

THE PATTON COURIER

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The Patton Courier has the Largest Paid-Up Circulation of Any Weekly Newspaper in Cambria County—Covers the Home Community like a blanket, and circulates far more extensively in north-eastern Cambria County than does any other newspaper.

Observations from the Sidelines.

VERY quiet, indeed, are county politics just now. But they say that clam usually precedes a storm.

THANKSGIVING will be a thing of the past, perhaps, when you read this. Christmas is the next big holiday. Mother is already realizing the fact, and father will when the bills come in.

THE Patton American Legion Post is rehearsing for a amateur play to be produced shortly. The co-operation of the entire community is solicited, and patrons can be sure of obtaining their money's worth.

MINIATURE golf still is raging throughout the country. Now Patton, too, has another course, this time indoors, and we may with warmth and convenience trip around eighteen holes of the abbreviated variety daily.

AFTER all, the fewer men one sees on the streets of Patton during the day, the more positive we are that that particular day is a prosperous one for the community. You can usually deduct that the men are working.

WOMAN is nothing, if not persistent. Out in Indiana one of the "clinging vine" type has divorced and remarried the same man seven times. It is suggested that she does not care for him herself, but don't want any other woman to have him.

WE NOTICE that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company are petitioning the Public Service Commission to discontinue the freight and passenger agency at Bradley Junction. Bradley Junction, along with street car lines, can blame it all on good roads and automobiles.

ONE of the little things in life that gives consolation these depressing days is the fact that, despite the large and successful circulation campaign we conducted last summer, the circulation of the Patton Courier continues to GAIN. This is a healthy condition so far as our newspaper is concerned, and shows that the people of this section of the county appreciate our humble efforts.

WE ARE becoming a cigarette smoking nation, it would seem. Federal taxes collected during the quarter ending September 30th fell off a quarter million dollars as compared with the same months last year. The only item item to show an increase was that of tobacco, which showed an increase of nearly two million dollars, due to the increase of smoking cigarettes. Guess we will have to blame this on the ladies.

WE PRESUME you are all ready, as usual, to do your Christmas shopping early. And that reminds us that the merchant who is going to do the most business this season is the fellow who will do his Christmas advertising early. The Patton Courier won't publish any holiday edition—we don't need to. With the extensive circulation we have in our community, we make the best Christmas advertising medium available.

TODAY, November 27th, opens the three day season for the hunting of doe deer out in Chest Township. Inasmuch as this is the only township open under this special license permit, no doubt the woods in the neighborhood of St. Lawrence are going to be well populated, and it is to be hoped that no human casualties materialize. Hunters, generally, during the small game season have been quite successful in this section. Rabbits, especially, have been bagged in numbers, and while bird season was in, far above the average number were shot.

COMPETITION is the life of trade. Even Patton's chain stores seem to be hard at it these days—vying with one another.

PRESIDENT Hoover last week in speaking of child welfare said that there is a passion among many American fathers and mothers to lift their children to higher opportunities than they themselves enjoyed. This is true, in many instances, but right here in Patton there are some fathers and mothers who seem to think their children need not have any opportunity at all, except that which the street affords them.

AN OVERWHELMING majority of motorists are responsible and competent. But the small minority which is careless and incompetent, has given us the greatest accident toll in the world. They are a menace to the lives and property of all other drivers. They must be barred from the highways. Pennsylvania has better automobile laws than have most states in the union, but the careless driver is one hazard that Pennsylvania has not mastered.

THE PATTON Community as a whole will be sorry to learn that the Rev. Hinkleman, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church will leave here on December 1st to take up the pastorate of a much larger congregation in Altoona. The Rev. Hinkleman, during two years' residence in Patton made a host of friends among all sects, and was especially interested in the Church League Baseball movement during the past two seasons—a movement that has done much to create a feeling of fellowship among all churches.

EVERYBODY WANTS TAXES LOWERED, BUT—

EVERYBODY in Cambria county would like to see lower taxes, and some specifically want lower taxes, as the county commissioners have had ample reason to find out during these past several weeks, sitting as the Board of Revision of Taxes.

And the Cambria County Commissioners have a man's size job ahead of them in ironing out the difficulties presented them, and a certain number of facts that exist as well, in which the general public are either ignorant, or show little interest.

When the county commissioners lower the assessments of properties in Patton or elsewhere in the county, those assessments are likewise lowered for borough and school purposes as well. That would give Patton borough lower assessed valuations than it had before. If this valuation were to be drastically reduced it might create a disturbance in financial matters for our borough (or any other borough or township) that would raise a question as to the validity of bonds that are now issued on present assessed valuation figures. This, the county commissioners must take into consideration.

Coal lands—the undeveloped ones—most folks feel have long been assessed much too high in the county. In some of the more isolated districts owners of coal lands probably would dispose of their mineral rights at a great sacrifice just to avoid the taxes. The commissioners, no doubt, will give some relief in these cases, but as yet, there has been no expression on the part of the Board as to what will happen. They have a mountainous task ahead of them, no matter which way it is viewed.

But the commissioners have more to worry about county financing than they have to worry about embarrassing the boroughs and townships. Cambria county has now outstanding about \$6,500,000 in bonds, not including \$600,000 more now being advertised for sale. These bond issues, as in the boroughs and townships are based on the assessed valuation of the county as a whole. Just now it is costing Cambria county about six hundred thousand dollars a year to carry these bond issues, an equivalent of about four mills on the present assessment valuation.

Coal operators, business men and citizens in general are asking the commissioners that their assessments be reduced. Everyone sees his own individual troubles, but fails to grasp the county's difficulties. The commissioners have the task of trying to recognize both and coming out somewhere in the clear. How they will do it is a problem that rests with them, but they, no doubt, will get busy, just as soon as they finish the Revision work which is now being concluded.

Cambria county's heavy indebtedness has been growing for a period of many years. It really started in earnest with the building, or rather the remodeling of the court house. Demands for permanent road construction funds from all sections of the county has ever since "bled" into the treasury. The orphan children of the county had to be taken care of. The demand for

poor relief has constantly grown, and now it has reached enormous proportions, with an additional building for housing the poor now under course of construction. The present board of county commissioners are not to blame for these conditions any more than the rest of us, but they must face the problem of starting the ball-a-rolling to pull us out of it.

Perhaps, next year, when there will be a lot of folks running up and down the county, campaigning to be commissioner, they will have a lot of explaining to do as to just what measures they will take to reduce the taxes, and still pull Cambria county out of the hole financially. The candidate for county commissioner next year, who expects to topple over the present board, will have to "show" the voters in more ways than mere "hot air" how he would lower the taxes.

STATE LOSES TWO CONGRESSMEN.

UNDER the new Congressional reapportionment, Pennsylvania, along with 20 some other states will find its representation in the House at Washington reduced. Now it is disclosed in the official computation that this state, following the 1932 election, will have 34 seats instead of 36. Kentucky, Iowa and Georgia also will each lose two seats and Missouri three. There have been some notable gains—California will now send 20 representatives to Washington instead of eleven.

It does not mean, however, that Pennsylvania and all the other states whose delegations have been reduced are losing in population. Pennsylvania is now far beyond the population basis upon which it was allowed 36 members in the House. It means simply that the unit figure of representation had to be greatly advanced to hold the house membership to its present total of 435, regarded as close enough to unwieldiness.

At first the basis fixed by the Constitution was that the number of representatives should not exceed one for every 30,000 of the population, but it was provided that the ratio be changed after each decennial census. Obviously the original ratio had to be changed as the country grew in population. If applied today it would mean a House of 4,000 members. So the basis of representation had to be increased until it is now 280,780. In 1910 it was put at 211,877, but reference to this furnishes another explanation of why the changes now may appear sharp. The spirit of the Constitution plainly was ignored following the 1920 census—no reapportionment was made then. Thus the changes now reflect a twenty year growth of the population of the country.

There can be no attempt made, however, to set up that a reduction in numerical representation does not make a difference. It is properly enough said that, after all, it is the quality of representation that counts. But the Congressional delegation also fixes the number of Presidential Electors. Pennsylvania now has 33; under the new arrangement it will have 36.

It follows that the Legislature of Pennsylvania will have to redistrict the state in accordance with the reapportionment. If this is not done without delay—at the next session in fact—there would be the danger that the whole delegation of thirty-four would have to be elected in 1932 as congressmen-at-large. This confusion must be avoided. It is extremely unlikely that the status of Cambria county, which now elects its own Congressman, will be changed.

CHILDREN MAY BE MADE INTO MISFITS.

JOHN L. TAYLOR, Boy Scout executive, of Altoona, in a talk before a service club in that city last week, made the astonishing announcement that seventy-five per cent of all persons engaged in gainful occupations today are misfits.

It is possible that Mr. Taylor may be stating fact, and if he is, there surely must be a lot of us who are unhappy, for one is seldom happy working at something for which he is unfitted. There must be joy in one's work if he is to really make a success of it.

If the statement is true, the fact can likely be traced to circumstances that surround these workers, or that surrounded them in their youth, when they first started "on their own."

In Mr. Taylor's position as a Boy Scout executive, he should be qualified to make expert observation among youths. If there is so little precision that 75 per cent land in positions for which they are not suited, it is surely time for a radical change.

In the smaller towns, such as Patton, the boy or girl usually is thrust out of high school, or in many cases before that time, into the first position or job that is to be found. In many cases, this is the line of least resistance,

but it places them in a rut in which they may plod for the rest of their lives.

Parents of means, too, may be at fault just as much as their poorer neighbors. Perhaps they send Johnny to college to study law or medicine, when his every ambition and mentality is centered in engineering.

No two people are given exactly the same talents. The man who is a failure, as a merchant might have achieved wonders in the mechanical field, and the girl who just simply can't hold down a stenographic job, may have made a wonderful nurse.

The youth of the country, perhaps, don't know just what they want to follow up. It remains, therefore, a duty of the parents to help them choose their life's work—not to thrust it upon them. Most every young fellow has his dreams and ambitions of a livelihood. It should be ascertained by parents.

Of course, "something to do" is sometimes absolutely essential in many households for the young man or young woman. And in the smaller towns the choice is mostly limited to a stern degree. Most any Patton business man can tell you of parents bringing their children before them, seeking employment, and perhaps on that same day they visited four or five different lines of endeavor in an effort to place the child. If successful in obtaining employment, the child is usually destined to follow the line in which his new job destiny him, when, perhaps, he might have achieved success in some other employment.

Parents, if they possibly can do it, should try to place Johnny where he feels he'll like it—not where the first opening presents itself.

All of which reminds us of an incident happening in Patton about two years ago, when a mother brought her son to the Courier office in an order to place him, because that son had watched through our windows daily and had a fascination to do things we did. He was a likely lad, too, but at the time we had no opening for him. The mother, without returning home, took the boy to five other places in Patton that same day, searching employment for him. We don't know whether or not the lad is working at anything else, but we have always believed he would have made a good printer.

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