

THE MEYERSDALE COMMERCIAL

FRANK K. COCKLEY, Editor and Proprietor.

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**SOMERSET**

Mrs. George Baer and son, Glenn, of Meyersdale, are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Parry Baer.

Miss Ruth Critchfield, of Rockwood, is spending several days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Coleman, of West Main Street.

Attorney F. A. Millot, of Windber, is in Somerset on professional business.

Editor John Lenox, of Berlin, was transacting business in Somerset Monday.

Willard Walker, a student at the Pennsylvania College, at Gettysburg, passed his vacation with his parents, Attorney and Mrs. C. W. Walker.

Edmund Erent, Esq., of Pittsburgh, is a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Kiernan. Elmer Naugle, of Akron, O., is visiting relatives and friends in Somerset.

Eugene Rhoads, of the Aviation Service is visiting his mother, Mrs. Philip Rhoads.

Mrs. Joseph Kantner has returned home after visiting her husband at Petersburg, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sarah have returned home after visiting at Camp Hancock, Ga.

Charles E. Landis and Nettie Shealer, of Somerset, were married at Cumberland last week.

Miss Ruth Knupp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Knupp left here recently for New Britain, Connecticut, in order to visit a sister. She was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Barkman, of Milford township.

Passenger Conductor John P. Kelley has resumed work on the S. & C. branch, after enjoying a ten days' vacation at Camp Hancock.

Mrs. Eugene Cook and daughter, Rebecca, of Johnstown, has returned home after visiting at the home of Mrs. Cook's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Cover, of Patriot St.

Mrs. Charles Lepley is visiting relatives and friends in Connellsville.

Miss Salome McKelvey is spending a few days in Washington and Baltimore.

Mrs. Margaret Fox, has returned to her home in Carnegie, after visiting relatives and friends in Somerset.

Miss Anna C. Scull is on a two weeks' visit in the East.

General Manager Frank R. Lyon, of the Consolidation Coal Company of Vermont, Va., accompanied by his wife and children, were recently visitors with Somerset relatives and friends.

Miss Catherine L. Murdock, of Johnstown, is visiting at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Huston, of the South Side.

Mr. and Mrs. George M. Neff, Jr., of Akron, Ohio, are visiting Somerset relatives and friends.

D. B. Zimmerman has returned from North Dakota, where he was transacting business.

Hon. Bruce F. Sterling, of Uniontown, was a recent visitor to Somerset.

Miss Nellie Kooser, has returned home after visiting in Philadelphia.

Richard Baldwin of Company 'C' is spending a ten days' furlough with Somerset friends.

Prof. O. O. Saylor, Principal of the Salisbury Schools, spent several days with Somerset relatives last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Endsley and two children returned home after visiting at the home of Mr. Endsley's parents, Senator and Mrs. J. W. Endsley, of Somerfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hause and children have returned home after spending several days at the home of Mrs. Hause's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Engle, of St. Paul.

H. H. Wright, who is working at Somerset, spent several days with his family at Addison.

I. J. Spangler was a business visitor to Meyersdale recently.

W. W. Nicholson, of Vint, was a recent Somerset visitor.

Alvin Barnworth, of Confluence, was transacting business in Somerset last week.

J. B. Davis has returned to his home in Ursina after visiting several days at Somerset.

Mrs. George Shoemaker, who has been on the sick list, is improving again.

A. W. Lowry, of Seanor, has returned home and is spending several days with his family.

Mrs. S. S. Schlag, who has been ill for several weeks, left recently for the Allegheny General Hospital at Pittsburgh, where she will receive treatment.

Mrs. Thurman B. Cross and daughter, of Elkins, West Virginia, are visiting at the home of Mrs. Cross's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Coffroth, on East Patriot street.

W. H. Thorp, of Berlin, was transacting business in Somerset Saturday.

**FINE GIFT BOOK**

The finest Gift Book printed is "Mount Vernon, the Home of Washington," by J. E. Jones. Just the thing for mother, father, sister, brother, husband, wife, soldier friend—or anybody, who believes that the United States and Washington, who helped establish our independence, represent true patriotism.

This volume is just a story of impressions of one who visited Mount Vernon one day—the things he thought; the things you thought, if you have been there—just pretty sentiment and patriotic thought from cover to cover.

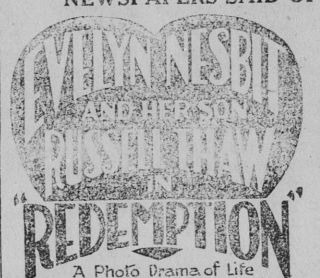
Printed in the Colonial colors, buff and blue, illustrated by sketches made especially by our artists at Mount Vernon.

This is a book endorsed by the highest authorities.

\$1 a copy, postpaid. With a one year's subscription to **ACHIEVEMENTS**, Mr. Jones' individualist Washington monthly, \$1.50.

Send today—because Christmas is drawing near. U. S. Press Association, Real Estate Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

**WHAT THE NEW YORK NEWSPAPERS SAID OF**



A Photo Drama of Life Depleted with Relentless Truth

"REDEMPTION" is a surprise, a revelation.

—N. Y. World. Big production well worth seeing—Episodes in Evelyn Nesbit's life arouse sympathy for women.—N. Y. Eve. Tele

**REICH'S AUDITORIUM** Tuesday Evening, December 18 15c ADMISSION 15c Music by the Orchestra

**NOTICE**

To the Stockholders of the Sand Spring Water Co.

A meeting of the Stockholders of the Sand Spring Water Co., of Meyersdale, Pa., will be held in the directors room of the Citizens National Bank, on Monday evening, January 14, 1918, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year, and the transaction of any other business properly brought before the meeting.

S. B. Philson, Sec.

**NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS**

All delinquent Tax payers of Elk Lick Township take Notice I will sit for the collection of taxes at St. Paul December 12; at Springs, December 13; at Boynton December 14; Salisbury December 15, 1917.

We expect all tax payers to settle in full at this time for any taxes unpaid for the year 1917.

H. G. Lepley, Collector for Elk Lick Twp. Meyersdale, Pa., R. F. D. No. 2

The very best Oleomargarine 36c per lb. at HABEL & PHILLIPS

**LAND MONOPOLY**

"Few people realize that a feudalism has come into existence in the United States similar to that which still prevails in a great part of Europe, a system which, up to the French Revolution, was the prevailing method of landownership in all of the European countries."

This is one of the many surprising statements made by Dr. Frederic C. Howe, immigration commissioner of the Port of New York, in his new book entitled "The High Cost of Living," just published by Scribners. Dr. Howe here tells in clear, swift sentences how food production and distribution in America has fallen under the control of wheat gamblers, warehouse men, cold storage men, packing companies, and land speculators, with private ownership and control of the railroads, terminals and banking facilities as other important factors. He says:

"There is a submarine zone about the farmer which costs our people hundreds of millions annually. These agencies include the railroads, the warehouses, the terminals, the slaughter houses, and the banks."

But overshadowing every other evil that is sapping the vitality of American Agriculture, according to Dr. Howe, is our system of land tenure. Of the many important and fascinating chapters of his new book, probably the most important is that on "Opening Up the Land." He says:

"The free land of the West is all gone. The enclosure of the public domain ended the first great era of American history. It marked the close of an era in the history of the world. For the enclosures of the free land ended the freedom of choice enjoyed by the city worker, it ended the freedom of choice of the would-be farmer, in a sense it ended the freedom of the western world."

"And when the free land was gone, all land began to have a monopoly price irrespective of its real value. It acquired a speculative value. No longer was land desirable only because of its greater fertility or nearness to the city. All land now had a scarcity value, a value due to the fact that all of the land was privately owned. Then the price of land began to rise. It rose with great rapidity. A million incoming immigrants increased the demand, not only for land, but for food as well. And this increasing demand upon a limited supply affected all land values. It has been especially operative during the past few years. Fifty years ago land in Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas was held at from \$3 to \$5 an acre. Today it is held at from \$100 to \$300 an acre. The farming land in America is held at a higher price than it is in England."

"This speculative price of land is one explanation of the decay of agriculture and the failure of farming to keep pace with our needs. The man of average capital is unable to buy or to make a living on the land at the price which he has to pay for it. From 1900 to 1910 farming land increased in value 118 per cent. "Not only is the would-be farmer excluded from the land by prohibitive prices, but hundreds of millions of acres are held in great estates, while over 400,000,000 acres of land enclosed in farms is not under cultivation at all. While food has almost reached famine prices to the poor, while millions of people are herded in tenements and about the great industries, while hundreds of thousands of farmers have migrated to Canada and nearly 40 per cent of our 6,000,000 farmers are tenants, there exists in this country land enough, if converted into moderate sized farms, to provide comfortable homes for at least 30,000,000 people."

"How can idle landholding be ended? How can we limit the amount of land a man may own to that which he actually needs and cultivates? How can we break up the 200,000,000 acres held in great estates and throw open to use the 400,000,000 acres enclosed in farms but not cultivated by the owners?"

"Of all the measures proposed for the solution of these problems the taxation of land values is the simplest and most effective. It will do more than all other measures combined to

create that stability of movement which the city to the country and from the country to the city should be the principle of industrial efficiency and of industrial democracy as well. The immediate effect of increasing the taxes on land would be to check speculation. And speculation is the real reason why men want more land than they can use. They are holding it against the needs of society.

The reform, known generally as the single tax, is comparatively easy to inaugurate. It can be put into effect by the legislature of any State or by a county where home rule in taxation exists, by an act which exempts from local taxation all houses, barns, improvements, growing crops, machinery, and personal property of every nature and description. By merely exempting these kinds of property from taxation all taxes will automatically fall upon the land. No other taxes will be levied. As a result the taxes on land will be automatically increased. And if the tax is heavy enough it will discourage the holding of land for any other purpose than production.

"About our cities, even in the Eastern States, millions of acres of land are being held idly, indifferently, and by inertia, just because it costs little to so hold them. And a slight increase in the taxes on land would bring much onto the market, while a very small tax upon the great ranges of the West would lead to their being broken up for settlers."

"And if the tax upon the land were made sufficiently heavy men would take only such land as they actually needed or as they actually worked, whether it was ten acres or a hundred acres. They would pay an annual tax to the State, not unlike the rental now paid the landlord. But they would then be free from all other taxes, and in addition the great quantities of land brought onto the market would materially cheapen the rental of all land. For as taxes on land are increased the price of the land diminishes."

"And the taxation of all land values up to the full amount of the rental value is the aim of those who believe in the single-tax philosophy. They would tax heavily as a means not only of freeing the land but of freeing man as well. This would end tenancy; it would end all land speculation; it would end land monopoly forever. For then men would hold no more land than they actually used, and as land would exist in abundance for all it would be impossible for owners to hold men either as tenants or as agricultural workers. Men would own their own farms and work for themselves."

"Moreover, the untaxing of all kinds of farm improvements would encourage men to build, to make their places more attractive."

"The taxation of land values would be to America like the discovery of a new continent. It would open up hundreds of millions of acres. It would greatly increase production. It would solve the food problem and the high cost of living. And what is true of agricultural land is true of the mineral resources, timber-land and city land as well."

Patronize our Advertisers.

**A LION'S ROAR IS GOLDWYN'S SALUTE**

Goldwyn enters the motion picture field with the roar of a lion.

The first picture flashed on the screen in the initial production, "Polly of the Circus," is that of the circular trade mark of Goldwyn. Inscribed on the edge of the circle are the Latin words, "Ars Gratia Artis," which, freely translated mean, art for art's sake. In the center of the circle reposes a lion.

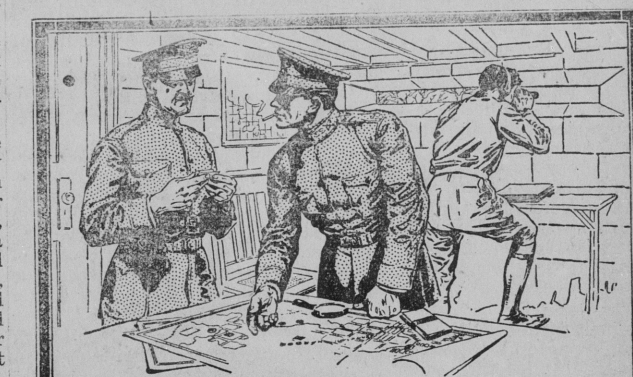
As the picture is flashed the lion turns his head, opens his huge mouth and roars. This is the introduction of Goldwyn Pictures. You want to see the opening production, "Polly of the Circus," Thursday, December 20th.

Red Kidney Beans 10c per can, at HABEL & PHILLIPS

Patronize our Advertisers.

**Advertisement All the Time**

CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK	
OF MEYERSDALE, PA.	
Capital and Surplus \$1,000,000	
Loans and Discounts	\$400,000.00
U. S. Bonds	247,168.00
Bank Deposits	30,200.00
Cash	1,000.00
Due from Banks and Reserve Assets	291,531.18
Total	\$1,000,000.00
RESOURCES	
Capital and Surplus	\$1,000,000.00
Surplus and Profits	65,000.00
Circulating	1,200,000.00
Deposits	\$1,000,000.00
LIABILITIES	
Capital and Surplus	\$1,000,000.00
Surplus and Profits	65,000.00
Circulating	1,200,000.00
Deposits	\$1,000,000.00



**Get the Range of Smoking Satisfaction**

Roll "Bull" Durham into a cigarette and you have a smoke with all the vim, vigor and dash of Uncle Sam's fighting men. That's why the American Army is an army of "Bull" Durham smokers. "Bull" Durham puts snap into their action and "punch" into their systems. For a virile, lively, manly smoke, "roll your own" with "Bull" Durham.

**GENUINE BULL DURHAM SMOKING TOBACCO**

"Bull" Durham is the mildest of all tobaccos. It has a unique aroma and a distinctive mellow-sweet flavor that no other tobacco can give you.

Made of the famous "bright" Virginia-North Carolina leaf, "Bull" Durham has been the great American smoke for three generations.

You "roll your own" with "Bull" Durham and enjoy a real smoke.

FREE An Illustrated Booklet, showing correct way to "Roll Your Own" Cigarettes, and a package of cigarette papers, will both be mailed, free, to any address in U. S. on request. Address "Bull" Durham, Durham, N. C.

THE AMERICAN TOBACCO CO.

**What to Give a Man or Boy For Christmas**

A War Christmas means a practical Christmas and everything in this store is practical—carrying men's and boys wear exclusively. The styles are right, the prices are moderate.

**GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR HIM**

Overcoats, Top Coats, Raincoats, Suits, Gloves, Dress Shirts, \$1.00 to \$5.50. Beautiful line of Neckwear at 25c to \$2.00. Underwear, Handkerchiefs, Mufflers, Suspenders, Hosiery, House Coats, Bath Robes, Full Dress Suits, Dress Vest, Hats. A special line of new Caps, 25c to \$2.00. Belts, Sleeve Links, Collar Boxes, Sweater Coats, Umbrellas, Traveling Bags, Suit Cases, Etc.

Men's and Boys' Wear--That's All. Call In and Make Your Selection.

**Hartley & Baldwin**