

DEATH RATE FOR 1912 LOWEST IN YEARS

Dr. Dixon, Commissioner of Health, Says Average Rate is 14 to Every Thousand.

The dawn of the new year will be welcomed by 17,000 men, women and children in Pennsylvania who would not have lived this year to hear the merry jingle of the bells ringing in 1913 had the death rate of 1906 prevailed during the past year.

From the figures which have already been compiled, Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Commissioner of Health, was able to announce that the death rate throughout the State for 1912 will only average 14 per thousand. This is the lowest rate which has ever been reached in the Commonwealth.

He said: "The benefits of public health work and the accompanying enlightenment of the people in regard to matters of sanitation and hygiene are shown by the steady decrease in the death rate in the past few years."

"The purification of the waters, the reduction of communicable disease and the co-ordination of the various organizations to aid in the reduction of infant mortality have all wrought splendid results. What has been done shows that we have excellent ground to hope for a Pennsylvania in which no children shall die from diphtheria, in which there shall be no typhoid, scarlet fever, whooping cough, measles and tuberculosis. This is the goal toward which we are striving."

"The work of the past few years has wrought tangible results. It has paid enormous dividends on the money invested through the lives saved and the illnesses eliminated. The knowledge that in the past year more than 170,000 of our people have been spared the ravages of acute diseases, gives us courage for the work of the coming year."

TWINS ATTACHED TO EACH OTHER.

Growth Between Their Hips and They Cannot be Separated.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Gibbs of Holyoke, Mass., are the parents of two girls which in many ways are like the famous Siamese Twins. They are attached to each other at the hips but in every other way are perfectly normal. The twins are several months old and have developed splendidly since their birth.

Where they grow together it seems to be a very large mass of ligaments, but the surgeons interested in the case have decided not to make any extended examination of the twins until they get older, as the surgeons declare it would be dangerous to try to separate them by operation until they reach the age of 6 years at least.

There will be many experts who feel that it will be impossible ever to separate them, as has been the case with such peculiar freaks of nature in the past.

It has been noted that the Gibbs twins are different in a great many ways. Often when one desires to sleep the other is wide awake and shows a strong desire to be playful. They never seem to agree on the eating hour, for while one cries for her food the other one pushes the bottle away.

Death of Mrs. Henry Ball.

Mrs. Margaret Ball, widow of the late Henry Ball, for many years proprietor of Hotel Wayne, died New Year's Day at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. B. Dunsmore, where Mrs. Ball has lived during the past few years. The deceased was 67 years old. She is survived by Mrs. H. Z. Russell of this place; Mrs. W. H. MacMillen, of West Pittston, and Mrs. A. B. Dunsmore, of Wellsboro. The remains will be brought to Honesdale Saturday and the funeral will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence of H. Z. Russell.

Death of Peter Carrol.

Peter A. Carrol, of Carbondale, died at 4:45 Thursday afternoon, following a prolonged illness. He is survived by wife who was formerly Regina Reilly, formerly of this place, and two sons.

ULSTER SAVES MAN IN FALL.

Farmer, Blown Off Palisades, Lodges Safely in Tree.

While the spectacle of a launch landing at Alpine, N. J., is not one of the seven wonders of the world, a naphtha boat that landed there held for John Rouloff, a farmer of Alpine, enough interest to draw him to the edge of the Palisades.

A strong young breeze came along about then and lifted Mr. Rouloff from his feet, whirling him in the direction of the Hudson river, 240 feet down.

The farmer wore an ulster, buttoned. Remember this in case you intend to do any Alpine climbing, or the reverse, for thirty-five feet below the top of the cliff Rouloff landed in a tree and was about to continue his journey down when he popped out on to a strong limb. The limb ran up underneath the back of his coat, knocking off his hat. Then Mr. Rouloff remained quiet and fast.

Michael Neafsey, looking down upon the peaceful river, saw Mr. Rouloff. He shouted to Rouloff to remain where he was—far from an impossibility under the circumstances—until he got help. In five minutes Neafsey returned with two more men and a rope. The rope was lowered to Rouloff, and after he had fastened it under his arms he was drawn up.

STUART OPTIMISTIC ON 50TH BIRTHDAY.

"Opportunity Everywhere for Man With Acumen," Says Former Governor on Birthday.

Robust and happy, former Gov. Edwin S. Stuart Friday observed the fifty-ninth anniversary of his birthday by attending to business as usual. In speaking of the present and the trend for the future, the former chief executive of the Commonwealth was optimistic.

"Opportunity is everywhere," he said, "for the man with the acumen to grasp it. The country has expanded and developed and trade has reached such proportions that the man with grit and energy and push is needed everywhere."

"The heads of big trade concerns where there is no sentiment, are looking for such men. They need them to produce results. The old chap who went around fifty years ago saying that there was no opportunity for a man, is still around today with the same grouch. Of course, there are some men who work hard and don't succeed. That's unfortunate. But the point I want to make without preaching a sermon at all, is that integrity counts. Moral, mental and ethical honesty is sure to get you there in the end."

—The following unclaimed letters remain at the Honesdale postoffice: R. G. Cleveland, Mrs. Jas. Cook, Mrs. Lydia King, Mrs. John Eggleton, M. B. Allen, Postmaster.

A DOLLAR AN EAR FOR CORN.

Pennsylvania farmers will have an opportunity to show what corn the old Keystone State produces at the Seventh Annual Corn Show at Harrisburg, Jan. 21-23 next. Liberal prizes are offered in ten classes for the best corn, the largest ear, the longest ear, etc., with gold and silver medals to the winners of championships. Classes cover corn grown in all parts of the state—ten prizes in each class. A liberal amount is offered also for corn club exhibits. No entrance fees are charged.

The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders' Association, the Pennsylvania Dairy Union, the State Horticultural Association and the State Board of Agriculture will be held at Harrisburg January 21-23.

MRS. ROCKWELL ENTERTAINS.

New Year's Afternoon Reception For Fifty-Five Guests—Music by Freeman's Orchestra.

A New Year's reception which turned out to be an at home as well as a birthday party was given by Mrs. Charles F. Rockwell at her home on North Main street Wednesday afternoon from 3:30 until 7. Mrs. Rockwell was at home to about fifty-five of her friends who came and spent the afternoon in a social way which was much enjoyed by all. The occasion was also her seventyninth birthday. Mrs. Rockwell, assisted by her daughter, Miss Harriet Rockwell and Mrs. Benjamin Wood, received the guests.

The beautiful parlor, library and dining room of the Rockwell home were thrown open to the guests and because it was such a nice day the reception was graced by several guests who rarely go out. The rooms were beautifully decorated with holly, ferns and poinsettia and presented a pretty scene. Freeman's orchestra furnished music for the guests all during the afternoon. A buffet luncheon was served in the dining room.

SCIENTIST INVENTS UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE.

Sir William Ramsay Suggests Signs For Communication.

To make possible the exchange of ideas among all the peoples of the world Sir William Ramsay, the eminent English scientist who is lecturing in Boston, has begun to develop a pictorial sign language based somewhat upon Chinese, which he hopes will eventually spread among all races.

The Chinese character to express "man," for instance, is made with two converging lines that represent simply his legs, looking much like the legs of the crude man that the schoolboy draws.

Sir William's character goes further and adds a vertical straight line above the converging lines to represent the body.

"The first thing that one thinks of," he argues, "is existence expressed in the verb 'to be.'"

So he has, arbitrarily perhaps, selected the arithmetical equality mark to denote existence. All things relating to one's state and condition can be expressed by those two parallel lines.

For time that stretches away or action that is constant he uses a dash. Instantaneous time or action he represents with a dot. Thus a dot placed squarely between and in the middle of the two lines of the equality mark denotes the immediate present or "I am." Similarly the dot when placed at the left and between the two lines denotes past or "I was" and when placed to the right indicates the future tense or "I am to be."

To denote a woman Sir William draws a line closing the diverging ends of the legs of the sign for man. On the theory that "I" is the most important thing in the world to any man Sir William utilizes the straight vertical line that represents the body of his man figure to depict the word.

—Watch the cent-a-word column.

LACKAWANNA SPENDING MANY MILLIONS

\$3,000,000 Stock Issue Will be Used In Work on New Cut-off This Year.

Binghamton, Jan. 1.—Directors of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad company, at the regular meeting of the board will, if present plans are carried out, provide for the issuance of a certain portion of the \$12,000,000 stock authorized by stockholders at the annual meeting last February. The proposed new issue will probably be \$3,000,000 of twenty-five per cent. of the amount authorized, says the Wall Street Journal.

Matter of stock issuance has been agreed upon by certain interests influential in the company and will come before the executive committee at its meeting December 24, and before the board December 26. The board of directors will also declare the regular quarterly dividend of two and one-half per cent. at the next meeting.

The \$12,000,000 stock, of which \$3,000,000 will probably be issued to stockholders at par, was authorized last February, to finance improvements west of Scranton and east of Binghamton, comprising the elimination of heavy curves and grades and a tunnel, by building a new line which cuts the mileage from thirty-eight to thirty-five miles. Although not much more than preliminary work has been done up to the present, the expenditure so far has not reached \$2,000,000. Total expenditure for the entire work will approximate \$17,000,000.

President Truesdale, of the Lackawanna, asked whether a stock issue had been determined upon, admitted that the matter would probably come before the board at its next regular meeting. It is not believed that the progress of the work on the new cut-off requires a stock issue of more than \$3,000,000 at par at this time.

ODD WEATHER DEVICES.

Swiss Weather-House, a Common Toy, Quite Trustworthy—Chameleon Barometer a Curiosity.

One of the oldest and simplest ways of telling whether the air is dry or moist is to suspend a piece of seaweed out of doors, or even in an apartment where there is no artificial heat. The weed is crisp and dry at the approach of fine weather, while it is floppy and moist when rain is likely.

A common toy, the Swiss weather-house, is really quite trustworthy in its forecasts, says the Strand. The woman, of course, emerges from the little house in fine weather, while the man comes out when wet conditions are to be expected.

In a medium state of the atmosphere both figures stand just inside the house. The movements are due to the twisting of a cord of catgut, a substance which is highly sensitive to changes in the humidity of the air. Two very singular weather devices are those in which a frog and a leech are employed. In the former case a glass jar-jar is filled to about two-thirds of its capacity with water. A little wooden ladder is constructed, and this is placed inside the jar.

A frog will live quite happily in such a position for a few weeks, and it will be found that in fine weather the creature will climb up to the top of the ladder. In stormy weather, however, the frog prefers to remain under the water.

Even more reliable as weather prophets are leeches. A single leech is placed in a broad glass bottle with a piece of perforated bladder or leather over the mouth. On the approach of fine or frosty weather the leech remains almost motionless, curled up at the bottom. When rain or wind is coming the creature rises to the surface, while a coming thunderstorm will cause it to be much agitated; at times the leech will even leave the water altogether, so sensitive is the animal to an electrical disturbance.

The chameleon barometer is a curiosity which has puzzled many people, but its construction is really very simple. The animal changes color according to the weather, being pink in damp conditions, purple in a variable state, and bright blue when the air is dry.

A cardboard mount is prepared, and this may be lettered in sections, Fair Storm and Change. The chameleon is sketched out on blotting-paper, and then immersed in a solution of chloride of sodium and gum arabic. Any chemist will make up the mixture.

A more beautiful chemist hygroscopic is formed of a flower made of white blotting-paper which has been immersed in the cobalt mixture. The blossoms show many varying shades, from bright pink to sky blue, with the changes in the degree of dampness in the atmosphere.

A somewhat curious storm-glass was introduced by the late Admiral Fitzroy. This is formed of a glass tube, stoppered, but with a small hole through the cork. Into the tube has been poured a mixture of camphor, nitre, sal ammoniac, alcohol and water. The changes in the state of the atmosphere are indicated by the production of feathery growths, these extending upward at the approach of a storm and retreating to the lower part of the tube in quiet weather.

Judge Staples Starts Reform.

Judge C. B. Staples of Monroe county, started a reform of much interest to rural school districts. He demanded that proper provision be made for the comfort of pupils in the country districts, and instructed the supervisors of townships to improve roads and paths and see that the children have good walks when snow comes.

ABOUT PARCEL POST

Many Things Collected Here and There That is of Unusual Interest.

GIFT OF SPOONS IS FIRST PARCEL POST.

Philadelphia, Jan. 1.—Fifty-eight souvenir spoons engraved to represent the forty-eight states of the union and the insular possessions, a gift from former Postmaster General Wanamaker to President Taft were contained in the first package to be sent by parcel post from Philadelphia.

The clock on Independence Hall had just struck the hour marking the close of the old year when Postmaster Smith started the package on its journey.

INSURANCE FOR PARCELS.

Postmaster M. B. Allen has received a supply of tags to be used on insurance packages, which hereafter are to be insured instead of registered. The tag is in three sections, one part being attached to the package, the second being retained by the home office and the third being given to the consignee. A package is insured for \$50 or less, at a cost of ten cents, special insurance stamps being used. This guarantees the package against loss or theft, but not against breakage. Thus, if a dozen eggs were shipped, the entire dozen must arrive at their destination, but not necessarily entire.

THREE TONS OF BRICK SENT BY PARCELS POST.

Gary, Ind., Jan. 1.—Every employe of the Gary postoffice has sore arms today as the first taste of the parcel post, and Postmaster John W. Call and Chief Clerk Joseph Tracey are carrying their arms around in bandages.

Two-day two big dray wagons backed up to the postoffice and unloaded 1,000 heavy paving bricks, each one a separate stamped parcel. The bricks are samples being mailed by W. P. F. Barry, a local brick dealer, and he found that he could send the bricks cheaper by parcel post.

The postmaster and his assistants spent most of the day carrying the 6,000 pounds of bricks into the postoffice to be ready for the first outgoing postal parcel post mail on Wednesday morning.

PARCELS POST DOES NOT CUT RATES.

Expressions of surprise and doubt were made by presidents and directors of express companies when informed of reports of wholesale slashing in rates, in an effort to fight the parcel post system, which went into operation on January 1. Each one denied that his company had considered any change in schedules and all regarded the new government system as an experiment, the result of which cannot be determined.

William M. Barrett, president of the Adams Express Company, did not hesitate to say there was no justice in the introduction of a parcel post in America. James C. Fargo, president of the American Express Company, said:

"Let the public answer to the justice of it and to its success. Let us all wait and see whether the public gets what it wanted." Others agreed with the two presidents that there would be no reduction of rates for some time, and that no company could have announced seriously that it would cut rates in half. Francis Lynde Stetson, a director of the United States Express Company, believed that the parcel post would affect the express business to a large extent, but he knew that his own company had not considered calling a meeting of the directors to discuss a fight with the new competitor.

PARCELS POST DON'TS.

Don't drop your parcels in the mail boxes. Take them to the postoffice and turn them over to the clerk. There is only one place to send articles by parcels post in this city and its vicinity.

Don't guess at the weight of your parcel. Let the clerk put it on the special scale and give you the right amount in stamps.

Don't put ordinary stamps on parcels post packages or parcels post stamps on regular mail.

Don't try to send a parcel weighing more than four ounces unless provided with parcels post stamps. Don't forget that the weight must not be more than 11 pounds or the combined length and girth more than six feet.

Don't neglect to put your address neatly written, in the right hand upper corner of your parcel.

Don't seal your package. If you do it becomes first class mail. Wrap it securely and carefully.

Don't try to send live chickens, or anything else alive, intoxicating liquors, poisons, explosives, matches, disease germs, pistols, revolvers, raw hides or anything else that would injure the postal employes or the mail.

TWELVE HOMICIDES IN YEAR.

Lackawanna county had twelve homicides during the year, only an average during the last decade. Five of the men who committed this crime are in jail, one was a suicide, two are fugitives, three are unknown and one was acquitted.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Fred Pickering, South Gibson Addie Tucker, Thompson Preston Dice, Honesdale Abby E. Barkley, Honesdale

INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES.

As a New Year's gift to employes, Margargee Brothers, paper dealers, have presented to each of them a policy for \$1,000 in the Scranton Life Insurance Co.

FARMERS STRONG IN LEGISLATURE.

Agriculturists Rank Next to Lawyers in Numbers in General Assembly.

Harrisburg.—Fifty-three occupations will be represented in the Legislature which will meet here on January 7, and the farmers will rank next in number to the lawyers.

As usual, the lawyers will predominate and out of the fifty Senators and 207 members of the House there will be fifty-six barristers, sixteen of the Senators being members of the bar. Twenty-four members of the House and five Senators are farmers, that being given by them as their profession in their nominating petitions.

Physicians will not be so numerous as usual. Eleven medical men are listed, nine in the House and two in the Senate. Rev. Charles F. Swift, of Beaver, succeeds Rev. T. R. McDowell, Chester, as the clerical member of the House. Jacob W. Swartz, Snyder County's member, is listed as a gentleman. Each branch will have a blacksmith and the Senate a printer.

Mercantile life is represented by twenty members of the House and two of the Senate. Fifteen salesmen will be in the next House and nine clerks will be members and two Senators. Four druggists, two veterinarians, two teachers and one dentist are to be members of the House.

Each branch will have one undertaker. The Senate will have a florist.

Manufacturers in the next Senate will number five and in the House eight. Only one miner will be in the Legislature and he will be in the House, while the Senate has two coal operators, also one banker. The Senate will have two contractors and the House three.

ROOF GARDENS FOR FIREMEN.

Novel Scheme Devised to Improve Health of Men.

Fire fighters are to have roof gardens for physical exercise, health and comfort, an attraction that will lighten their long hours of duty and confinement when not actually engaged in fighting fires, and fifteen of these gardens are now being built on the roofs of the new buildings under construction in the five boroughs of New York.

Realizing the monotony of existence in the average truck and engine house, where the men are confined to close quarters twenty-four hours daily when not actually engaged in fighting fires, Fire Commissioner Johnson decided that anything which would relieve this condition and contribute to the amusement, health and comfort of the men would be a good investment and mean more efficient service to the city.

Fifteen of the forty-five new houses started during the year as additions to the department in the five boroughs will be equipped with roof gardens. The designs have been worked out to provide the most attractive and comfortable quarters that the funds appropriated for the purpose would permit.

Two styles of gardens have been adopted. One is a covered garden twenty feet deep across the front of the three story fire house on a level with the third floor and opening directly into the recreation rooms. The other style provides for an uncovered garden, also on a level with the third floor, but across the rear of the house. Access to the gardens will be had through glass doors opening from the recreation rooms.

PARIS TO EAT ELEPHANT.

Unruly Beast Is Killed and Owner Sells Meat.

Elephant pate figures on menus for special dinners at all the principal restaurants in Paris. The appearance of the new dish is the result of a chance supply rather than a popular demand, being due to the death of Agra, a large elephant which for some days terrorized Paris. Agra was the property of a traveling showman and developed a habit of getting out of his cage, walking around town, wrecking numerous wine shops, uprooting trees and causing panic in the streets where he appeared. When the authorities suggested that Agra would be better off at Paris his master took him to a provincial town, but as it was still found impossible to keep him from escaping and walking through shop windows he had to be killed. The owner determined to lose as little as possible by his death, so he engaged several butchers to cut him up and mince him into pate, which sold for nearly the price he paid for the animal when alive.

The pate is said to have a delicious flavor, but its digestive qualities are not insisted on, and this suggested that Agra's devastating influence may not have ceased with death.

Catapult Launch For Aeroplanes.

The navy has successfully tried a catapult device for launching aeroplanes from battleships. The scheme, the invention of Captain Washington I. Chambers, in charge of the navy aviation work, involves the shooting of the aeroplane along a steel plank, by means of compressed air.

Miss Helen Weist and William Garrett, both of White Mills, were married New Year's Day by Rev. J. W. Balta.

Honesdale Comets won from Carbondale Knights of St. Paul at basket ball by a score of 33 to 3 on New Year's Day.

A SAMPLE OF AT 1913 WILL BRING

Letter Received By A Manufacturer From This District Announcing That Navy Department Had Decided to Use Imported Glassware for 1913.

The present congress (Democratic) during the last session passed a bill allowing American shipbuilders to import free of duty any article that was needed or used in the construction or equipment of any new ship. The first one to take advantage of the bill is the United States Navy, as the following extract from a letter received by one of our manufacturers will show:

"Dear Sir: We regret to inform you that the Navy Department has decided to use imported glassware for the year, '13. We recently put in one proposal on American glass and we found the government had changed the specification for the new bids, eliminating the word Domestic; we felt it necessary to put in a proposal on foreign glass, both with and without duty. Possibly you are aware that there is a provision in the act passed by Congress at the last session known as the Panama Canal bill which may allow all goods for ships to be brought in free of duty." The New York Sun referring to the bill shortly after it was passed by Congress, said that we could expect to see American warships flying the Stars and Stripes with the stamp "Made in Germany" on them.

FORMER WAYMART MAN WANTED.

Sheriff F. C. Kimble received a communication on New Year's Day offering a reward of \$50 for the arrest and delivery of Joseph E. Wilson, who is claimed to be a deserter from the army. Wilson enlisted March 10, 1908, and is reported to have deserted the Walter Reed General Hospital at Takoma Park, Washington, D. C., on June 3, 1910. When Wilson enlisted he gave Waymart as his home and the name of Edward H. Wilson as his father in case of emergency.

RECEIVES MERITED PROMOTION

Thomas Charlesworth, who sold out his photograph business here about two months ago to accept a position in the same line in Baltimore, has received a merited promotion. He is now preparing to move his family to Washington, D. C., to take full charge of the gallery there owned by his present employer, Mr. Berebrack, who is well known all over the whole country, as he seems to get most of the business of the best known men in Washington. Most of the celebrated politician's pictures we see are taken at this gallery. The Citizen is indeed glad to see the rise of our town's young men and trusts that Tom's new year will be as good to him as the old.

CALKINS' BIBLE CLASS BANQUET.

Composed of Young Men of Calkins' Union Sunday School—Spencer C. Noble Acted as Toastmaster.

The young men's Bible class of the Calkins' Union Sunday school held their second annual banquet at West Shore House at Beachlake on Friday evening last. The menu was as follows:

- Tomato Bisque
- Olives
- Celery
- Saltines
- Breaded Chicken
- Gravy
- Mashed Potatoes
- Creamed Asparagus Tips
- Grape Jelly
- Brown Bread Rolls
- Fruit Salad
- Maple Walnut Ice Cream
- Cake
- Coffee
- Mints
- Bonbons

Spencer C. Noble acted as toastmaster. The following responded to toasts: Miss Maude Noble, Miss Lillie Sheard, Miss Mary J. Noble, Russell S. Clark, Clara L. Tegeler.

INSPECT DAMASCUS PAINT MINE

Philadelphia Men Contemplate Purchasing the Mine.

Four Philadelphia men, R. M. Wilson, W. W. Paul, H. C. Crawford and J. Nundy, were in Damascus last week and inspected a paint mine there with the intention of purchasing same and developing it.

The mine has been operated for some years on a small scale and has always been a large producer considering the efforts of the owners in that direction. Red paint has been the most durable kind produced, some of it having been on barns and out-houses in Damascus for a number of years and showing very little wear. Other kinds of paint have been made but it was not as good as the red paint.

When the mine was inspected a blast was put in and the men reported that the farther they went the better it became.

They came to Callcoon and drove to Damascus and on their way down they noted that the house of Sidney Bush was quarantined for smallpox and that the children were at the windows and waved at them as they passed by. When they returned to Philadelphia they made up a Christmas box and had it forwarded to the family, which was very considerate of them, considering that they were total strangers.—Narrowsburg Democrat.

Company to Build Aeroplanes.

O. E. Williams of Scranton, the inventor of an aeroplane successfully tested, has applied for a charter for an aeroplane company. The incorporators are to erect a factory in that city, for the building of aircraft.