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J. H. VAN HAN, PUBLISHER, Milford, Pike County, Pa.

As the time approaches for the annual settlement of the county finances by the AUDITORS' STATEMENT not be amiss to remind those officials that the law says it shall be the duty of county commissioners to publish a statement which shall designate all sums expended for "the repairs of old or the erection of new bridges." It would seem from this language that a lump sum including amounts expended for repairs of all new bridges, without in any wise designating the cost of any particular bridge, is an avoidance of the spirit if not the letter of the law. What a taxpayer wants to know is just what a particular bridge cost. For instance, he will be more interested if he knows that the contract price of the Mott street bridge, exclusive of planing or of any stone work, was \$3,595.00, than he would if that sum was lumped with many others. Besides it is fairer to the taxpayer. If he builds a monument to his money, even though the structure adorns his cemetery lot, to know its cost. Much more if he builds a monument to commemorate the sagacity, economy and judgment of some one else does he wish to know just how it hits his pocket. Let the County Auditors find out the cost of each of these monuments and put it in shape to inform their constituents. Will they do it?

There is now a multitude of laws on the statute books rendering some NEW LAWS NEEDED which should be wholly repealed and new ones passed. One, the law governing assessments. Whatever time of year may be the better for making assessments is an open question, but that assessors should do their work without understanding their duties, or, if understanding them, willfully neglect to carry out their instructions and so compel county commissioners, who may not have a just knowledge of the various sections of their counties, or, of every particular piece of property in them, to make in fact a new assessment in order to correct the dereliction of those who are sworn to perform this duty, is wrong. The law should provide for a convention, or meeting, of the assessors at the county seat after they have finished their work, and that the assessors so convened should constitute a board of revision. A glance at the returns of the assessors for the several townships in this county will show the better abler manner in which the law is obeyed. Now if all the assessors had met here and revised the work it is apparent that they would have striven for an equalization between the several townships. In such conventions the assessor from any township would become a defendant while his particular work was under discussion and the assessors from all the other townships plaintiffs. Thus an equalization would be found if not agreed to. This matter should be discussed and when the Legislature meets next year a proper bill should be introduced to effect this reform.

We wish all our friends, and enemies, too, if we have such, a Merry Christmas.

ASSESSORS' EXPENSES

Table with columns: Township, Assessor, Annual Ass't, Deaths, % of Voters, Mil. Tax. Rows include Blooming Grove, Dingman, Dolawere, Groome, Lackawaxen, Lehman, Milford Boro, Milford Twp, Palmyra, Porter, Shohola, Westfall, and Grand total.

Another law which should be repealed or amended so as to operate equitably is the law providing for the collection of taxes. As we have it here the tax collector advertises generally for some date in July on which to pay taxes in order to obtain the abatement of 5 per cent. There is probably no season of the year when the average farmer of this county is more unprepared with ready money. No crops have been harvested, he must provide means to secure them and hire help. The county does not, or should not, need money then. June court is over and no court until October. No fears of freshets or bridges being carried away, only the very ordinary running expenses of the county and townships are to be met. What use to collect taxes of farmers in July to deposit it in the county treasury, when it should not be needed for several months. Why not let the farmer use the little money he has in the summer and collect the taxes in October, when his financial condition is or should be easier. Then let the taxes all be payable with an abatement, and a penalty and enforcement of collection if not paid within say 30 days thereafter. In connection with the above—our judgment—the office of tax collector should be abolished and the taxes collected by the county treasurer, who gives ample bonds. The tax collector must give bonds and must be paid a per cent. By adding a trifle, or by providing for expenses, the county treasurer could afford to collect the taxes, and probably in most counties has ample time either by himself or a deputy. We submit this for discussion. In this county it is becoming difficult in some townships to secure a collector. The office hardly pays for the annoyance and time of a busy, responsible man.

Hon. W. A. Erdman, President Judge of this district, paid his last JUDGE official visit here this ERDMAN week when he presided RETIRED over our courts. He has performed the duties of his office with ability, impartiality and economy and as evidence of his solicitude for the taxpayers he directed a venire to issue for only 36 traverso jurors for March instead of 48, the usual number. There is little business of importance and his idea was to save the expense of 12 men. Judge Erdman by his careful and conscientious conduct of business has made a very favorable impression and he retires from the high office bearing the kindest regards of his associates, the bar and the public. He will be succeeded by Hon. C. B. Staples, a lawyer of ripe ability and wide experience, who will be cordially received and who has the best wishes of all for an honored judicial career.

It would give much greater satisfaction to the public and perhaps save the county commissioners some personal risk if they duly advertised all contracts for work costing above say \$100. In private affairs men usually take such precautions as may be necessary to have their work done as well and as economically as possible, and why should not the public have the same advantages. If men bid against each other without favor they are apt, if they want the work, to do it as cheaply as possible in conformity to the specifications, and the public have the right to expect the same in county affairs. This method, however, might — ?

Since looking over the assessments we are reminded of the old sayings, "Many men of many minds," and also that the judgments of some men are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

A Bad Fire Wednesday, shortly after noon, while E. Vandermark, county commissioner, was absent from home on business at Rowlands and his wife and daughter were in Port Jervis shopping, his house, located in Dingman township, a couple of miles from town, caught fire in some unknown manner and with entire contents, except a table, was burned. Three of his children were home at the time and one ran down and alarmed Philip Kinkel, a neighbor, who went up and with difficulty sent a message to town, but the fire had progressed so far that it was impossible to save any goods. About 30 bushels of apples, all his potato provisions and furniture went up in smoke. Aside from the money loss, which is considerable, there being an insurance of only \$300 on the house and \$500 on contents, the inconvenience of being turned out at this season of the year and deprived of the many comforts provided and the destruction of the innumerable articles which every one prizes in their home which cannot be replaced, is almost beyond estimate. Mr. Vandermark seems unfortunate as it was only a few years ago that his home down in Delaware was completely wrecked by a cyclone, and he has the sympathy of every one in this misfortune. He is, however, a man of indomitable perseverance and energy, and one not easily overcome by reverses.

F. W. Cross of Pittsburg, Pa., is here for a short vacation. Clyde Kipp is home from the E. S. S. Normal for his vacation.

Rupert P. Niles has been spending part of this week in New York. James M. Bessley of Lehman, ex-county commissioner, is visiting in town.

A derailed caboose on a freight train at Parkers Glen Wednesday, which tore up considerable track, delayed trains for several hours.

Dr. W. L. Angle, on his return from a two weeks vacation here, will locate at Beaver, Pa., and engage in practice. In this launching out he has the good wishes of many friends for success.

The green house of Dr. Reed, just out of town, took fire early Wednesday morning and burned. There was a stove and furnace in the building and probably one of them became overheated, causing the blaze.



Don't forget the old man with the fish on his back. For nearly thirty years he has been traveling around the world, and is still traveling, bringing health and comfort wherever he goes. To the consumptive he brings the strength and flesh he so much needs. To all weak and sickly children he gives rich and strengthening food. To thin and pale persons he gives new firm flesh and rich red blood. Children who first saw the old man with the fish are now grown up and have children of their own. He stands for Scott's Emulsion of pure cod liver oil—a delightful food and a natural tonic for children, for old folks and for all who need flesh and strength.

SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, 405-415 Pearl Street, New York. 50c. and \$1.00; all druggists.

Get the Most Out of Your Food

You don't eat and can't if your stomach is weak. A weak stomach does not digest all that is ordinarily taken into it. It gets tired easily, and what it fails to digest is wasted. Among the signs of a weak stomach are uneasiness after eating, fits of nervous headache, and disagreeable belching.

Hood's Sarsaparilla and Pills

Strengthen and tone the stomach and the whole digestive system.

OBITUARY

MRS. LUCINDA VALENTINE Mrs. Valentine died at the home of her niece Mrs. Emma Crine in Matamoras Friday, December 18th. She was a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Milford) Rockwell and was born in this town June 10, 1816. He father was a soldier of the Revolutionary war and was born near the town of Ridgway, Penn., Oct. 3, 1761. When little more than fifteen years old he enlisted under Benedict Arnold, fought in the battle of Saratoga and was wounded. He was afterwards transferred and went under Washington, was at the battle of Trenton in 1776 and it is said crossed the river with his commander, was at Valley Forge in 1777-78, was wounded in the battle of Monmouth and was at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. In 1824 he walked from here to New York to see Lafayette and was cordially received by that distinguished soldier. He died in January, 1847, at Leonardsville, Wayne county, and was buried with Military and Masonic honors.

Mrs. Valentine is survived by one sister, Mrs. Phoebe Gainsford, of Matamoras, who is now 88 years old. Another sister, Mrs. Catharine Bowden, died January 6, 1902. Up to that date they enjoyed the distinction of being the only three real daughters, in one family, of the Revolution. June 16, 1836, she married at New York city Harrison Valentine, who died May 23, 1873. Besides the sister above mentioned she is survived by three sons, Charles, Edward and George of New York, and one daughter, Mattie, wife of Ed. H. Mott, the well known writer. The funeral occurred Monday and interment in the cemetery at Honesdale.

GEORGE KIMBLE RIDGWAY

Mr. Ridgway, who well known here where he was in business for several years, died at Harper's hospital, Detroit, Michigan, where he was taken several days ago suffering with paralysis, Thursday, December 17. He never regained consciousness after the stroke. He was a son of the late Hon. Thomas J. (and Lucy Ann Kimble) Ridgway and was born in Lackawaxen about fifty-eight years ago. He married Flora, a daughter of C. B. Cotter, who at one time edited the Milford Dispatch, by whom and one son, Edward, he is survived. He is also survived by W. K. Ridgway of Matamoras, formerly prothonotary and sheriff of this county, and a sister, Mrs. Lizzie R. Mott of Ellenville, N. Y. Mrs. Sarah Graham of Port Jervis and Mrs. Eliza Griswold of this place are aunts. The remains were taken to Saginaw, Michigan, for interment.

MRS. ELIZABETH WHYTRALL Elizabeth, wife of the late Benj. Whytrall who died in 1873, died at her home at Matamoras last Sunday evening of pneumonia. She was born in England and came to this country with her husband about 35 years ago. Five children, William, of Bayonne, N. J.; Frank and Mrs. Mary Wilcock of West Hoboken; John of New York, and Maria, at home. The funeral was held Wednesday and interment in Laurel Grove cemetery.

NOTICE The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Harriet Bridge Company will be held at the Office of the company in the Fernum Building in Port Jervis on Tuesday, January 5th proximo, at 3 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of choosing a Board of Directors for the ensuing year, and the transaction of such business as may come before the meeting. FRANK MANNING, Secy., Port Jervis, Dec. 15, 1903.

To improve the appetite and strengthen the digestion, try a few doses of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. Mr. J. H. Seitz, of Detroit, Mich., says, "They restored my appetite when impaired, relieved me of a bloated feeling and caused a pleasant and satisfactory movement of the bowels." There are people in this community who need just such a medicine. For sale by Balch & Son, Matamoras, all general stores in Pike Co. Every box warranted.

The Cure Is Lasting

Let the people speak for themselves. Prizes from those who have been cured is prize indeed, and comment would be a waste of words. This is what Mr. H. W. Eldridge, of Cherry Valley, N. Y., writes to the manufacturers of Cal-cure Solvent, Dr. Kennedy's new medicine, Dr. Kennedy Bow, Rondout, N. Y.

"I have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla at different times for stomach troubles, and a run down condition of the system, and have been greatly benefited by its use. I would not be without it in my family. I am troubled especially in summer with weak stomach and nausea and find Hood's Sarsaparilla invaluable." E. B. HICKMAN, W. Chester, Pa.

Cuba has received the reward of patient waiting. Sweeten up the indolent are that Missadist will still have a democratic margin.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean propounds the query, "Is there too much bathing?" Comparatively little in the ocean this sort of weather. Nicaragua has recognized Panama. It would be funny if Nicaragua should insist upon having a Nicaragua Canal and annex Panama for the purpose.

There is another move afoot to suppress the mosquito. This is a good time to organize. The mosquito cannot retaliate to any great extent these brisk cool nights. A cable from Barranquilla states that the Columbians "feel hurt." Not nearly so badly as they will if they attempt to monkey with the buzz saw.

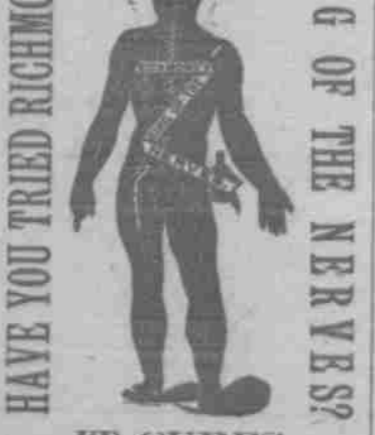
The trouble with most of the Com-mo-ner's presidential candidates—by the way, the new one didn't appear on schedule time this week,—is that they would need a personal manager to introduce them to the American people.

A Bargain For Farmers

The New York Tribune Farmer, a national illustrated agricultural weekly of twenty large pages, has no superior as a thoroughly practical and helpful publication for the farmer and every member of his family, and the publishers are determined to give it a circulation unequalled by any paper of its class in the United States. Knowing that every enterprising, up-to-date farmer always reads his own local weekly newspaper, The New York Tribune Farmer has made an exceedingly liberal arrangement which enables us to offer the two papers at so low a price that no farmer can afford to lose the opportunity.

AGENTS WANTED

SEND FOR AGENT'S PRICE LIST. Send for Medical Blank, that a Diagnosis of Your Case May be Made, Free of Charge by Our Medical Director.



NEUROLOGICAL. Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Hot Flashes, Blues, Hysteria, Headache, Or That Tired Feeling. Handled by DR. S. A. RICHMOND COMPANY. LABORATORY TUSCOLLA. CHICAGO.

Advertisement for Wyckoff's New York Store. Text includes: "... The ... New York Store WISHES ITS MANY FRIENDS A MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH A SINCERE HOPE THAT THEY WILL ENJOY A PROSPEROUS :: NEW YEAR WE TRUST THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MERIT DURING 1904 THE SAME CORDIAL PATRONAGE THAT HAS BEEN BESTOWED DURING OUR TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF BUSINESS EXPERIENCE. WYCKOFF'S NEW YORK STORE STROUDSBURG, PENNA.

Advertisement for bookkeeping and shorthand. Text includes: "WHY NOT LEARN BOOKKEEPING OR SHORTHAND? Pleasant & Profitable. Write for Particulars. PORT JERVIS BUSINESS INSTITUTE. ENGRAVING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION. Grand Opening Dec. 1

Advertisement for Ryman & Wells. Text includes: "LIVERY STABLES. If you want a stylish single or double rig, safe horses, good harness and clean, comfortable carriages at reasonable prices call on J. B. Van Tassel, Corner Ann and Fourth streets MILFORD PA.

Advertisement for Gumble & Ryder. Text includes: "Supplying The Table AN EVERY DAY PROBLEM We solve it by keeping Fine Groceries, Canned Goods, Choice Meats, Fresh Vegetables. EVERY THING FOR AN ELEGANT DINNER GUMBLE & RYDER Harford St. Milford Pa.

Advertisement for fire insurance. Text includes: "Fire Insurance. OLD RELIABLE COMPANIES. RATES REASONABLE. Charles C. Wood, Agt. Successor to J. J. Hart. Office in rear of Residence on Ann St. Milford, Pike Co., Pa.

Advertisement for a cold cure. Text includes: "To Cure a Cold in One Day. Takes Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. Cures Grip in Two Days. on every box, 25c. This signature, E. W. Brown