver Falls.—Walking into a room where her husband was seated talking to several neighbors, Mrs. Aletha Williams, aged 20, a bride of a year, drank poison and died several hours later. This was her third attempt to end her life.

Northumberland.—Borough council has decided to take action against the Sunbury and Susquehanna Street Railway Co. in order to correct alleged violations of the ordinance governing the railway in Northumberland. The borough authorities claim that the company has not maintained the street along the right of way in a satisfactory manner. Council is also protesting against a 30-minute schedule for the upper part of town, when a 15-minute schedule was stipulated by the ordinance.

Harrisburg.—The next convention of the East Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran church will be held here according to a vote taken at the synodical convention held in Astbury Park. At least 200 ministers and lay delegates will attend the sessions here during the first week of October next year.

Mercer.—For the loss of an arm and leg, Zambelli Battat of Farrell has entered suit against the National Malleable Castings Co. for \$50,000 damages. He was employed at the plant two years ago and was drawn into some wheels by a cable.

Butler.—Contending that the ordinance under which Supervisor of Public Works Fred H. Goettler holds his position is illegal, 150 citizens petitioned council to abolish the office. It is alleged the office is unnecessary.

Altoona.—Students in the public schools here are to be given credit for the work they do outside of school hours. The board of directors have adopted the Oregon idea, with a view to increasing interest in manual labor. Marks will be based on the efficient and rapid manner in which the services are performed, and the mothers of the pupils will fix the percentage at home of each boy or girl.

Washington.—Washington's new garbage furnace, built at a cost of \$10,500, was put into commission. The furnace was started with 20 wagonloads of garbage, including a vast quantity of tin cans and old bottles. The initial test proved satisfactory.

Carlisle.—When the auto he was driving, collided with a telegraph pole Edward Brooks of Lexington, Ky., was dashed through the windshield and only prompt attention prevented him from bleeding to death, an artery having been severed. The injured man is a brother of H. C. Brooks of Martinsburg, one of the contractors on the sewage system being installed here. At the time of the accident Mrs. Brooks, the mother, was with her son in the car, but escaped with slight injuries.

Rochester.—C. H. Heutner, aged 23, Pittsburg, a traveling salesman, was injured probably fatally when he was struck by an automobile, owned and driven by Dr. Harry W. Bernhardt of Rochester.

Herndon.—The Farmers' Ferry Co. of this place and John Carl have settled a damage suit between them in an amicable manner. Carl owned a piece of river front land the company wanted and refused to sell, it having been in his family for more than a century. The company exercised its right of eminent domain and Carl sued for damages. The price of settlement is not known, but it is said that Carl received more money than was ever before paid for Herndon property.

Holidaysburg.—Mathias Stehle, a prominent building association official of Altoona, Pa., and president of a German singing society, was convicted here on a charge of embezzling \$15,000 belonging to his minor son, John H. Stehle. Stehle confessed on the witness stand that he had squandered \$75,000 of other people's money.

Columbia.—More than 2,100 hunters' licenses were issued in this county, among the number being one woman. One out of every eighty persons in the county is now qualified to hunt game, a rather remarkable record for Lancaster, where game is not plentiful.

Louis Cohen

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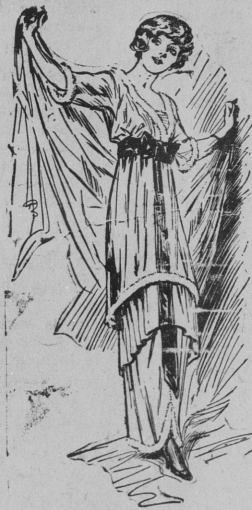
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