

THE PATTON COURIER
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Thos. A. Owens, Editor & Prop.
E. F. Bradley, Associate Editor

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THE POOR BOARD SITUATION.

Conditions in the affairs of the Cambria county poor board cannot be of the best when the daily newspapers, and what few county newspapers make any comment at all, are censuring them. And the poor board is supposed to handle with keen judgment, relief to the needy, but also with the wisdom of a business organization the expenditure of the people's money.

The resignation of Harve Tibbott as a member of the board is deplorable, yet in all justice to Mr. Tibbott, he could do nothing else. The Courier will make no effort to discuss the situation in detail. Folks who read the daily newspapers know the story. The following editorial is from the Johnstown Tribune:

"It is indeed unfortunate for both the finances of the county as well as for the residents who come under poor board jurisdiction that Mrs. Alice Llewellyn and John L. Evans of the Poor Board have discharged Miss Margaret Mackevrnan, and at the same time the poor board loses the services of Harve Tibbott, only member who possesses any idea of business.

"We sympathize with Judge John E. Evans and with County Controller Henry L. Cannon, as well as with Harve Tibbott, who have endeavored to impress upon the other two poor board members the duty owing the taxpayers of the county.

"We believe that the action of John L. Evans was prompted by his utter lack of knowledge of social work, and that Mrs. Llewellyn has been influenced by friends whose opposition to Miss Mackevrnan is purely personal.

"The Tribune hopes that Controller Cannon will extend his investigation of poor board affairs so as to include not only the work of Walter Devore but also the work of Mrs. Llewellyn and Mr. Evans, in order that the public may know just how \$180,000 annually of the county's money is being spent by the poor board."

Following the resignation of Mr. Tibbott from the board, the court last week appointed E. J. Price, one of the defeated Republican contenders for the office now held by John L. Evans, at the primaries last fall. Just what Mr. Price will do as a poor director, and whether or not he will co-operate with the unbusinesslike policies of his two colleagues, remains to be seen.

The Johnstown Democrat has been frankly outspoken on all matters, and from all angles, in its discussion of poor board activities. To quote that newspaper in part, we have:

"The poor board situation is one that should interest the district attorney's office and the grand jury. The policy based upon mercy has failed to bring results. The county controller and the court have believed the poor board would eventually decide to stand for constructive policies. They now realize their mistake and Controller Cannon really has no option. * * * He has been compelled to take the evidence he has in hand and such other evidence as he may be able to assemble and then tell the grand jury the reason why John L. Evans and Alice Llewellyn were and are responsible for poor board accounting methods and for poor board practices.

"John L. Evans, as president of the board, officially approved every account that Walter Devore filed. Mrs. Llewellyn went along. Both of them should be required to tell it to the jury and the judge.

"Harve Tibbott's resignation as a member of the poor board is a misfortune. Tibbott stood for the principle that public affairs should be conducted on a business basis. He sought to divorce poor board expenditures and poor

board management from politics. Being in a minority Mr. Tibbott found himself unable to establish the business point of view. A situation was created which made it inevitable that either Mrs. Llewellyn and John L. Evans would accept guidance or Tibbott would get out. The fact there is no place on the poor board for men like Harve Tibbott, while there are places for men like John L. Evans should cause the people of Cambria county to do quite a lot of thinking. If they had been willing to go along and accept guidance, Harve Tibbott would have saved the situation for John L. Evans and Mrs. Llewellyn. * * * As it is Mrs. Llewellyn and Evans rule the roost. Those two people have the power to spend a million dollars if they make up their minds to do so and they are not overthrown. But maybe the people enjoy seeing their money spent to little purpose; perhaps they prefer waste to efficiency. On no other basis is it possible to account for the ascendance of an Evans and the passing of a Tibbott."

County Controller Henry Cannon has been doing everything in his power to straighten up the poor board "mess." Tibbott's resignation leaves the taxpayer's dollar unprotected, because Mrs. Llewellyn and John L. Evans never protected county funds. They were not the ones who halted Walter Devore in his speedy pace. Neither of them openly opposed the employment of an architect who attempted to foist a \$275,000 building upon the tax payers of the county—at a time when there was not a nickel in the county treasury to be wasted.

Now, at least in the south of the county, a well organized whispering campaign, has been inaugurated against those who are trying to straighten out poor board activities, in general—and this campaign is waged against County Controller Cannon in particular. After all is said and done, Mr. Cannon has proved a very able controller, not only in the present matter, but all along the line, ever since he has had the reigns of office. He naturally has made some political enemies, but the poor board situation is one that business folk can't recognize as a matter for personal prejudices. Henry Cannon hired an investigator some months ago into poor board affairs and found so much evidence indicating carelessness and irregularity in the Johnstown district that Walter Devore resigned as a member of the board. Now, the taxpayers of the county, must, too, remember that the other two were officially parties to whatever happened in Johnstown in connection with poor board activities. They signed Devore's vouchers and approved his bills.

Controller Cannon has proved himself a fighting man in the past, and we believe that he has still a few strings remaining to be pulled in connection with the poor board and its activities. We hope he has. The press, the public, the court, the county commissioners and the controller have been very, very patient with Mrs. Alice Llewellyn and John L. Evans. If they refuse to be advised, the only consistent course is an appeal to the law for the purpose of establishing civil liability—and, if necessary, criminal liability for mistakes and errors in poor board accounting.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SIDELINES.

—Seems to us that some of the county newspaper editors have lots of space to devote to clipped comment of the grave ills confronting state and national politics and abuses, but are blissfully ignorant, or perhaps are afraid to notice conditions right here at home. They might take a glance at the poor board situation.

All indications are that there will be no harmony in state politics at the Republican primaries in the spring. But we still adhere to the supposition that Sam. S. Lewis is a strong contender for

gubernatorial honors, in spite of the Philadelphia machine, and in spite of propaganda given out by Philadelphia Sunday political organs to the contrary.

—The Patton Fire Company again demonstrated its worthiness last Saturday morning, in its prompt despatch of the flames at the Harry Warner home.

—The respect in which the late Father Edwin was held by the community cannot be better attested than by the fact that our complete issue of last week's Courier, containing his picture, was sold out before Thursday evening and that on Friday and Saturday we were compelled to turn away scores of people seeking copies.

A TRIBUTE.

(Communicated.)
Rev. Edwin Pierron, O. S. B., who passed to his eternal reward Thursday morning, January 30, came to "the mountains" as he loved to call this section of Northern Cambria County, nearly a half century ago, and, with a brief interruption of a year or so spent as President of the Benedictine College in North Carolina, gave almost his entire life as priest and man in the service of God and humanity to the people of this community.

Turning from the field of medicine which had held his attention in his early years, and in which profession he gave every promise of becoming one of its leaders, he heard and heeded the call of God to a higher life and took up his studies for the priesthood in St. Vincent's College, at Latrobe, Pa.

Soon after his ordination he was sent to Carrolltown as assistant to the resident pastor, where he labored among his parishioners with such zeal and devotion as has made his name hallowed in every home where he was known. In that early period in the development of our county Carrolltown parish embraced the entire region north of Loretto and Ebensburg, extending also into Indiana and Clearfield counties. His benefactions to the people of that time, when roads were no more than bridle paths when doctors were difficult to reach, can be only faintly realized by those of this day to whom he has brought the boon of health along with the deep consolations of the soul. Later these same benefactions came to the people of Hastings and its vicinity. Lastly, Patton was to be blessed with the ministrations of this scholar-priest, from the prime of his man-hood to the ripened wisdom of his sublime old age.

Youth, the middle-aged, and those of advanced years join in saying that the thirty-one years of his life spent amongst us have been years of the noblest and most exalted ministrations to his parishioners; that his pastorate has reflected most honorably on the great dignity of the Catholic priesthood, and has been an edification to the community where he was held in the highest honor and esteem by the entire citizen body of all, and those of no religious affiliations; that his voice was recognized as authoritative in all matters of community interest; that his leadership built for him a wonderful monument to his long years of service and exemplary life among us—and finally, that through him and his life, our community has been given an exemplification of the Scriptural test—"A great prophet has risen up amongst us, and God has visited His people."

ADMITTED 17 PATIENTS.

Seventeen new patients were admitted last week to the State Sanatorium, at the Summit. There are now 732 patients receiving treatment for tuberculosis at the institution.

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BY WYNDHAM MARTYN

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