

The Massena Observer.

VOLUME VII.

MASSENA, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1897.

NUMBER 2.

SUPERVISORS ON A VISIT.

Inspect The New Armory At Ogdensburg.

EQUALIZATION IS ADOPTED.

After A Long Fight—The Sheriff's bill Dissected—Reports of Several Important Committees—The Week's Doings.

Last Tuesday evening a resolution was presented by Mr. Merritt extolling the many good qualities of Hon. E. D. Brooks, formerly a member of the Board. Then the question of equalization came up again, in committee, and the labor that had been done went for naught, and a new basis was adopted. Work on it progressed rapidly, and before the committee adjourned, it had a plan, a doubled barreled one, for spreading a great big surplus over the county, covering it a foot or two deep. There was battle in the air, and the atmosphere didn't clear before morning, but grew thicker.

The morning session of the Board Wednesday was short. The Judiciary Committee reported that such of the Ogdensburg corporations as have paid the state tax and made proof thereof to the Board, are exempted from taxation for state purposes on their assessment of personal property. Mr. W. T. Clark moved for a recess until three. It was taken, and the equalization jangle in committee began again. The basis of the night before was kicked contemptuously aside and again the struggle for a basis began. Finally the basis of last year was adopted, with modifications. Towns that were assessed lower than the equalization of last year were brought up by additions. New property was added. In case of slight increases in assessment the town was forced to carry it, in large to carry a part while the rest was spread pro rata. Mr. Crasper was in his element and made lots of fun. He drew an affecting picture of the supervisor of the third ward of Ogdensburg, who chances also to be an assessor of Oswegatchie, sitting under a tree in his garden and deliberately making assessments which he now says are wrong. He thought that the judgment of the gentleman ought not to be interfered with, and the Board thought so too. Finally a report was made up and at three o'clock it was presented to the Board and laid over under the rules.

Thursday morning at the opening of the session Mr. Newton moved that the report of the Committee on Equalization be adopted, and it was, with only one no, and the Board felt that it had much, very much to be thankful for, and that the day was particularly fitted for the deed. The committee on Equalization in its report didn't mention the report of the special committee on assessment of wild lands and corporations, and Mr. Crasper brought it up and wanted the Board to adopt it. Mr. Newton and others attacked that part of it recommending the assessment of all game preserves at ten dollars per acre, and showed pretty conclusively that some preserves were worth much more, others much less, than the price named per acre. Mr. Crasper admitted that the report needed a little tinkering on this point, and moved that it be returned to the Committee for that purpose, which was agreed to. Mr. Merritt presented a resolution that when the Board adjourned Saturday it be to the Town Hall at Ogdensburg Monday at two o'clock, that the Board may inspect the armory. There was a lot of discussion, and Mr. Crasper opposed any such tours, and wanted the Board written up by some New York paper. He was about to relate his experience on the last trip of the Board to Ogdensburg, and how he was forced to recline in a chair half the night on account of lack of hotel accommodations, but was prevailed on not to. He did call for the yeas and nays on the resolution, and it was carried, 22 to 11. Mr. Maine presented a report of the Committee on Refunding, in reference to the claims of William E. Wright, Sarah Ann Runions and Edward Stubbs, of Massena. All these parties made a claim that they should be paid back certain sums paid by them as taxes on lands purchased with pension or bounty money. The committee awarded Wright \$4.41, Sarah Ann Runions \$6.58, and rejected the claim of Stubbs on the ground that it had not been presented to the Board of Town Audit of Massena. The report was adopted. Mr. Flaherty asked that the petition of Wright be referred to the Judiciary Committee, so that the town board of Massena may in future know whether or not to exempt his property. So ordered.

Friday at two o'clock the Board again got together. Mr. Atwood introduced a bill allowing Hopkinton to borrow \$3000 for the purpose of building a new road from Piercefield Falls to the County line. The bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Roads and Bridges. A report of the indebtedness of Parishville was presented and ordered filed and published with the minutes. At the evening session Mr. Aldrich presented the report of the Committee on Miscellaneous accounts. Last year the committee audited bills aggregating \$4878.10. This year the accounts presented were for \$4693.89, and they were cut down to \$4998.88. The charges for examination of insane are becoming something alarming,

THE WORK SUSPENDED.

On the Ottawa and New York Railroad Bridge.

WHAT HAS BEEN

Since the Great Undertaking was Completed—A Vast Quantity of Work on the Island Ready for Use.

On Saturday of last week work was suspended on the bridge between Ottawa and New York railroad, is to span the St. Lawrence between Cornwall and Massena. It is the longest bridge ever built in this country, and it looks as if the work would be completed in time to withstand the winter months. Since Mr. Thomas took hold of the work, the progress has been satisfactory, and there is no doubt that had he been in from the first the two bridges would have been completed by this time, very nearly so, as was originally expected. Mr. Thomas, superintendent of the Sooy-Smith Co., is in Louisiana, his place being taken the meantime by C. H. Deans, engineer of the same company.

The work has been confined entirely to the south channel, separating Massena on the New York side and Cornwall island. There are numbered from the Massena side, 1, 2, 3, and 4. Piers 3 and 4 are complete. No. 2 is three feet above water line and No. 1 has four feet laid, each course being 12 feet. The piers in the center of the channel were constructed by sinking cribs 61 1/2 ft. long by 16 ft. wide. The water where these cribs were sunk was 29 and 35 feet deep. Crushed stone, sand, Portland cement, forming a solid mass above the cribs to water level, while the stone is in course. These stone come by barge from the St. Regis reservation, a distance of five miles and are of varying quality, some being four feet in diameter, some being four feet in diameter and 15 feet in length, and the four courses of stone in position weigh 220 tons. The Phoenix Bridge company of Philadelphia, Pa., via Ogdensburg, is doing the work. R. W. & O. line. Barges have been kept busy for the last month with this iron from Ogdensburg. A great amount has been piled up at Cornwall island where it is to be used.

St. Lawrence County Board of Trade. Our telegram quotes fancy cheese large 4 1/2 cts., small 4 1/4 cts., market steady. Cables 42 1/2 cts. Receipts 24,000 boxes, exports 9,000. Creamery butter 23 cts., market steady. Receipts 26,000 tubs, exports none. The butter and cheese market remains the same as last week, except the cable has declined a sixpence since one year ago butter sold here for 20 to 20 1/2 cts. and the cheese were all sold. There are about 300 boxes of cheese unsold. Nineteen creameries have registered 828 tubs of butter. At ten o'clock the sales were so incomplete the secretary could not give a correct report. M. R. WAIT, Sec'y. Canton, Nov. 27, 1897.

A TEST CASE.

Infringement of the State Game and Fisheries Law.

Parishville, Dec. 1.—A case was tried in special sessions before Justice Hinman on Wednesday, November 24, the result of which was watched with eager interest by all parties concerned. The case was the people vs. W. Selleck, and was for an alleged violation of the state law as laid down in Article 9, sections 210 and 211, which provides for private hunting and fishing grounds and properly posting of notices thereon.

The complaint stated that on August 19th of this year Selleck entered upon the grounds of the Parkhurst brook fishing club, and in the face of the fact that notices were posted at intervals on the brook, also knowing it to be private ground, he proceeded to fish and caught about 35 trout. The club above mentioned consists of 21 members, farmers who own the land for a considerable distance along Parkhurst brook, and the club was organized legally that they might protect their interests.

After this trespass by Selleck members of the club tried to settle the matter with him, but he would only laugh and offer them six cents, which he said was all they could collect for trespass. If this were the case the club was of no benefit to the members and they proposed to put it to a test, and if possible to establish a precedent. The case was prosecuted by the people backed by the club, upon a complaint entered by A. M. Courrier, who was one of the principal witnesses. It took some time to obtain a jury and the case consumed the entire day Wednesday. The case went to the jury about 9 o'clock at night and in a few minutes they returned a verdict of guilty. The law provides a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$25 for violations of this provision, and as it was the first offense the court showed all the leniency possible and imposed a fine of \$10, which was paid. L. E. GINN, of Potsdam, appeared for the people and Watson B. Berry for defendant.

THE BOMBAY AND MOIRA RAILROAD TO BE SOLD.

More About the New York and Ottawa R. R. Will Cornwall Secure the Repair Shops? Tracks Will Cross at Grade.

RAILROAD RUMBLINGS.

There has been considerable speculation as to how long the O. & L. C. can be made to pay, now that it is no longer a division of the Central Vermont. Here is one item that may have a bearing on the question: Five hundred carloads of potatoes are coming from along the line of the Canadian Pacific, by transfer from Prescott to Ogdensburg, and thence going over the O. & L. C. R. R. to the D. & H. at Rouses Point. When the new road from Ottawa to Moira is completed, it may give the O. & L. C. a big traffic for the D. & H. during the year or two which must elapse before it can be extended from Upper Lake through the wilderness. It is at least the public may be sure, that if there is any possible future of property for the O. & L. C., Mr. Parsons is the man to find it. He has reorganized many railroad companies, and has never yet made failure of any of them.

In Judge Cox's special term last week, according to the Utica Observer, upon conclusion of an argument the motion made by counsel for Charles Parsons, receiver of the Ogdensburg & Lake Champlain railroad, that the receiver be allowed to confirm the lease of the Saratoga & Lawrence branch and cease operating the branch, the motion was granted. This is the Bombay road, connecting Bombay and Moira. Thomas Cantwell, of Malone, is present at the hearing representing Mr. E. G. Reynolds and those who own the Bombay road. He contended that the receiver should not be allowed to disaffirm the lease without paying rental for the road for the time operated. The court finally fixed this at \$500 and allowed the lease to be disaffirmed. Under the decree receiver Parsons was permitted to cease operating the road November 1st, and now Mr. Reynolds is running again upon it to keep it in operation until December 4, when it is to be sold on foreclosure by Messrs. Reynolds, Hasbrouck and Lawrence, trustees for the bondholders.

A recent meeting held in New York of the Board of Railway Commissioners, passed the following resolutions: That the Ogdensburg & Lake Champlain Railroad Company for a determination of the manner of crossing certain roads on its proposed route, the board, after a thorough personal inspection, determined that inasmuch as the railway runs for the most part through a sparsely settled and little traveled section of country and that the roads to be crossed are not much traveled highways, but country cross roads used by very few persons, these roads may be crossed at grade, but the tracks of the Ogdensburg & Lake Champlain Railway at Moira must be crossed above grade.

According to the Ottawa Journal the O. & N. Y. Railway Co. contemplate making a proposition to the corporation of that city, looking to the location of the workshops of the city at the capital. It is said that if the city will grant a bonus of \$100,000 to the road the company will build their shops there and make it the headquarters for their workmen and train crews. If they do this they will forfeit the bonus of \$35,000 voted by Cornwall. No definite announcement has yet been made by the company on the subject, but the fact that they have applied for right of way to run into the town would indicate that they intend to carry out the agreement with Cornwall and accept the bonus.

Teachers' Examinations. State uniform examinations for teachers' certificates will be held during the year of 1898, in the third school commissioner district, St. Lawrence County, as follows: FIRST GRADE. March 10—11.....Brasher Falls. August 11—12.....Norwood. SECOND AND THIRD GRADE. January 13—14.....Potsdam. March 10—11.....Brasher Falls. May 27—28.....Massena. August 11—12.....Norwood. September 23—23.....Parishville. NORMAL ENTRANCE. January 13.....Potsdam. May 27.....Massena. August 11.....Norwood. TRAINING CLASS. January 19, 20 & 21.....Massena. June 5, 9 & 10.....Massena. At each of the above named places the examinations will be conducted at the Union School buildings except at Potsdam where it will be held in the Intermediate hall, Normal building. Candidates must furnish their own material for the examination. Teachers whose certificates expire during the year are urged to be present. E. F. McDONALD, School Commissioner.

STOLEN PROPERTY RECOVERED.

Deputy Sheriff Williams Finds Joseph Myers Stolen Rig.

On the night of October 13, 1897, a horse, harness, road wagon and buffalo robe were stolen from the premises of Joseph Myers, of Helena, Deputy sheriff F. E. Williams of Norfolk, has been on the trail of the thief for some time and has been awarded by finding the entire property. The horse was found at Dekalb Junction, where it had been traded for another with a blacksmith named Miles. He found the harness at Natural Dam, where it had come into the possession of George Mashaw, after changing hands three times. The buggy was found at Peck's Corners, with the thills gone, the harness at Natural Dam and the robes in Mashaw's house. He found the thief in Watertown jail on another charge of horse stealing, awaiting the action of the grand jury, which sits in January. The culprit's true name is supposed to be Frank Whitford, and he has made Watertown his home for the past ten or twelve years. He is known under several aliases, namely: Frank McClinton, Frank McClelland, Frank Finch, Frank Richards. Under the name of Finch he served two terms in state's prison, being sent from Jefferson county. Early in October he was a laborer at the canal here but work did not seem to agree with him and he left, probably for Helena, where he stole the rig. This Mashaw, where the harness and robe were found is a brother to the Mashaw lately sentenced to Auburn prison for passing counterfeit money. Mr. Williams is to be congratulated upon his success.

The Observer will be sent to new subscribers from now until January 1, 1898, for just one dollar, paid in advance. Add 25 cents if it is to be sent outside the county.

REVENUE COLLECTOR MISSING.

Failed to Account to Brewers for Over \$10,000 of Their Money.

HOWARD BURT ARRESTED.

Charged With the Murder of His Father-in-law.

Albany, Nov. 30.—Developments show that Collector of Internal Revenue Louis W. Pratt has failed to account for \$19,219 of the funds which came into his charge by virtue of his office. He left town last Tuesday and has not been seen nor heard from since. His accounts with the Government are all right. The shortage is in the funds which were placed in his hands by Troy and New York brewers about a week previous to the time the Dingley tariff bill went into effect for the purchase of revenue stamps. Nearly one hundred thousand dollars was deposited with Mr. Pratt on this account, but he returned at different times during the past four months either in revenue stamps or cash all but \$19,219. The brewery companies which state that Mr. Pratt failed to account for money advanced by them are the S. Bolton Sons' Brewing Company, of Troy, \$13,458.76; Quant Brewing Company, of Troy, \$2,583.75; Busch Brewing Company, of Troy, \$2,926.55; David Mayer Brewing Company, of New York City, \$250.

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It is claimed that Masters Spencer Barkley and Oliver Brewer, who visited the scene of the tragedy on that fatal night, were told by Harry Burt that the man who did the shooting wore a heavy beard. The handkerchief, the revolver, the white hat and his actions for two hours in Potsdam are things which Mr. Burt must explain or doubtless he will have to stand trial. The examination will be held this afternoon before Judge Swift, of Potsdam.

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ANOTHER HOSPITAL MASSACRE.

Cubans Fight Desperately, but Ten Are Killed.

Havana, Nov. 29, via Key West, Nov. 30.—Another Cuban hospital has been destroyed by the Spanish guerrilla forces of Cabanas at Herradura, Pinar del Rio province. When the sick and wounded patriots saw that they were surrounded they resolved to fight desperately to the last. After a terrible engagement they were able to break through the Spanish lines and save some of their sick and wounded. But seven of the number, who were almost dying with malaria, were captured and immediately put to death by the Spaniards. Three women were also made prisoners and were slain. The bodies of the victims were heaped together and burned with the three huts in which the hospital was established. The insurgents, although they were almost unarmed and most of them were sick and therefore practically inferior to their assailants, killed one Spanish captain and three soldiers and wounded five soldiers.

NEW YORK MARKET REPORT.

WHEAT—No. 2 Red hovers about the dollar mark and fluctuations are mostly due to speculation, although reported increase in visible supply tends to depression. OATS—The oat market is dull and practically unchanged. BEANS—The market for marrow beans holds firm, but there is no further change in the price. Ex orders here are able to fill most of their orders at \$1.45 some jobbing business in strictly choice qualities has been done a little higher. BUTTER—The receipts are very moderate and there is a fair trade at full rate prices, some of the medium to good grades showing an advance. EGGS—Receipts are light, and the supply of the fresh-gathered stock is smaller. There is an ample offering of all grades except in white eggs, but for these there is rather more demand than supply, and prices have made a slight advance. CHEESE—The market for large full-cream cheese continues very quiet and in unsatisfactory position. FRUIT—The receipts of apples are liberal and the trade moderate. Prices are without much change. Tone is fairly firm on high grades, but medium and lower qualities are rather urgently offered. Flour, winter straight, in bbls \$1.40 1/2 70 " spring patent, " " 1.40 25 40 Corn meal, " " 70 75 Feed per 100 lbs. " " 55 67 1/2 Buckwheat, grain, " " 88 89 1/2 " " No. 2 red, " " 39 1/2 40 Oats, white, No. 2, " " 28 1/2 30 Eye, " " " " 50 Barley, " " " " 39 1/2 Beans, marrow, " " 1.25 1.43 1/2 " " kidney, " " 1.50 Pork, alive, pr. 100, " " 9 00 9 10 Beef " " " " 4 00 24 95 Calves " " " " 5.00 28.00

SAUSAGE MAKER'S TRIAL.

Luetgert, with New Attorneys, Appears in Court.

Chicago, Nov. 30.—The second trial of Adolf L. Luetgert for the murder of his wife was called before Judge Gary yesterday. The big sausage maker was represented by ex-Judge Lawrence Harmon and Attorney Max Riese, Attorney Phalen having withdrawn from the case after a heated interview with Luetgert and the new lawyers. The courtroom was packed with spectators when the court was called to order. Most of the session was taken up by Mr. Harmon in arguing that Judge Gary should not try Luetgert on the ground that he was not qualified to conduct a criminal judge.

Judge Gary overruled the motion of the defense, intimating, however, that he was willing that some other judge should sit in the case, providing counsel for the defense could come to an agreement with the prosecution as to who should hear it. Many Lives Lost in British Gale. London, Nov. 30.—Many lives have been lost and shipping destroyed by a gale which has swept the British coast. A score of bodies have been washed ashore in various places. The sea wall at Scarborough has been washed away, and the passenger and mail services across the Channel have been mostly suspended. The British ship Larica, Capt. Burgess, from St. John, N. B., for Fleetwood, has been driven ashore by the force of the gale.

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Havana, Nov. 29, via Key West, Nov. 30.—Another Cuban hospital has been destroyed by the Spanish guerrilla forces of Cabanas at Herradura, Pinar del Rio province. When the sick and wounded patriots saw that they were surrounded they resolved to fight desperately to the last. After a terrible engagement they were able to break through the Spanish lines and save some of their sick and wounded. But seven of the number, who were almost dying with malaria, were captured and immediately put to death by the Spaniards. Three women were also made prisoners and were slain. The bodies of the victims were heaped together and burned with the three huts in which the hospital was established. The insurgents, although they were almost unarmed and most of them were sick and therefore practically inferior to their assailants, killed one Spanish captain and three soldiers and wounded five soldiers.

NEW YORK MARKET REPORT.

WHEAT—No. 2 Red hovers about the dollar mark and fluctuations are mostly due to speculation, although reported increase in visible supply tends to depression. OATS—The oat market is dull and practically unchanged. BEANS—The market for marrow beans holds firm, but there is no further change in the price. Ex orders here are able to fill most of their orders at \$1.45 some jobbing business in strictly choice qualities has been done a little higher. BUTTER—The receipts are very moderate and there is a fair trade at full rate prices, some of the medium to good grades showing an advance. EGGS—Receipts are light, and the supply of the fresh-gathered stock is smaller. There is an ample offering of all grades except in white eggs, but for these there is rather more demand than supply, and prices have made a slight advance. CHEESE—The market for large full-cream cheese continues very quiet and in unsatisfactory position. FRUIT—The receipts of apples are liberal and the trade moderate. Prices are without much change. Tone is fairly firm on high grades, but medium and lower qualities are rather urgently offered. Flour, winter straight, in bbls \$1.40 1/2 70 " spring patent, " " 1.40 25 40 Corn meal, " " 70 75 Feed per 100 lbs. " " 55 67 1/2 Buckwheat, grain, " " 88 89 1/2 " " No. 2 red, " " 39 1/2 40 Oats, white, No. 2, " " 28 1/2 30 Eye, " " " " 50 Barley, " " " " 39 1/2 Beans, marrow, " " 1.25 1.43 1/2 " " kidney, " " 1.50 Pork, alive, pr. 100, " " 9 00 9 10 Beef " " " " 4 00 24 95 Calves " " " " 5.00 28.00