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MEYERSDALE, PA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1915.

DEFENDS POSITION REGARDING STATE GAME LAWS AND ANSWERS DR. KALBFUS.

A few weeks ago there appeared in the Meyersdale papers an article from Mrs. F. B. Black pleading for the protection of our innocent wild game and decrying the ruthless killing by hunters of innocent life. The Commercial containing that article was forwarded to State Game Commissioner Kalbfus at Harrisburg. Being of opposite views than those held by Mrs. Black he replied to her article in the Commercial of last week's issue. The accompanying production is indicative that Mrs. Black has a pretty good come-back at the distinguished game warden of the state.

"After having written an answer of some length to Dr. Kalbfus' letter in last week's Commercial, I cast it aside. Why should I try to define the position our farmers have taken towards the game laws and game associations when the thousands of trespass notices dotting our land speak for themselves—mute testimonials of our disapproval of both game laws and methods. We, the land owners, have stood quietly by for year after year. Not hunters, ourselves—and put up with trespass and depredation, listening to boast and story of how game associations were taking care of the game, how the farmer was being thus benefited and at the same time costing him nothing. Meanwhile we were mending our fences broken down by hunters, taking our losses—trampled grain fields, lost stock and waiting for relief, which did not come. A mighty wrath has been gathering within us in our years of loss and now we refuse to stand it longer. You boast that by caring for the wild game you have saved them for us. What nonsense! These little creatures were here long before we were and when they took care of themselves they flourished and multiplied; now under man's laws they have vanished.

You say it prepares our boys to be good soldiers to get into the woods and shoot at innocent, defenseless creatures. That is the spirit of the present European war and all of the world is standing aghast. I have sons very dear to me and if the time should come when "For country and home" they must shoulder a gun and go war, I shall not send them into the woods to shoot down innocent, wild creatures for target practice as you suggest God forbid! War is cruel enough now, without teaching our boys more cruelty by taking the lives of defenseless creatures. If they must learn to shoot let them have targets "worthy of their steel."

As to the invalid of which you speak, seeking health in the woods while hunting little birds and animals. What kind of gratitude is it that would recover from Mother Nature the priceless gift of health and in return ruthlessly slay her children. Rather let the invalid seeking health in the woods, God's sanitarium for every ill of life, mental or physical, take the money spent on gun and shell and buy a camera instead. The joy will last longer and the acquaintance he makes with birds and woods with the pictures he takes of them, will quicken the pulse beat, hasten recovery and sweeten his whole after life.

"Fight fair" is the world's warcry today and from the woods creatures some the same cry—"Fight fair." Alas! too true it is from many hill and glade it is the phantom's cry—the cry of cruel extinction. Your slur on our farmers is unjust and untimely. Do you not know that the time is gone by when farmers are subjects for joke and unkind criticism? They are not selfish as you describe them. They are neighborly and clannish and if you have never

known that kind, you have missed something in your life. If you had considered him in your counsels when you made your game laws, instead of your contempt for him, your present laws might now be more effective. For the farmer is the man on the job. Mark that! Summer and winter, year in and year out, he is right there. By virtue of owning his land, he owns the original game preserves and he can close them if he will. He sees the birds and animals every day thru the year. They mate and build homes and rear their young under his eyes. He, if any one, knows their needs. And yet the sportsmen make the boast that no farmer has ever had the making of a game law or been asked by the association to legally protect this game. If this is true, is it any wonder is it not protected? Is it any wonder that in Somerset county where once it flourished in abundance, the hunters this year report "No game." You have the cart before the horse, Sportsmen. You have been blind to your best interests. Farmers are the natural protectors of game. Co-operation is your salvation. Sportsmen must work with the farmer and not against him. If they would have results, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." And whether you will or no, the game laws cannot fulfill their mission until farmers generally are considered and consulted. Up to this time we have been the sufferers. Our property is spread out over field and wood, open to trespass at any time. How long would town or city property owners stand the encroachments of men and dogs as we do. Do you think that they would wait for game laws. Not on your life! They would call the police.

You say that birds and fur bearing animals cannot live together. When our forefathers came here in pioneer days, they found game in plenty. Birds and animals were living together then—why not now? And there were no game laws then, save those of God, which said, "Be fruitful and multiply in the earth." "Be fair," Friend Kalbfus; "Be fair," sportsmen of Pennsylvania. We are your friends, we farmers, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating; if you have protected the birds—where are they? We are carrying out with you protective laws—if they protect. But what incentive is it to us to have foreign birds put on our lands which after we feed and care for them a season, any hunter can disperse and cripple or kill for a dollar. Our own beautiful native grouse know how to live here thru our cold winters, but they would soon be like the bison of the West, then you ask us to put on alien birds, strangers!

In Somerset county last year we issued 4907 licenses; this year 4246. Have we in the county received \$9,000 in protection and restocking of game in two years?

If you are really interested in this subject—if you really mean us to believe your game laws will work, close Somerset county for five years and with the \$9,000 derived from those blood red badges, which money you say is for restocking every farm in the county to its full capacity and then work with us, teach us intelligently to feel and care for those creatures. We have been feeding them among our poultry and near our barns for years, but we have never seen or known a sportsman to feed or look after them unless he wanted to hunt.

Co-operation is what we need, not criticism. Let us have done with this controversy and do rather than say, for actions speak louder than words. FLORA S. BLACK.

FIREMEN'S CARNIVAL STARTS

ON DECEMBER 18, The Firemen's Carnival which is to be held from Dec. 18 to Dec. 26 will be in the vacant store room formerly occupied by the Habel & Phillips grocery. There will be a great variety of Christmas gifts to be had such as vases, glassware, laundry bags, cushions, Teddy bears with goo-goo eyes, ornaments etc. Also bed spreads, blankets. Give the boys a share of your Christmas patronage.

YOU CAN SAVE MONEY ON GRAIN, FEED, HAY, STRAW etc., BY BUYING FROM HABEL & PHILLIPS.

MARRIED.

KLOTZ-FIKE. On Thanksgiving evening at the parsonage of Amity Reformed Church Rev. A. E. Truxal, D. D. united in marriage, Mr. Louis Klotz of this place and Mrs. Belinda Fike of Vim. Mr. Klotz moved to town about a year ago from Summit Mills, having purchased a number of houses on High street. Later he purchased the Krause property on the hill. Mr. Klotz is of a genial disposition and has many friends who are congratulating him on this event.

LOOK AT THE LABEL ON YOUR PAPER. PAY UP IF YOU OWE.

ANOTHER MINE SOON TO BE OPENED.

Indications are that the new coal mine on the John Reed farm in Henry Clay township will soon be in operation and residents of that section are highly interested in the project, the success of which means much to them. The mine is being opened by the Philadelphia capitalists, headed by H. M. Datesman, who is in active charge of the work. About 20 men are already employed.

Track is being graded and a tippie is being erected, everything being built for permanency, thus indicating the faith of the projectors in the amount of coal to be found there. It is expected that about 500 tons daily will be shipped within a few weeks. There are said to be at least 1,000 acres of coal in this section, tests of which have proved it to be of good grade. Shipments will be made over the Western Maryland.

The prediction of John Reed, owner of the land, that some day would see his farm the site of a prosperous mining town, seems likely to be realized. If the proposition proves successful a town will spring up in no time.

Owners of land in the vicinity are watching the project with interest for it means that coal land values will be boosted considerably if it proves a profitable venture.

SENT GAME FINED HEAVILY

Clay Hoffman residing near Berlin has paid a heavy fine for violating the new law regulating the shipment of game. Hoffman is alleged to have sent two rabbits and two muskrats by mail to a friend in another town in such manner that the packages violated the postal regulations as well as the game laws. Postal authorities opened the package and returned it to the sender. A note had been enclosed with the birds and rabbits.

Game Protector Omer of this place arrested Hoffman. The penalty for violating the shipping regulations is the same as for illegally killing the birds or animals shipped. Mr. Hoffman said he did not know he was prohibited from sending game to his friends in this way. Persons to whom he wanted to send the game were willing to aid him in paying the fine. The case was the first of the kind in this vicinity.

PARENT-TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION MEETING.

There will be a meeting of the Parent-Teacher's Association in the High School Building on Friday evening, December 10, at 8 o'clock.

Members of the association and all others interested in the progress of our schools are urged to be present. Light refreshments will be served and the following interesting program will be presented:

The program—High School Glee Club; Report of the Tri-County Parent-Teacher's Association, Miss Wilhelm; Music, High School Orchestra; Value of School Libraries, Rev. J. C. Matteson.

The banner will be awarded on a percentage basis.

SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS AT MT. LEBANON.

Rev. A. S. Kresge, pastor of the Will's Charge of the Reformed church last Sunday closed a very successful series of meetings which had been in continuance for the two preceding weeks. In that time Rev. Kresge had made 35 visits. Ten new members were added to the church and a catechetical class of eight was organized. The communion services held on Sunday morning was the most largely observed occasion in the history of the church, 100 communing Rev. Kombar, the Armenian, preached in the evening.

DEER FOUND KILLED.

Game Protector C. H. Osmar is investigating the killing of a deer, the carcass of which was found a few days ago on the W. H. Welmer farm in Black township. The deer killed was a doe, between three and four years old. Examination showed it was shot in the left flank with a shot gun. The animal had obviously traveled some distance before it became so weak from the loss of blood that it fell over in its tracks. The dead deer was discovered by H. H. Newman, the teacher of the Wilson Creek school.

BUY YOUR POTATO CHIPS AT BITTNER'S GROCERY.

26TH DIRECTORS MEETING

A Most Interesting Convention Held Last Week at Somerset and Officers Were Elected. 73 Were Present.

The Twenty-sixth annual session of the Somerset County School Directors Association met in Somerset in Court room No. 3, Nov. 23rd, at 9:30 a. m. with Pres. C. L. Shaver, Esq., in the chair. Devotional services were conducted by Rev. E. F. Hoffmeyer of the Somerset Reformed church. The president delivered a most interesting address. Secretary, F. A. Bittner of Meyersdale called the roll and 73 directors responded.

The treasurer's report was next read and adopted. The election of officers was next taken up and the following were declared elected:

President—H. H. Shumaker, of Rockwood; vice-presidents—Dr. F. B. Shaffer, of Somerset and C. J. Newman, of Boswell; secretary—R. R. Straub, of Boswell; treasurer—Joseph Swank, of Somerset; auditor—J. M. Walker.

The delegates to state convention made their report and same was ordered placed on the minutes.

Tuesday afternoon session was opened by a very able address by Dr. Nathan Rigdon, who spoke on Directors as Custodians of Children, and teachers. He made a strong plea for the election of teachers who have made sacrifices.

The Directors' Opportunity was opened by Pierce Miller and further discussed by Dr. H. A. Zimmerman. Does Our Present Educational System Meet the Demands of the Age? was ably discussed by F. A. Bittner, of Meyersdale, R. K. Straub, C. J. Newman, of Boswell, and Prof. A. B. Coker, Superintendent of Brotherton Township.

The value of Township Supervisors was discussed by L. L. Yoder, of Conant, Township, D. Compton, of Elk Lick Township, and Prof. A. B. Coker. The speakers all made a strong plea for Township Supervision.

Dr. Richard Henry Lee delivered a most excellent address on How Shall We Evaluate Our Schools?

Wednesday morning session was opened by devotional services by the Rev. I. Hess Wagner, of Somerset State Normal School, addressed the convention. He pleaded for better school buildings and better advantages for the boys and girls. The Consolidated Rural School was opened by Prof. J. H. Moore and further discussed by J. H. Bender and J. W. Barclay. Compulsory attendance law and the Child Labor law was ably discussed by J. A. Hartman, of Windber.

The Committee on Necrology next made its report. They reported that during the past year A. L. G. Hay, Esq., president of the Somerset School Board, and Jas. B. Farrell, a member of the Milford Township board, had died. Several members of the convention offered fitting tributes to these men, calling attention to the excellent services rendered as citizens and as members of their respective Boards.

How Can We Make Our School Houses More Attractive? was opened and further discussed by F. B. Shaffer and H. D. Naugle.

Prof. C. D. Koch, State High School Inspector, delivered a very instructive address.

The convention was one of the best if not the best ever held. Much interest was manifested and we believe will mean better schools and better educational advantages for our coming generation.

NEW MOVING PICTURE THEATRE.

Mr. F. J. Hemminger, of Somerset, has leased the Gurley Theatre and is at present having it fixed up in good shape. His appliances are all new and there will be some important changes made in the room which will mean the comfort of the patrons and the effectiveness of the pictures. Mr. Hemminger is experienced and quite successful in this line of work. He is prepared to give first class pictures will not start before everything is just ready.

Begin our new serial to-day, The Double Dealer. You will enjoy it.

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ST. PAUL TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

Following is the program for an institute to be held at St. Paul School on December 18, 1915.

Song—Brighten the Corner. How to Teach Geography—Ada Glotfelty.

Recitation—Louise Compton. Impromptu Class—Mary James. Essay, Florence Livengood Emgeh.

Why Men Quit Teaching—J. H. Bender. Qualifications of a Teacher—Ideella Duecker.

Queries. Song—Help Some One. Debate—Resolved, That it is more profitable for the United States to Annex Canada than Mexico.

Affirmative, S. E. Moser, Clyde Smalley. Negative, Bess Engle, Elizabeth Newman.

My Duty as a Teacher—Floyd Beeghley. Recitation, Lizzie Yoder.

All friends of education are invited to be present.

COMMITTEE.

THE LYCEUM.

The meeting of the Lyceum in Lyceum Hall, on last Friday night, was a grand success. The attendance was unusually good and the discussions were exceedingly interesting. F. A. Bittner and Fred Rowe, Jr. did their part with credit to themselves as well as to the town. There was no hesitancy on the part of the audience in following up the discussion so well opened by Messrs Bittner and Rowe, and there was no doubt left in the mind of any one present that the people of Meyersdale were far from a unit on the question of a large army and navy in the United States.

There were strong arguments made for and against the resolution, which clearly shows our people are doing some reading and thinking. It surely reflects great credit upon the people of this community to maintain an organization where we can come together and discuss matters of common interest.

There were a number of people present from out of town who took a great interest in the discussion. It is hoped that many more will attend these periodic meetings, as the benefit to be derived therefrom becomes better known.

GOOD BASKET BALL GAME

The Rex Club of Meyersdale played their first game of the season at Salisbury on Thanksgiving evening and a large and enthusiastic crowd was on hand. The first half did not look very well for the Rex Club, the score being 6 to 11 against them, but in the second half of the game the visitors scored 8 points while the home team made but a single score. The feature of the game was the guarding of Siehl and Gress. Both teams played fast, clean basket ball.

T. R. C. 14. Position . Salisbury 12
Brant F. Thomas
Benford F. Hicks
Griffith C. Lichty
Siehl G. Thomas
Gress G. Harding

Hady played for Benford during the second half. Score, field goals: Benford 2, Lichty 2, Brant 2, Hady 1.

Foul Goals: Hicks 8; Griffith 2, Siehl 1, Brant 1. Referee, Rev. Monn; Timekeepers, Glessner and Harding; Scorer, Holzhauser.

SPELLING CONTEST WINNERS.

The spelling contest held in connection with the Teachers' Institute last week attracted considerable attention, 65 boys and girls competing for the prizes. Two hundred words were selected from the lists published in the county papers and when these were exhausted nearly all of the contestants were still standing. In order to shorten the contest 100 words other than those printed in the newspapers were selected. The names of the prize winners are Luther Brugh, of the Gebhart school in Milford township; second, Irvin Freese, of the Somerset High School; third, Lloyd M. Hay of the Berlin High School, junior grade; fourth, Fred Baker of the Eighth grade, Somerset; fifth, Ernest Shultz, of the Seventh grade, Somers.

All kinds of Guns and Repairs at GURLEY'S SPORTING GOODS STORE.

MANY DEATHS IN COUNTY

Many Friends Whom You Knew and Loved Who Have Passed Away Recently in This Vicinity.

DAVID STARKS,

One of Somerset county's respected citizens, died at his home in Addison after a lingering illness of a few days ago, aged 64 years, 7 months and 14 days. On June 26, 1876 he was married to Miss Maria Richards. To this union were born three children: Harry Witt, of Addison and Robert Starks of Chester, Pa.; also four grandchildren survive as do the following brothers: John and George L., of Addison and James of Illinois. The deceased was a member of the J. O. U. A. M. and this order attended the funeral in a body and the funeral was largely attended. Mr. Starks was a faithful and consistent member of the Disciple Church and when the time came for him to leave this earth he was ready and willing to go. Rev. O. M. Rishel delivered the funeral sermon which was an excellent one. Interment was made at Addison. The pall bearers were—Calvin Tissue, James Hook, Chas. Nedrow, Frank Wright, C. H. Springer and John Van-Sickle.

The family of the deceased desire to express their appreciation to both the Lodge and the friends for their kindness during the sickness and death of husband and father.

GODLIEB MERRBACH

Godlieb Merrbach of Lonaconing, Maryland, brother of William H. Merrbach and Mrs. Carl Vogtman of this place, died very suddenly on Sunday morning, aged 64 years. In apparent health upto two o'clock and even perhaps later than this time on Sunday morning, he was found dead by his wife who at that time tried to arouse him. A physician who was called said that he must have died about an hour preceding his arrival. The father of the deceased died in the same manner about eight years ago. Eight children survive. The funeral was conducted by his pastor, Rev. Soffron of the Lutheran church, assisted by Rev. English of Lonaconing. The deceased was a member of the I. O. O. F. and also of the Knights of Pythias.

GEORGE STAHL

George Stahl 65 years old, died suddenly Sunday morning at the home of his son, Jacob Stahl of near Davidsville, of neuralgia of the heart. The funeral will take place at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, services to be conducted in the Blough Mennonite church by James Saylor and Levi A. Blough. Burial will be in the Church cemetery. The deceased was born in Conemaugh township December 20, 1850 and spent all his life there. He was a son of Benjamin and Susanna Stahl. He was married Nov. 4, 1869 to Miss Carolina Mumma of Conemaugh township. He is survived by his widow, one son, Jacob, with whom he lived, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He is also survived by three brothers and one sister, as follows: John and Elijah of Soap Hollow, Alexander of Kent county, Mich. and Susanna of Rosedale, Johnstown.

MRS. JOHN BOWMAN

Mrs. John J. Bowman, 51 years old, dropped dead Tuesday evening at her home in Stoystown. She had appeared to be in good health and had not complained of feeling ill. She is survived by these children: Mrs. R. W. Horner of 412 Hickory street, Mrs. A. W. Zimmerman of Ralplhton, Mrs. Daniel Stuft and Mrs. George Hunt of Stoystown and Miss Anna Bowman at home. These brothers and sisters also survive: Jerry and Albert Berkeley, of Johnstown; J. M. Berkey, of Pittsburg; Herman Berkey, of Stoystown and Mrs. Idella Otte and Mrs. Valentine Muller, of Stoystown.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Cunningham, of Somerset, died Wednesday following a few days' illness from pneumonia. He was 32 years of age and unmarried. He was a well known paperer and painter. His parents and one brother and two sisters survive.