

THE CITIZEN

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The policy of the *The Citizen* is to print the local news in an interesting manner, to summarize the news of the world at large, to fight for the right as this paper sees the right, without fear or favor to the end that it may serve the best interests of its readers and the welfare of the county.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1911.

EXAMINE YOUR CHIMNEY.

Are you aware of the fact that a number of fires are due to defective chimney flues? Examine your chimney before winter sets in. Replace the soft bricks with new ones if necessary, and should there be any loose bricks have the chimney pointed.

ARMORY NUMBER PLEASED MANY.

The Citizen craft has received many complimentary remarks upon its last Friday's issue, which contained a complete account of the dedicatory exercises of the State Armory at this place. It is our purpose at all times to please our readers and the complimentary remarks will have a tendency to act as an incentive to advance and accomplish greater and more nobler things. We thank you.

EXERCISE THE "PULL-TOGETHER HABIT."

There has crept into the Business Men's Association, Board of Trade, churches and secular organizations of the town, a lack of indifference on the part of the members in attendance to regular and special meetings. Sometimes out of the large membership in these organizations enough do not respond to the call for a quorum. Why this apparent lack of interest?

Is it any wonder that the public ask what is Honesdale doing to promote the welfare of the town? In other words, how can the town do anything when its rank and file stay away from the meetings? The absentees invariably find the most fault and criticize what the faithful members are endeavoring to do. Their work is therefore made many times harder by the dreaming member who imagines he is not wanted or needed at the meetings.

If Honesdale is to become one of the wideawake towns of the country, and the conditions are good that it will, its citizens must get the "pull-together habit" and work in harmony. The civic membership must attend its representative organization meetings if success is expected to crown its efforts. No proposition can be a success if it is not enthusiastically supported. The possibilities for Honesdale are diversified, but they will remain dormant unless some event subversive of the order of things occurs to awaken the seemingly lack of interest that is apparently predominant in the town.

If necessary serve a banquet when interest is waning. Create something new to get the membership out. Conduct your meetings so that they will be an incentive for members to attend. Keep strictly to business and do away with all unnecessary talking.

DIVIDE HONESDALE INTO ELECTION WARDS.

The Citizen takes the initiative step in advancing the proposition of dividing Honesdale into election wards, it now being the largest single polling district in the State of Pennsylvania. In view of this and other reasonable facts, we will try to present as clearly as possible the advantages that would be derived. We, however, desire to obtain the voter's candid expression if he is either for or against the proposed change. Letters pro and con will be printed in the People's Forum.

It is our opinion that the electoral district of the Borough of Honesdale is too large for one election board. If it were divided into two or three wards, perhaps two being sufficient, the election officers would not be compelled to stay up from two to three o'clock the following morning after the day of election to finish their duties. At the last election this was the true state of affairs. The vote was heavy and the election board made a record count, handling 629 ballots several times in four and a half hours, to get the official number received by each candidate on the blanket ticket. Their day's work consisted of eighteen hours and the law provides only \$3.50 per day for the members on the election board, including the judge and inspector. Is it any wonder that the board bolts and claims that it will not serve another election under such circumstances?

A comparison of districts reproduced from Smull's Legislative Hand Book will give the reader and voter some idea of the size of other boroughs which have two or more districts or voting precincts. At the same time keep Honesdale in thought. The vote is founded upon State Treasurer, 1909, when Stober was the Republican candidate, Kipp, Democratic, Fish, Prohibitionist, and Moore, Socialist.

Sayre borough, Bradford county, is divided into four wards. Its total vote for these candidates was 328. Dividing this number by four we get 82, which is an average vote for one district. Honesdale's vote was 210 for the borough or 118 less than Sayre, with four wards.

Towanda, of the same county, is divided into three wards. Each average vote was 146.

Athens, Bradford county, has four wards. The average vote in each ward was 87.

There are many more towns that are divided into from three to six districts or wards whose population is less and some more than Honesdale. Archbald, Lackawanna county, has three wards; Dickson City borough, same county, three wards; Jermy, three wards; Mayfield, three; Moosic, four; Old Forge, six; Olyphant, four, etc. Forest City, Susquehanna county, has two wards, and two districts in each ward, its total vote being 179. Montrose has three wards and Susquehanna borough four. Sayre's total vote for State Treasurer was 328, while its population at the time was 5,243; Athens' vote was 351 with a population of 3,749; Towanda 439, population 4,663; Honesdale 210, borough population 2,864. All the above towns are larger than Honesdale, but if the total vote were divided into two districts Sayre's vote for each district would have averaged 164, Athens 175, and Towanda 218. If Honesdale had had two wards at that time, its average vote in each ward would have been 105.

It is, therefore, an evincible fact that Honesdale ought to be divided into at least two election wards. We would recommend that the Lackawanna river, which separates the uptown from the downtown section, serve as a dividing line between the two proposed wards. In the division of the borough it is our opinion that the residential or northern section extend from the State bridge north to the Borough line and from East to West across the town, taking in everything within the borough limits; the downtown or business section to extend from the State bridge south to the foot of Main street and all that territory that lies East and West within the borough. Only citizens living in these respective sections can vote therein.

If a voter lives downtown, or south of the proposed division line, he must vote in that ward, or should he reside north of the State bridge the same would govern the rule of voting in that section of the town.

We also zealously endorse the removal of the voting booths from the Court House to the Council Chambers in the City Hall. If the presentation in the matter of districting Honesdale is not approved by the public, the place of polling certainly should be changed for various reasons. Its accessibility is unquestioned. Many Honesdale voters find it difficult to climb several steps, like are in the Court House, and consequently stay away from the polls. If the polling booths were changed only three steps would be required to get on the ground floor. The Citizen would like to hear criticism from the townspeople.

THE HONESDALE ARMORY.

One of the most notable days that the pretty little town of Honesdale has seen was marked last week by the dedication of the new armory of Company E, Thirteenth Regiment, which was attended by Governor Tener, Adjutant General Stewart, Major General C. Bow Dougherty, Col. L. A. Watres of the State Armory Board and Col. F. W. Stillwell, the commanding officer of the local regiment. All of these took a prominent part in the exercises and were the honored guests of the occasion.

Colonel Watres received the armory from the contractors, and Major General Dougherty then delivered it to the care of Captain Carroll J. Kelley, of Company E. The speech of the Governor, a fervent patriotic effort, was followed by a forceful address by Adjutant General Stewart. Honesdale, naturally, is proud of its fine new armory, which is a credit alike to the town and the National Guard. The building consists of a main floor and a basement under the entire structure. The hall is 70 by 80 feet in dimensions and will nicely fill the needs of Company E and also of Honesdale as a place of large public gatherings. It is to be fitted with every modern convenience for the guardsmen.

A pleasing feature of the ceremonies was the deference paid the veterans of the G. A. R. they being given the position of honor, both in the parade and in the exercises which marked the formal taking over of the building. The veterans were led by Judge Henry Wilson, the dean of the Wayne county bar.

Honesdale is to be congratulated upon its fine new structure and the enterprise shown in providing for its citizen-soldiery.—Scranton Truth.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

(Continued from Page One.)

blackboards are indispensable for the success of a school.

"Some directors bought black paint and went over the old boards, and made poor blackboards of them. You can't paint boards and make a good blackboard. You can get slate canvas cheap. Or better still, get slate blackboards, which are the best of all. A blackboard, next to the teacher, is the one thing indispensable in the school.

"I asked the directors last year not to pay the salary of the last month to the teacher until the reports were handed in. It is a great help to the new teacher. It will help to do away with the old-time 'self-promotion system' in the country school, when Johnny and Sarah came and said 'we belong to such and such a grade' and later came to grief.

"A good blackboard in every school in the county, and an absolutely correct report of every individual pupil. These are two important things we ought to strive for."

"You can't pin your faith on railroads and trains," breathlessly exclaimed Dr. G. M. Phillips, principal of the West Chester State Normal School and Secretary of the State Board of Education, who came into the room at this moment (10:42 a. m.) having been transited in Carbondale over night, and treated in addition to an annoying 45-minute delay in the arrival of the morning Delaware and Hudson train.

Giving the Doctor only time enough to shed his overcoat, and hardly sufficient chance to catch his breath, he was introduced to the convention, and plunged into the middle of his subject at once by saying:

Doctor Phillips' Address.

"The School Code is so big a subject. On the 18th of last May, Gov. Tener signed the most important piece of legislation enacted in Pennsylvania in years. Said the United States Commissioner of Education in commenting upon the Code: 'It is perhaps the most extensive and radical piece of education ever enacted in the United States.'

"The Common School Law of Pennsylvania was framed in 1834. Since then 300 changes have been made, and 2,000 special educational laws passed. The old school laws were in a chaotic condition, full of idiosyncrasies.

"What are some of the great things in the new School Code?"

"1. The committee hoped, as far as laws could do it, to put good men in office and give them ample power. 'Secondly, They wanted to let well enough alone. Some things had to remain the way they were. This is a great State, with great cities and thinly scattered counties. The Constitution of Pennsylvania forbids special legislation. Whatever legislation we proposed had to be of a general character.

"You want to remember all we did had to run the gauntlet of the Legislature and the Governor. The new Code isn't perfect.

"The first step was to classify the State into districts. We made four districts. 1. Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, where a school board of fifteen is appointed by the courts. 2. All the smaller cities, from 30,000 on up, like Scranton. 3. Smaller cities of from 20,000 to 30,000 like Carbondale, where a local Superintendent may be elected. 4. The fourth-class embracing all under 5,000, where five school directors are elected at large for a six-year term to avoid a deadlock.

"Carbondale has had six school directors. Carbondale is deadlocked and has not elected a teacher this year. The teachers are working there on faith.

"The question has often been asked me as secretary of the commission which framed the Code, 'why weren't we school directors allowed to serve out our terms, why were we turned out?' There was nothing to do but wipe off the slate and start over again. Think of it. There were 63 different school boards in Pittsburgh up to last Monday, with 466 school directors, all acting independently. Think of a bank or corporation trying to get along with such a board.

"All over the State now (excepting in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh), we have a small board of school directors, not more anywhere than nine, elected at large.

"The State Board of Education consists of seven men who serve without pay. From now on no school building can be contracted for and built until the plans are sent to Harrisburg. We turn them over to Mr. Willis, a school architect. This costs you nothing. It gives you expert advice without cost to you. We are about to issue a pamphlet containing plans and specifications of model up-to-date one and two-room buildings, which will be sent to you.

Advices Medical Inspection.
"Now about medical inspection. Although most of the districts in this county won't have it this year, I believe you will next. It provides that a doctor shall examine the physical condition of every school child in Wayne county, if the school directors are willing, without any expense. Chiefly the eyes, ears and throat are examined.

"If there are any defects found and it's wonderful how many people have defective eyes and ears and don't know it, the procedure will be a very simple one. The examination will be done in the school room. No clothing will be taken off. When this is done, the teacher will be informed and the teacher will tell the parents. The teacher will then know how to seat the child close to the blackboard or near to the light. It won't cost you a penny.

"All the districts in Wayne county have exempted themselves, this year, from the medical inspection feature of the Code, save Hawley and Starrucca boroughs, Preston and Texas townships.

"There will be a \$1 school tax levied on every male inhabitant.

"The enumeration of school children heretofore left to the local assessor, who sometimes copied his list from last year's book, is important. The rural districts didn't get the full amount of their appropriation, through the assessor's carelessness sometimes. Your appropriation depends on your enumeration. The Code suggests that you get a teacher to do it. It's going to help the townships to get all that's coming to them from the State.

"The Code will provide for joint schools, make it easier for you to close school if need be and transport the children.

"As to holidays. The best lawyers differed as to which were holidays. There are only two holidays on which school must be closed, Christmas and Fourth of July. Any other day save Saturday and Sunday, you may have your school open. If you have the school open you pay your teacher. It's in the hands of the school board.

"Every township must teach the elements of Agriculture or they won't get their appropriation."

All this and much more said the learned Doctor, in his special plea, setting forth the merits of the school code, to the directors. When he got through he answered questions readily, and made a most favorable impression.

The convention adjourned at ten minutes past twelve o'clock.

Directors in attendance were: Berlin—C. A. Hicks, Honesdale; Elery Crosby, Beachlake. Bethany—B. F. Blake, C. H. Pethick, I. J. Many, H. A. Bennett, David E. Manning, John E. Henderson. Buckingham—J. E. Holbert, Starlight.

Canaan—Wm. Scully, John Lockwood, James Moylan, John Ryan, Waymart.

Cherry Ridge—W. J. Rickard, J. G. Spinner, Peter Switzer, Honesdale R. D. 2; Joseph Johannes, Fred Crockerberg, Clemo.

Clinton—Frank N. Rude, Waymart R. D. 1; A. J. Wilcox, Waymart R. D. 3; M. J. Shanley, Waymart, R. D. 3; Geo. Hauenstein, Waymart R. D. 1.

Damascus—Chas. Yatho, Narrowsburg, N. Y. Dreher—A. J. Simons, M. D. George E. Ehrhardt, Chas. Gracer, George Beehn, Newfoundland.

Dyberry—J. E. Henshaw, Tanners Falls; Ira Bryant, E. D. Bunnell, Honesdale R. D. 1; C. Egan, Honesdale R. D. 3.

Honesdale—Hon. A. T. Searle, A. M. Leine, W. J. Ward, J. A. Brown. Lake—Aaron Black, Maplewood; Eugene Quintin, Ariel.

Lebanon—T. H. Ridd, Siko. Lehigh—John Courtney, Dr. C. E. Ellenberger, Gouldsboro.

Manchester—W. E. Anderson, Ewan, Grant Hawley, B. A. Gillow, Lookout; H. Cole, Braman; J. F. Warfield, Equinunk.

Mt. Pleasant—S. B. Doyle, Pleasant Mt., R. D. 2. Oregon—Jacob Reifler, Carley Brook; A. T. Suman, J. C. Brill, Laurella.

Paupack—F. R. Olmsted, Uswick. Preston—T. L. Smith, Orson; Warner Decker, Lakewood.

Prompton—Geo. L. Bates, E. R. Bodie, Wm. H. Wood, Peter Knaz, Stephen Kagler.

Salem—R. H. Conklin, Hub; A. F. Jones, A. N. Patterson, Hamlin; L. Brink, Ledgedale. Seelyville—A. W. Eno, H. A. Dunkelberg.

South Canaan—E. D. Spangenberg, Waymart R. D. 2. Starrucca—I. L. Buck, Andrew Koehler, S. L. Glover, C. T. Glover, John Brown.

Sterling—W. B. Leshner, F. L. Hartford. Texas—Frank A. Brunner, John

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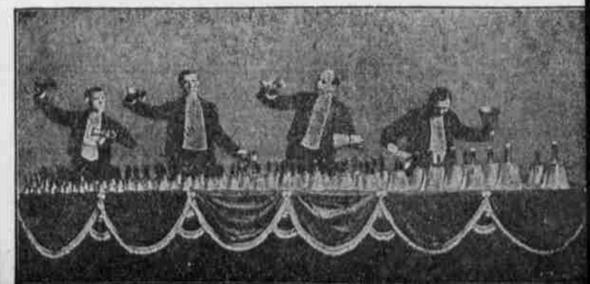
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