AMERICAN SENTINEL.

VOL. 57, NO. 49. WESTMINSTER, MD., SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 7, 1889. ESTABLISHED 1833.

Annual Report

OF THE

Board of County School Commissioners.

To the Honorable, the Board of School Commissioners of Carroll County, Md.

GENTLEMEN:

In compliance with the provision of the State School Law, which requires that the Board of County School Commissioners "shall publish annually, in the month of November, in such form and manner as they may deem proper, a statement of their receipts and disbursements," I submit, in the form which has the sanction of the State Board of Education and more than twenty years unvarying usage, the following

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements on account of the Public Schools of Carroll County, for the fiscal year ended September 30th, 1889.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand Sept. 30th, 1888	$11,43
State School Tax	13,530,27
State Free School Fund	2,230,13
County School Tax	21,000,00
Ground Rents (Taneytown)	48,90
Book Fees	4,483,54
Sales of Books and other property	563,89
State Appropriation to Col'd Schools	1,465,37
County Commissioners on Special Term, 1888	3,500,00
Borrowed	7,065,00
	$53,898,53

DISBURSEMENTS.

Teachers' Salaries (White Schools)	29,670,81
Fuel	2,390,58
Incidental Expenses of Schools	979,65
Rent	95,00
Books and Stationery	3,101,80
Building New Schoolhouses	1,715,20
Repairing Schoolhouses	1,003,92
Furniture, Black Boards and Stoves	1,700,58
Interest	922,82
Salary of Secretary, Treasurer and Examiner	1,200,00
Salary of Assistant Secretary, &c	500,00
Per Diem of School Commissioners	550,00
Office Expenses and Account Books	144,83
Printing and Advertising	131,50
Paid to Colored Schools	2,149,30
State Teachers' Meetings	30,00
Freight, Drayage and Cases	59,72
Paid on Debt	7,500,00
County Teachers' Institute	37,60
Cash on hand Sept. 30th, 1889	65,22
	$53,898,53

Although we have laid before the public, at least once in every two years, since our first appointment in January, 1884, through general remarks accompanying the annual summary of figures, the conclusions drawn from our observation and experience, in reference to the defects, the needs and the progress of the schools, and what we have done to provide for their comfort and advancement, the present seems an opportune time for a general review of our six-years' service, and a comprehensive exhibit of the condition of the school treasury, to the end that they whose interests we have in charge, may have fresh and accurate knowledge of their school affairs.

The principal sources of revenue for school purposes, are the proceeds of the State Free School Fund, which is held in trust by the State authorities, a State School Tax of ten cents on the $100, and a County School Tax, fixed and levied by the County Commissioners.

The proceeds of the Free School Fund and the State School Tax are divided among the several counties of the State, in proportion to school population, the sum of $100,000 being first taken from the latter as a Colored School Fund, and divided among the several counties in proportion to Colored school population.

In addition to the above, the school treasury in Carroll county receives every year between $4,000 and $5,000 in fees for the use of books, and small amounts from ground rents in Taneytown and the sale of books, &c., in the office.

These are our only regular and constant sources of school revenue. The annual amount received from each in the last six years is given in the following table:

Ordinary Annual Receipts.

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
Cash on hand	$11,43	$21,67	$11,17	$1,—	$48,00	$65,22
State School Tax	13,530,27	13,530,27	13,530,27	13,530,27	13,530,27	13,530,27
State Free School Fund	2,230,13	2,230,13	2,234,76	2,230,13	2,230,13	2,230,13
County School Tax	21,000,00	21,000,00	21,000,00	21,000,00	21,000,00	21,000,00
Ground Rents	48,90	48,90	48,90	48,90	48,90	48,90
Sales of Books, &c	563,89	110,93	196,55	129,41	169,26	663,48
For Colored Schools	1,167,32	1,167,32	1,167,32	1,167,32	1,465,37	1,465,37
Borrowed	5,644,40					
	$42,495,18	$38,559,10	$38,389,00	$38,107,03	$38,552,93	$39,053,37

In 1888 there was added to the usual receipts the sum of $250 from a fine imposed by the Circuit Court, and the sum of $574,20 from the sale of three abandoned school sites.

The next table shows the ordinary annual expenses, exclusive of new schoolhouses, interest and the increase of expenses over receipts for Colored schools:

Ordinary Annual Expenses.

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
Salaries (White Schools)	$31,040,00	$29,295,69	$29,295,69	$29,295,69	$29,295,69	$29,670,81
Fuel	2,257,31	2,391,47	2,483,15	2,483,15	2,483,15	2,390,58
Incidental Expenses of Schools	686,40	716,36	905,25	905,25	905,25	979,65
Books and Stationery	4,471,34	4,370,91	4,358,15	4,358,15	4,358,15	3,101,80
Furniture, Schoolhouses	1,000,00	1,000,00	1,000,00	1,000,00	1,000,00	1,700,58
Rent	95,00	95,00	95,00	95,00	95,00	95,00
Nat. Secretary, Treasurer, &c	1,067,84	1,067,84	1,067,84	1,067,84	1,067,84	1,200,00
Salary of Assistant Secretary	400,00	400,00	400,00	400,00	400,00	500,00
Per Diem of School Commissioners	475,00	475,00	475,00	475,00	475,00	550,00
Printing and Advertising	125,96	125,96	125,96	125,96	125,96	131,50
Appr. for Colored Schools	1,167,32	1,167,32	1,167,32	1,167,32	1,167,32	1,465,37
Interest	1,000,00	1,000,00	1,000,00	1,000,00	1,000,00	922,82
Insurance	30,00	30,00	30,00	30,00	30,00	30,00
State Teachers' Meetings, &c	30,00	30,00	30,00	30,00	30,00	30,00
County Institute, &c	117,00	117,00	117,00	117,00	117,00	37,60
	$45,487,06	$42,887,00	$42,980,03	$42,983,11	$43,086,72	$43,311,96

I have put the totals of these two tables into another for ease of comparison:

Summary of Ordinary Receipts and Expenses each Year.

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
Receipts	$42,495,18	$38,559,10	$38,389,00	$38,107,03	$38,552,93	$39,053,37
Expenses	45,487,06	42,887,00	42,980,03	42,983,11	43,086,72	43,311,96
	$2,991,88	$4,327,90	$4,591,03	$4,876,08	$4,534,79	$4,258,59

A glance at the figures will demonstrate that the ordinary annual revenues have not for years been sufficient to meet the ordinary annual expenses for three terms of school, 159 teachers, in 1889; we have expended $38,721.51 in new houses (worth at least $23,000), $5,892.48 in repairs, $6,642.06 in furniture—in all $29,256.05, with an addition of but $7,065 to our debt, and with no addition at all to the county tax rate.

This record we submit to the inspection of a discriminating public, whose encouragement, support and manifestations of confidence we hold in grateful appreciation.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JAMES A. DIFFENBAUGH,
Secretary, Treasurer and Examiner.
no-23-3t

A GREAT SACRIFICE

IS BEING MADE IN

[redacted]

Carroll County Drug Store,

IN THE ALBAUGH BUILDING,

Is the headquarters for them. Have just received a prime lot of the following:

GROUND BLACK PEPPER,
GROUND ALLSPICE,
GROUND CINNAMON,
GROUND MUSTARD,
GROUND CLOVES.

Also, Black and White Mustard Seed, Celery Seed, Coriander Seed and Turmeric.

☞All the above are offered at prices that can't be beat. Call early. se-14.

THEO. DERR & SON

ANNOUNCE THEIR

Grand Fall Opening,

IN THEIR

NEW STORES,

75 and 77 E. Main Street.

Dress Goods,
Silks, Velvets,
and Trimmings

In immense variety. Latest novelties; lowest prices. Ladies', Misses' and Children's Wraps. Entirely new Styles.

Plush Garments a Specialty.

Dry Goods, Notions and Shoes of all kinds.

OUR NEW CARPET ROOM

Is attractive to everybody. Carpets, Mattings, Rugs, Oil Cloths, Trunks and Upholstering Goods; largest line and newest patterns.

☞We guarantee satisfaction

THEODORE DERR & SON.
oc-12

REMOVED!

I have removed to

THE NEW WANTZ BUILDING,

Opposite Catholic Church,

Where I have the finest and cheapest line of

BOOTS, SHOES AND HATS

In the county.

Children's Shoes 25c. and up.

Ladies' Peg Shoes $1 and up.

The Best Men's $2 Kip Boot in the county.

Men's Hats 25c. and up.

Children's Hats 10c. and up.

Ladies' Rubbers 25c.

All other goods at correspondingly low prices.

I MEAN BUSINESS.

Give me a call, in the New Wantz Building, here I will guarantee to give you satisfaction. Respectfully,

U. L. REAVER,
Opposite Catholic Church,
Westminster, Md.
no-2

J. C. HULL. ‡‡‡‡ E. O. HULL.

Attention, Buyers!

NOW IS YOUR TIME!

We offer Special Inducements

—IN—

NOVELTIES and STAPLE GOODS

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

All who are puzzled to know what to buy for gifts for their friends are very cordially invited to call and examine our stock, which contains a large assortment of elegant NEW GOODS carefully selected for the Holiday season. A full line of

Fresh Confectionery,

Nuts, Figs, Dates, Grapes, Oranges, Lemons, Raisins, Currants, Citron,

Pure Spices,

Prunes, Cranberries, Mincemeat, Cakes, Chocolate; newest styles of Lamps, Glassware, Vases, and genuine French-China Cups and Saucers and Mugs.

Finest Groceries of all kinds.

Tea and Dinner Sets in China, Porcelain and White Granite. Space will not permit us to mention more articles. Come and see what we have. We GUARANTEE TO PLEASE ALL who will come. BY LOW PRICES we mean not for low-priced or inferior goods, but VERY LOW PRICES FOR SUPERIOR QUALITIES.

HULL BROTHERS,
West End, Westminster, Md.
de-15

A GRAND OPENING

—OF—

FALL STOCK

—AT—

G. BARNES' CHEAP STORE,

New Windsor, Md.

I have on hand a full and complete line of

Notions and Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Hats, &c.

I have a large and complete assortment of

Hardware

of all kinds for builders and others.

The largest and best-selected stock of

Pure -:- Family -:- Groceries,

consisting of Sugars, Syrups, Spices, Coffees, Teas, &c., which I sell at rock bottom prices. Also Glass and Queensware of all kinds.

P. S.—I am the only one that sells the celebrated YORK BOOT in New Windsor. A full line of these goods now in stock. Please call and examine before purchasing elsewhere if you want to save money.

G. BARNES,
Main St., opposite Depot, New Windsor.
sep-28

JOB Printing such as Sale Bills, Posters & Books, &c., printed at short notice at the SENTINEL Job Office. Orders solicited.

Select Poetry.

HER DREAM.

Fold your arms around me, sweet,
As mine against your heart doth beat,

Kiss me, love, till it fade, the fright
Of the dreadful dream I dreamt last night.

Oh, thank God, it is you, it is you,
My own love, fair and strong and true.

We two are the same that, yesterday,
Played in the light and tost the hay.

My hair you stroke, O dearest one,
Is alive with youth and bright with the sun.

Tell me again, love, how I seem
"The prettiest queen of curds and cream."

Fold me close and kiss me again;
Kiss off the shadow of last night's pain.

I dreamt last night, as I lay in bed,
That I was old and that you were dead.

I knew you had died long time ago,
And I well recalled the moan and woe.

You had died in your youth, my sweet;
You had gone to your rest with untired feet;

And I had prayed to come to you,
To lay me down and slumber, too.

But it might not be, and the days went on,
And I was all alone, alone.

The women came so neighborly,
And kissed my face and wept with me;

And the men stood still to see me pass,
And smiled grave smiles, and said, "poor lass!"

Sometimes I seemed to hear your feet,
And my grief-numbed heart would wildly beat;

And I stopt and named my darling's name—
But never a word of answer came.

The men and women ceased at last
To pity pain that was of the past;

For pain is common, and grief, and loss;
And many come home by Weeping Cross.

Why do I tell you this, my dear?
Sorrow is gone now you are here.

You and I we sit in the light,
And fled is the horror of yesternight.

The time went on, and I saw one day
My body was bent and my hair was gray.

But the boys and girls a-whispering
Sweet tales in the light of the spring.

Never paused in the tales they told
To say, "He is dead and she is old."

There's a place in the churchyard where, I thought,
Long since my lover had been brought;

It had sunk with years from a high green mound
To a level no stranger would have found;

But I, I always knew the spot;
How could I miss it, know it not?

Darling, darling, draw me near,
For I cannot shake off the dread and fear.

Fold me so close I scarce can breathe,
And kiss me, for, lo, above, beneath,

The blue sky fades, and the green grass dries,
And the sunshine goes from my lips and eyes.

O God—that dream—it has not fled—
One of us old, and one of us dead.

Select Story.

THE REFUGEES.

Having lived in East Tennessee for several years previous to the war, although residing in Ohio when hostilities actually began, I knew the country from Knoxville to the North Carolina line on the east and from Knoxville to the Kentucky line on the north, very thoroughly. I had gone over almost every mile of every highway, and I knew many of the mountain trails and short cuts. I had been surveying and mapping public and private lands, and this was a work calculated to familiarize me with the country. I was in Rogersville only three months before the opening gun, and I knew that a strong Union sentiment prevailed among the mountaineers.

While the people of other sections of the south were enthusiastic for war, the mountaineers of East Tennessee and western North Carolina, with very few exceptions, were against it. They argued so well and so persistly as to call forth the bitter enmity of the Confederate government, and such of them as entered the Confederate ranks were forced to join under penalty of being shot down in their tracks. When they realized that war was inevitable, and that they must take sides, there was a general movement to escape to the north and join the Union forces. The hardships, perils and tribulations of these refugees have only been faintly outlined. Where one got through the lines five were killed by the soldiers on watch to intercept them. Where one family reached the Union lines entire, a dozen were broken and scattered, never to be reunited.

In the summer of 1862, acting under military orders, I made my way from Richmond, Ky., into the Blue Ridge mountains to gather and bring out as large a band as possible. After more or less personal peril, mostly from guerrillas and bushwhackers, I reached the locality I had in view, which was a neighborhood in a cove on one of the branches of the Tennessee river. A few young men had been recruited for the Confederate service, but as yet no force had been used to secure recruits. Several men of local renown were beating up the districts for recruits for guerrilla cavalry companies, and every avenue of escape to the north was closed and carefully guarded. I went into the mountains in the guise of a purchasing agent for the Confederate government, and, as I had been liberally supplied with both Confederate money and gold, I was in a position to carry out my role. Those who knew me personally did not know what my sentiments were until secretly informed, and, as I appeared to be busy looking after horses and mules, the Confederates seemed to have no suspicions.

Within a week after my arrival I found that twenty-one men were desirous of making an attempt to reach the Union lines in Kentucky. The matter had been talked over previous to my arrival, but no decided steps taken. The leader in the movement was a man of about 30, named Joe Penfield. He had been married only about four months before my appearance at the cove. While uneducated, he was intelligent far beyond his class, and he realized that the struggle would be fierce and bloody and one to last for years. He felt that every one capable of bearing arms must take sides, and as his love for the Union was strong he was impatient to get away. One of the greatest difficulties encountered at the outset was the fact that at least half the men wanted to take their families along. We had a journey of over 100 miles on an air line before us. As we should be obliged to travel the distance would be fifty more, and every mile of it in peril of our lives.

Our way would be over mountains, through forests and thickets, across creeks and rivers, and exposed to all sorts of weather and hardships, and I opposed the drag on our movements which the women would be certain to prove. Of the thirteen who wanted to go nine had from two to five children. I flatly refused to lead any such party, knowing that we should be captured and shot within a day or two. This caused a division of numbers. A mountaineer named Henderson, who had a wife and four children of his own, agreed to lead those having families, while I took the others. When ready to start I had ten men, and three of them were to take their wives along. The women were Mrs. Penfield, Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Bross, and were all under 30 and in robust health. Each one dressed in men's clothing, and carried a shotgun.

Our party was to have two days' start of the other. It was ticklish business, holding meetings and perfecting arrangements, for there were plenty of Confederate citizens mixed up with the Unionists, and Confederate soldiers were marching and riding over the country. In most cases the men disposed of their live stock, but everything else had to be abandoned. Some of them had good crops and cozy homes, and had worked hard for a score of years to accumulate what they had. I did not, however, hear one single regret expressed at having to leave property and comfort behind, except that the Confederate government might profit thereby. Our party got away soon after dark on the evening of August 15. We had appointed a rendezvous on the mountain, and at dusk everybody was there, fourteen of us in all. Each person carried a bundle containing clothing, blankets and provisions, and each had a rifle or shotgun. The women could not have been told from the men by their dress, and each had on a pair of new stout boots, purchased for the occasion. Every family would be missed next day, and the conclusion in each case would be such as to encourage every effort for recapture.

At about 9 o'clock, having planned the order of march and given instructions bearing upon emergencies, I took the lead straight up the side of Smoky mountain, which is one of the spurs of the Alleghanies, beginning near Clinton and running into Kentucky and Virginia. We had three of these spurs to cross before reaching the Cumberland mountains, on the state line, and between each spur was a valley and a river. Our route for the first twelve miles was over a country thinly inhabited, and we had no alarm. We had made about sixteen miles and had descended the spur almost to its northeastern base, before we had our first encounter, and I saw of what material the men were composed. We were following the mountain trails, walking by twos and every one on the alert, when we caught sight of a fire at a bend in the trail ahead of us. Penfield crept forward to investigate, and after a quarter of an hour returned and reported a Confederate picket. He had only seen one man, and he was asleep on his post, but from the looks of things he believed others to be in camp near by. The picket had been stationed here to intercept refugees, and further progress by the trail was blocked.

After consultation we turned to the left, but before we could flank the picket we met with such a sheer descent that we had to turn back. Penfield and two others were sent to the right, and in a little time returned and reported the way clear, and we soon passed the danger. Descending almost to the valley we turned to the left and entered a dense pine thicket just as day was breaking. It was only after I had seen blood on Penfield's clothes that he explained that in scouting to the right his party had stumbled over a soldier wrappd in his blanket, and the outcry he had been about to make was prevented by a thrust from a hunting knife which reached his heart. This occurrence was to be deplored, but no one could be blamed for it. We retired into the thicket until there was no danger of being seen, and then four men were posted as sentinels, and the others ate their bread and meat and lay down to sleep. The forenoon passed quietly away, and at 1 o'clock three others and myself relieved the sentinels. I at once made my way to the northern edge of the thicket, where I could overlook the road descending into the valley as well as a part of the valley itself, and a brief observation satisfied me that we were being pursued. I saw a score of mounted men riding down the road, and another body in the valley below, and their actions showed them to be in a state of excitement. We had no doubt been tracked as far as the picket post, but from that point our pursuers were uncertain whether we had pushed on or secreted ourselves.

At about 4 o'clock a body of about twenty men, some on foot and some mounted, searched the western half of the thicket, and some of them came within fifty feet of us, but they made no discoveries. We heard several of them loudly declaring their belief that we were miles away, and as they left our thicket for the road the search seemed to be given up. The major portion of our pursuers were guerrillas, who would have shot us down without mercy. When darkness came and we were ready to move again, five of the men came to me and declared their intention to return to their homes. Realizing the perils that lay before us their nerve gave way, and they decided to return while it was yet safe to do so. I was arguing with them when one of the party who had scouted to the east on his own hook returned and reported a large force of infantry going up the mountain road. He believed there was a full hundred, and as it was plain that they would guard every avenue of return the five changed their minds and decided to keep on with the party.

That night we made fully twenty miles, always in the fields or woods, and next day was passed in the timber. We knew that every road was guarded, and twice during the day squads of cavalry were in sight. We were undiscovered and undisturbed, however, and by a hard push on the third night we reached the eastern slope of the Cumberland mountains. An hour before daybreak, as we were about to cross a road, and while two of the men were scouting ahead to see that all was clear, one of them, named Saunders, walked plump up to a man in citizen's dress who was patroling the highway with a gun on his shoulder. He took Saunders for a farmer living in the neighborhood, and explained that sixty men belonging to a company recruited about Montgomery had been sent up there to stop refugees. He said our party was expected along that night, and that every one would be shot down, no matter whether they surrendered or resisted. He had eighty rods of the road to patrol, and as he was about midway of his beat, Saunders thrust a knife into him, believing this the only alternative. He then took the body and concealed it in a thicket, and our party crossed the highway without discovery.

When daylight came we went into hiding among the rocks far up the mountain, and, while no one came very near us during the day, we saw regular troops, bodies of irregulars and citizens moving in every direction. We moved on again as soon as darkness came, traveled all night without being interrupted, and next day lay hidden almost at the western base of the mountain. On this night, after we had been afoot about three hours, we reached the Kentucky line, but soon after doing so, and while moving cautiously upon a highway, we were challenged from front and rear simultaneously, and we realized that we had walked into a trap. Fire was opened on us at once, but we left the road, climbed among some rocks to the right, and soon returned the fire with spirit. The force opposed drew away to wait for daylight, and after scouting in every direction and finding ourselves surrounded we intrenched ourselves and prepared for the fight we knew daylight would bring. When morning came we found ourselves hemmed in by a force of about 300 men, a portion of whom were enlisted soldiers acting under commissioned officers.

Then occurred what war history describes as "a defense without its equal in the history of the whole struggle." They opened fire on us from every side, and every one of our party replied as fast as a sure shot could be counted on. From 6 o'clock in the morning till 9 there was no let up, but we were so well sheltered behind the rocks that not one of our party was scratched. We were then summoned to surrender, and upon returning a defiant reply a body of men numbering 150 charged our position. To get at us at all they had to appear in the open road, and we broke them three times before the real charge was made. Then as they tried to ascend the steep side of the hill we had them at our mercy. At noon we were again summoned to surrender, and when we refused they brought up a six pounder and opened on us. The first shot went ten feet above our heads, and at the second the gun burst and killed four men. At 2 o'clock they charged again, and were driven back, and an hour later a force of Union cavalry, out on a reconnoisance, swooped down and bagged the force to a man, taking 178 prisoners, two army wagons, and another field piece which had just come up. We then had only three bullets per man left, and must have soon been obliged to surrender. We found, upon counting up, that we had killed thirty-eight and wounded sixty of the mob, and the only casualty on our side was a flesh wound received by one of the women.

What the Mahometans Believe.

The Mahometans, says Frank S. Carpenter, believe in God and the prophets. They look upon Christ as the great prophet, and believe that Mahomet and Christ will act together as the judges of all mankind at the last day. One of the minarets of the noted mosque at Damascus was built in memory of Christ, and Damascus is one of the fanatical of Mahometan cities. They look upon Adam as a pattern of human perfection, and they believe that the Garden of Eden was originally located in heaven. When Eve beguiled Adam into eating the apple our parents were cast out of the Garden of Eden and fell to earth. Adam landed on a mountain in Ceylon and Eve dropped down near Mecca. Adam for his sin spent 200 years in looking for Eve, and at last he found her in Arabia, and the two lived in a mountain there together until they died.

This mountain is still known as Adam's Mount. The Mahometans consider Abraham a great prophet. He is called in the Koran the friend of God. They call Moses the speaker of God, and they have, all told, 124,000 prophets. The greatest of these are Adam, Abraham, Jesus and Mahomet. The Koran includes charity and brotherly love. It prohibits lending money at interest, and fixes the general laws of the Mahometan world. It inculcates belief in a future state, in the heaven of which each devout believer shall have four beautiful and ever young maidens to wait upon him and to administer to his wants. It is in many of its chapters so much like the Bible, that it is believed that Mahomet got a large part of its teachings from the Scriptures, and from the Jews with whom he was acquainted.

History of the Tea Leaf.

The original country of tea is not definitely known, but it is supposed to have found its way into China from Corea during the fourth century, and by a noteworthy coincidence was first introduced into England four hundred years ago by Spanish and Portugese merchants, just at the date which we commemorate as the birth of the Western Hemisphere.

Tea was first introduced into Europe as an herb of rare medicinal qualities, and was sold at a fabulously high price. In fact, the historian, John Garway, mentions that it was worth six guineas a pound in England so recently as 1657. To give an idea of its restricted use it is only necessary to add that 4,000 pounds were brought to England in 1675 "and caused the market to be overstocked for seven years."

The original duty to the British crown was about $2 per pound, but this was gradually reduced through the persistent efforts of Pitt and other great statesmen, and the exclusive monopoly which had been conferred upon the East India Company was abolished in 1834. The present duty of 5 per cent., however, still brings a yearly revenue of $25,000,000 to the English exchequer.

Be not slow in common and usual acts of devotion and quick at singularities; but, having first done what thou art bound to, proceed to the extraordinaries of religion as you see cause.

Decline of Natural Gas at Pittsburg

The Pittsburg correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* writes:

"The fact that the natural gas supply in this and adjoining districts has passed the Zenith and is now upon the wane can no longer be satisfactorily denied. The people, from the wealthy manufacturer to the humblest employe, have been hoping against hope that the plausible explanations given by the various companies for the shortage would prove true. The reason which has usually been given to the inquiring public was that new mains were being laid to the wells, or that the size of those already down was being increased. These changes have all been made, and still the desired fuel does not pour through in the necessary quantities. This state of affairs was first noticed the latter part of last winter, but the warm weather relieved the pressure for domestic purposes, and nothing was heard of a shortage during the summer months. But with the first appearance of a change of temperature this fall, the trouble recommenced in an aggravated form.

"The last move of the natural gas companies has been to ask the big mills to run only at night, when the demand upon the fuel for other purposes would be light. This request was vehemently opposed by the employes affected, and no satisfactory settlement has yet been made. Many of the establishments have decided to return to the use of coal, and some have already done so. But even under these circumstances, the supply at night is not sufficient, as several newspaper offices in the city could bear testimony if they so desired.

"All of the electric light plants in the city were forced to suspend operations for a time, the other night, because of a lack of power, and the inconvenience and annoyance, not to speak of positive financial loss, has been great in many instances. The apparent result of the whole trouble will be that natural gas will be transformed from an ordinary fuel into a luxury. There will probably be enough for residence use for years to come, and those who can afford it will have it, because of its superiority to coal, notwithstanding the difference in price.

"This condition prevails not alone in Pittsburg, but in the surrounding districts. In the Beaver Valley the Citizens' Gas Company announced an advance of about 11 per cent. over last year, and a Bridgewater company has not only raised its rates, but has issued an order to all manufacturing consumers that all contracts have been withdrawn and that hereafter no gas can be furnished them. This will have the result of compelling manufacturers to return to the use of coal. The Bridgewater gas company also announces that none but dwellings will be accommodated in the future.

"The Beaver Falls Gas Company has returned to the use of coal, and several other factories are making preparations to follow suit. Advices from the gas belt of Ohio and Indiana show that the same state of affairs, while possibly not so far advanced, is already noticeable. There is a general hope throughout the region affected that in the case of the practical failure of the natural gas supply, which it is now conceded can not be averted, a manufactured fuel gas will be found to take its place. Unless some such plan is successful, it is difficult to see how companies owning the miles of main and other facilities can avoid heavy financial losses."

Salt for Moths.

For moths, says a contemporary, salt is the best exterminator. The nuns in one of the hospital convents, have tried everything else without success, and their experience is valuable, as they have so much clothing of the sick who go there, and strangers, when dying there, often leave quantities of clothing, etc. They had a room full of feathers, which were sent there for pillow making, and they were in despair, as they could not exterminate the moths, until they were advised to try common salt.

They sprinkled it around, and in a week or ten days were altogether rid of the moths. They are never troubled now. In heavy, velvet carpets, sweeping them with salt cleans and keeps them from moths, as particles of the salt remain in the carpets and corners. Salt is not hurtful to anyone, and has no bad smell. Here is a little hint which, perhaps, everyone does not know: For cleaning wash basins, etc., use the same thing, common dry salt. Rub a little of the salt with your fingers on the basin. Often a sort of scum is noticed in the basin of a marble washstand in the bath-room; the salt takes it off easily, and leaves the basin shining and clean.

How Dimes are Made.

The silver dime is a useful little coin, and just at present they seem to be in demand; so much so that the San Francisco mint is turning them out at a great rate.

The process of dime-making is an interesting one. The silver bullion is first melted and run into two-pound bars. These in turn are run through immense rollers and flattened out to the thickness of the coin. These silver strips are then passed through a machine, which cuts them into proper size for the presses, the strips first having been treated with a kind of tallow to prevent their being scratched in their passage through the cutters.

The silver pieces are then put into the feeder of the printing presses, and are fed to the die by automatic machinery at the rate of 100 per minute, 48,000 dimes being turned out in a regular working day of eight hours.

As the smooth pieces are pressed between the ponderous printing dies, they receive the lettered and figured impression in a manner similar to that of a paper pressed upon a form of type. At the same time, the piece is expanded in a slight degree, and the small corrugations are cut into its rim.

The machine drops the completed coin into a receiver, and it is ready for the counter's hands. The instrument used by the counter is not a complicated machine by any means, as one might suppose. It is a simple copper-colored tray, having raised ridges running across its surface at a distance apart the exact width of a dime.

From the receiver the money is dumped on the board or tray, and as it is shaken rapidly by the counter the pieces settle down into the spaces between the ridges. All these spaces being filled, the surplus coin is brushed back into the receiver, and the counter has exactly 1,250 dimes, or $125, on his tray, which number is required to fill the spaces. The tray is then emptied into boxes, and the money is ready for shipment.

The dime does not pass through the weigher's hands, as does the coin of a larger denomination. One and one-half grains is allowed for variation, or "tolerance," in all silver coins from a dollar down, and the deviation from the standard in the ten-cent pieces is so trifling that the trouble and expense of weighing coins of this denomination is dispensed with.

Never Take a Lady's Arm.

"The question is often put to me," said a lady, whose opinion in matters of etiquette is wholly competent, "whether it is ever permissible to take a lady's arm when acting as an escort on a promenade." Unhesitatingly and peremptorily no. Not after nightfall, nor by daylight, nor at any other time. An invalid may lean upon a young woman's arm, a grandfather, if he is infirm, may avail himself of a similar support, and a Broadway policeman seems to have acquired the right to propel his charge in petticoats across the thoroughfare by a grasp upon the arm, but these are the only persons so privileged. For an acquaintance, a friend or one who aspires to a still nearer place, to take the arm of a young woman when walking with her on a public highway is inexcusable. You may be sure that nothing will so quickly offend. To see a young woman pushed along, a little in front of her escort, by his clutch upon her arm, reverses all preconceived ideas of gallantry. Offer her your arm, young man, every time, and do not commit the offense of taking hers.

The *Medical Classics* says: Do you know what a close shave means? I never did until I looked at a face the other day, through a microscope, which had been treated to this luxurious process. Why, the entire skin resembled a piece of raw beef. To make the face perfectly smooth requires not only the removal of the hair, but also a portion of the cuticle; and a close shave means the removal of a layer of skin all around. The blood vessels thus exposed are not visible to the eye, but under the microscope each little quivering mouth holding a minute blood drop protests against such treatment. The nerve tips are also uncovered and the pores are left unprotected, which makes the skin tender and unhealthy. This sudden exposure of the inner layer of the skin renders a person liable to have colds, hoarseness and sore throat.

The nitrate of lead is the cheapest disinfectant known that fulfills its intent. It is made by dissolving half a dram of nitrate of lead in a pint of boiling water, then dissolve two drams of common salt in eight or ten quarts of water. When both are thoroughly dissolved pour the two mixtures together, and when the sediment has settled you have a pail of clear fluid which is the saturated solution of the chloride of lead. A pound of nitrate will make several barrels of the liquid.

Professor Chandler Roberts has been studying the fogs of London, and he finds that the mass of fog that hangs over that city every day weighs no less than 6,000 tons, and contains in the course of a year $12,000,000 worth of carbon.

©Maryland State Archives, msa_sc2900_scm2297-0178