

THE CHATHAM SEMI-WEEKLY COURIER.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1906.

EDUCATIONAL REPORT

Our readers' attention is directed to the summary of Commissioner Draper's educational report on another page. It has much to interest and instruct the attentive reader. The statement relative to illiteracy is noteworthy. Of the 2,184,295 voters in this state, 190,000 are illiterate, the proportion being 59 illiterates to each 1,000 voters. The total population of the state of persons of ten years or over was 5,871,102 and in this number there were 318,100 illiterates, or 54 to each 1,000 population. Of the whole number of illiterates, 81 per cent are foreign born, but the strange fact is that the percentage of illiterates born in this state of foreign born parents (5.7 per cent) is much lower than the percentage (9.2 per cent) of illiterate children of native born parents. Practically all the illiterate children of native parents are located in the rural districts, the percentage varying from one per cent in Schoharie county. People who assume that the cities have the largest percentage of illiteracy are mistaken.

ROAD AMENDMENT VOTE.

The constitutional amendment in favor of \$50,000,000 for good roads was carried by a majority of 266,883. There were 383,188 votes for it and only 117,181 against. It carried every county except three. Orleans which it lost by 431, Schuyler by 352 and Yates by 293. Greater New York which will have much of the cost to pay while the highway improvement will be all in country districts gave a majority of 159,693 for the amendment. Columbia county cast 1,530 votes for and 1,422 against, a majority of 108. Rensselaire cast 7,400 for and 2,576 against, a majority of 4,825. The counties with large cities seemed to be most largely in favor of the improvement, though the figures show that it was more or less popular everywhere. Two-thirds of the voters did not vote one way or the other on the amendment, but that is usually the case with such things, especially when there is no active campaign as there was over the barge canal amendment.

The insurrection in the House is over so far as the Philippine Tariff Bill is concerned. It is said that the bill may be killed in the Senate and this is possible but not probable. The fact that rice was incited with sugar and tobacco as enjoying the 25 per cent protection of the Dingley rates was a surprise to some who have not followed the bill closely but it was a matter somewhat of policy and granted a degree of protection to one southern product at the same time that two others were, according to their friend, very hard hit. But the hardships as to sugar and tobacco are likely to prove more fancied than real. As for the Filipinos who had claimed that the future commercial existence of the islands depended on the passage of the bill, it ought to be considered a very satisfactory victory, especially with the prospect in sight of free trade between the islands and the United States after 1909.

Forger Seton ought to have confined himself to selling genuine railway certificates. There are lots of gentlemen in New York making just as much out of the business as not risking the penitentiary either.

The purchasing agent of the Panama Canal denies that he has the \$20,000,000 contract for Russian cement. The Senate committee says it does not believe the Commission ever let a \$20,000,000 contract for anything but salaries.

A brilliant Philadelphia contemporary suggests that the death penalty ought to be either abolished or extended. Now if it is not enforced it is waste time in abolishing it.

President Roosevelt has decreed that no department shall give out news to the press without his permission. That is the way the Carlisle President Roosevelt is wrong.

Mr. Hadley says that he got all out of H. H. Rogers that he wanted. This report conspicuously to the fact that M. Hadley is a homeopathist.

THE WEATHER.

If there has been one topic more universally discussed the past week than another it is the weather. Bally snoring was certainly in evidence in this vicinity last Sunday but to say the elements are telling another story.

As a matter of record and for the enlightenment of future generations who may come across this copy of The Courier when rummaging in the attic after heirlooms and relics, we give these various and varied weather reports from the daily papers of Jan. 22, 1906.

Hoosick Falls, N. Y.—Temperature 83 in sun. Robins, bluebirds, pussy willows, bees, wasps, and caterpillars in appearance. Women out of doors without hats, wearing shirt-waists. No ice crop, and famine likely.

Worcester, Mass.—Dense fog. Mayflowers in bloom in the woods.

Auburn, N. Y.—Temperature 70 degrees. Wasps sad and lively.

Burlington, Vt.—Temperature, 68. Open street cars. All records broken.

Baltimore.—Unusually warm weather throughout Maryland. Dense fog.

If this doesn't fracture all weather records, then let the oldest inhabitant speak out!

Boston, Mass.—Five hundred and twenty-two people went swimming in the public baths.

But here's another story of the same date showing that a blizzard was raging in the middle West.

Watertown.—Steamers still running regularly between New York and Newburg. Little ice in river.

Bensington, Vt.—Thermometers in sunshine recorded 94. Lilies budding and lettuce plants sprouting.

St. Joseph, Mo.—City in grip of a blizzard. Mercury has dropped nearly fifty degrees in forty-eight hours.

Columbus.—Warm spell continues throughout Ohio. Temperature, 71 degrees here. Stores doors open all day.

Lincoln, Neb.—Second coldest morning in Eastern Nebraska. Mercury one degree above zero. Wind and snow.

Philadelphia.—Warmest January weather in sixteen years. Temperature 66 degrees and humidity 86 per cent.

Saratoga, N. Y.—Spring thaw in Adirondacks. Mountains veiled in heaviest fog seen in years. Last of snow disappearing.

Elmira, N. Y.—Temperature 70. Weather May-like. Farmers fear fruit trees may bud and later be killed by frost.

Winsted, Conn.—Robins singing in treetops. Hepaticas in blossom in woods. Mosquitoes up and doing. Ice harvest interrupted.

Oswego, N. Y.—All local weather records broken by temperature of 69 degrees at noon. Much discomfort. Crocuses blooming.

Morristown, N. J.—Town enveloped in densest fog oldest citizen can remember. Pedestrians picking way about with lanterns.

Dallas, Texas.—Cold wave accompanied by snow, sweeping over Texas today. Trains delayed and all communication interrupted.

FREE PASSES AT FAIRS

The railroads have been cutting out the "free" passes and the County Agricultural Societies Association at the recent meeting in Albany decided that helper and rental passes should be abolished, the vote on the question being 39 to 30. It would seem essential that the pass privilege be curtailed, because it has been abused in a shameful manner. There are many as an exchange well says, who have business connected with the exhibitions which entitles them to entrance without paying the usual fee, and there are some who perform services for which entrance without paying is very small compensation. Such are in no sense to be deemed recipients of "free" passes, as there is nothing free about it. In those cases it is a business matter, and not to be confounded with the indiscriminate granting of privileges, where there is no rational or business claim connected with them. It

EARLY RAILROADING.

Reminiscences of Years ago Concerning the Old Hudson & Berkshire Railroad.

In the baggage room of the union station yesterday two Chatham men whose railroad experience began many years ago, were talking over old times and their reminiscences were full of interest to the little group of listeners. They referred particularly to the old Hudson & Berkshire railroad which extended from West Stockbridge, Massachusetts, through Chatham to Hudson, N. Y., a large portion of the roadbed of which is now used by the Boston & Albany railroad. In the old days track construction was accompanied by first laying what was known as a mud sill on which the ties were placed. On these ties were fastened the rails which were Georgia pine timbers about six inches square. Along the top edge of these timbers were placed strips of "band iron" about three inches in width, this iron being fastened to the wooden rail by spikes placed at twelve-inch intervals.

They didn't have many accidents in those days because the speed was not so great as to cause any danger, but what few accidents they did have were practically all of one nature and were caused by the loosening of the band iron on the rail, the result of the cars passing and repassing over it. Not infrequently the end of a piece of iron thus loosened would curl up in such a manner that the wheel of the car would run under it and oftentimes it would penetrate the floor of the cars. Strange as it may seem, the injuries to passengers from this cause were few and far between. As a rule it was not possible for the engineer and fireman to detect the loosened irons as they would lay flat on the rail until the car ran upon them, causing them to curl, usually in front of the rear wheels of the first car following the engine. In some instances, however, it was possible to detect the loosened band iron which was usually curled up in such a manner that it soon became known by the significant name of "snake neck."

Every train carried an outfit for fastening these loose irons to the rails and when one was discovered, the engineer stopped the train, climbed from his engine, tool box in hand, and repaired the damage. Then he started on—if he could. It is related for a fact, that it was by no means uncommon for the conductor on an occasion like those just mentioned, especially if the steam in the boiler happened to be low, to go through the train and ask the men to alight and thus reduce the load in order that the train might start. The men never feared that they could not clamber on again after the train started. The sand boxes which are now found on all engines, had not been invented in those days. The trains were greatly delayed by slippery rails, caused by rains and, also, by the grass which grew up beside the rails and went under the wheels. On stormy days it was a custom to have two men, each with a pail of sand sit on the "bumpers" or front part of the engine, and, with their hands, sprinkle sand on the rails ahead of the driving wheels.

These engines were pigmies compared with the passenger locomotives of the present day. They had no cabs and the engineer and firemen were exposed to all sorts of weather. Their power was very limited and an engine in those times that could draw nine cars from Hudson to West Stockbridge was looked upon as a machine of remarkable power.

The passenger cars were light in weight and of peculiar construction. Along the sides extended long boards, similar to those seen on street cars at the present time, and the doors were in the sides of the cars instead of the ends.

Although there was considerable passenger traffic in those early days, yet the company who owned the road depended to a greater degree on the revenue from the freight business for the road's support and the larger portion of the freight hauled consisted of iron ore which was obtained from the mines of western Massachusetts and was taken to Hudson.

Rev. Dr. George D. Silliman, pastor of St. John's church at Stockport, left last week for Jamaica, one of the British possessions, in company with Rev. Philip Moser, an old friend of his, where they will spend about a month's vacation. During Dr. Silliman's absence Rev. A. E. Heard, of Hudson, will officiate.

President Rowe of the Valatie Board of Trade has called for a meeting of the board, and all others interested in the welfare of Valatie this evening at 8 o'clock. The object of the meeting is to formulate plans for the establishment of a milk station and to talk over other matters beneficial to the village.

..CHATHAM..

Regents' examinations are in progress at the school this week.

Mrs. Timothy Corcoran has moved from this village to Schenectady.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Woodward, of New York city, are spending a few days in town.

Dr. J. T. Wheeler is on the sick list and Dr. W. R. Starks is caring for his patients.

It's a good joke on the fellow who went south to avoid the "rigorous winter of the north."

Mrs. Lealle H. Russ, of Bradford, Pa., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Hatfield.

Mr. and Mrs. John Curry, formerly of Kline Kill, are to move to M. T. Palmer's farm.

Mrs. Joseph Van Alstyne is very ill with grip and pneumonia at her home on Locust street.

Charles B. Hatfield, who has been critically ill during the past few days, continues to improve.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dolen, of New Haven, Conn., are guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Dolen.

A ten cent tea to be served this evening at the residence of J. B. Waltaire for the benefit of the Lutheran church.

Mrs. Matthew Coon entertained Mrs. Anna Dexter, of Brooklyn, and Mrs. E. Gifford, of Hudson, the past week.

George Cocks and wife, of Ohio, who resided in White Mills about 30 years ago, are visiting friends in and near this village.

That harbinger of spring, the small boy and the game of marbles, was one of the sights witnessed Monday and Tuesday.

Charles W. Allen has resumed his dancing school at Cady's hall Friday evenings with a class for children Saturday afternoons.

Undertaker A. N. Van Deusen has again rented his former place of business on Park Row and will remove there April 1st.

G. T. Tubbs and family, who reside in James Skinkle's house on Bushnell avenue, are to move to the Thomas house on Thomas street.

Henry Tracey of the firm of Bailey & Tracey sustained a lacerated hand this morning while operating a buzz saw in the rear of their place of business.

Mr. Parsons, who has been clerk at the Windsor hotel for some time, has resigned that position to accept a similar employment in the St. Charles hotel at Hudson.

The Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist church give a supper from 5:30 to 7:00 this evening. A free will offering will be taken instead of a stated price. All invited.

As the skating has been so poor on the old pond Chas. W. Allen is to see what can be done in rollers and will open up Cady's hall next Saturday evening and the roller skating craze will be officially on.

Mrs. George Shuffelt is critically ill with pneumonia at her home on Spring street. On Sunday it was thought she could not recover but at the present time she is some better and hopes for her recovery are entertained.

The extra freight north on the Chatham division leaving here at 9 p. m. Tuesday met with a wreck near Stephentown. Several cars of coal were derailed and track was not cleared at noon to-day. This morning's train north transferred passengers and mail.

James Doyle is suffering from a severe gash and bruise on one side of his head, inflicted as he supposes by the kick of a horse. Saturday morning he went to George McClellan's barn at Kline Kill, and commenced to groom the horse. He remembered nothing further until he found himself in the doorway of the stable, with blood streaming from this wound.

The local lodge of Junior Order of United American Mechanics is now holding regular meetings on Wednesday evening of each week instead of once in two weeks as heretofore. At this evening's meeting it is expected that degrees will be conferred. The lodge is in a prosperous and flourishing condition and the members are enthusiastic in the work they are doing for its advancement.

Walter Ten Broeck has obtained a position in Chappaqua and left for that place on Monday of this week. A little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Eldon is seriously ill and it is feared pneumonia will develop.

It is probable that the construction of the foundation for the new stock house for the Payn-boxboard plant will be commenced during the present week.

Florence Dennis, daughter of James Dennis, of Thomas street, is ill with a mild attack of diphtheria. Health officer Washburn promptly quarantined the house and a spread of the disease is not feared.

Mrs. W. C. Daley has gone to Williamstown, Mass., where she is visiting her daughter, Mrs. F. E. Moore. Before her return home she will visit her daughter, Pauline, who is teaching in Orange, N. J.

Chauncey A. King of Old Chatham, collector of town taxes, held his first sitting at Stanwix Hall on Monday of this week. He is assisted in the collection by former postmaster F. M. Wilbor, of Old Chatham.

Fire insurance adjusters were in town yesterday and made an inspection of the ruins of the Payn boxboard mill. They were J. H. Cote, of New York city, W. D. Hunter, of Albany, G. T. Reh, of Syracuse, F. W. Baun, of Albany, and James M. Daggett, of Albany.

The bottom suddenly fell out of a piece of the roadway in front of the residence of James Thomas on Kinderhook street Monday. The Boston & Albany sewer extends under the street at this point and a portion of the wooden underground archway over the sewer had given way, allowing the surface to settle.

Because of the unfavorable condition of the roads, the men who collect milk in the surrounding section and bring it to the milk station, have experienced no little difficulty since Saturday. It has required four horses to haul the load of milk collected on the State Line route.

The work of deepening the wells at the water-works pumping station on Hudson avenue has been completed. When the pump was started it was found that the amount of water obtained was larger than ever before. The pipes in the wells formerly extended to a depth of from 22 to 28 feet but all are now 30 feet in depth.

Remember the A. M. E. church donation Feb. 14th, at the opera house. A general effort for the pastor's support. There will be a concert by home talent consisting of choruses, solos, recitations, etc., also a good supper. Many fancy and useful articles will be on sale. Donations will be thankfully received. Regular donation tickets 50 cents. Single admission to hall and concert only 15 cents.

On Wednesday evening, February 21, the three-act play entitled "Finnegan's Fortune" will be presented in Cady's hall, by local talent under the auspices of St. James church. This play has been previously presented here and it is in compliance with a popular request that it is repeated. It will probably be accompanied by a brief farce or "curtain raiser." The cast will be composed of well known amateurs who were frequently seen in home talent productions a few years ago.

Posters advertising the firemen's fair are now being displayed. It is to be held in Cady's hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings, February 7, 8 and 9. There will be something in the nature of entertainment each evening, one feature being a cake walk by certain of the colored gentry. There will be the various tables for the sale of useful and fancy articles, handsome both, in fact everything usually found at gatherings of this sort. Articles which are to be donated for sale at the fair may now be left with W. O. Ashley at Delich's clothing store.

On Sunday and Monday the streets and country roads were in as bad condition as they usually are during the spring. There was a coating of mud from two to five inches in depth and "sink holes" were numerous. Hardly anyone attempted to do any heavy teaming and some of the physicians and others whose business necessitates much riding, used two horses on light wagons and carriages. Even the oldest inhabitant is stumped when called upon to remember a previous year when January and 24 weather conditions were like those of 1906.

Music lovers have the promise of a fine program at the coming musicals at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Guy M. Hoar next Wednesday evening, Jan. 31, to be given under the auspices of Miss Hanson of Schenectady, formerly of Chatham. Mrs. Ehrlich, leading lady violinist of Albany will give two numbers on the program. Miss Van Guyling, pianist and Miss Derby, reader, both of Albany, with Miss Hanson, as soprano, will make up a fine two hour program. The number of tickets is limited, a few now being on sale at Seymour's drug-store.

John Everett, son of Edward Everett is now in an Albany hospital where he is being treated for an injury that may cost him the sight of his right eye. Of late he has been employed in Drumm's foundry and while "fooling" a few days ago, Everett's brother Henry, picked up a piece of coke and threw it at another workman. John Everett was at work in the next room and, hearing the commotion, raised up to look through a window just as the piece of coke came crashing against the glass, a piece of the glass hitting him in the eye, inflicting a serious gash just below the sight.

The village trustees met in special session Monday evening at the office of C. W. Daggett to hold a hearing on the recently taken enumeration of inhabitants in the village as required by law. There were no objections to the reports presented by enumerators C. W. Daggett and Edward Streeter. According to these reports the population of the village is 2,124, an increase of 34 over the census taken in June of last year. Of this number 1028 reside in the Ghent portion of the village and 1098 in the Chatham portion, 1451 are over the age of 21 years and 673 under. The certified reports of the enumeration have been forwarded to the County Clerk and the Secretary of State according to law.

Chatham grange had an unusually interesting meeting Monday evening and the attendance was unusually large. It was "ladies' night," the ladies occupying all the offices and furnishing the program. The literary and musical selections were given by the following: Quartette, Miss Bushnell, Mrs. Staats, Mrs. Terry, Mrs. Darrow; essays and papers by Mrs. Haskins, Mrs. Bushnell and Miss Greenough. Some of these will be published in Saturday's Courier. In response to roll call the ladies gave their favorite recipes. Refreshments were also served. The grange voted to lease Woodmen Hall on School street for one year from April 1 next and decided to sell their furniture as it will not be needed there. One application was received and one candidate elected to membership.

The Western Union telegraph wires are being extended from the main lines to the office of round-house foreman Deems in the Harlem yard. An operator is to be permanently located there in the person of George J. Traver who for about a dozen years has been one of the operators at the union station. His successor has not been named. The messages to be sent from the new office will be largely those pertaining to the round house work and the assignment of the men to the various runs. And then, being located so near the new circular track connecting the Boston & Albany and Harlem railroads, it will be real convenient, when the trains begin running between Albany and New York via Chatham, for the conductors to hop off and leave messages here instead of being obliged to walk a quarter of a mile to the station. Of course this may not happen right away but there's nothing like having things convenient and in readiness.

Weather conditions of the sort which prevailed in this section during Saturday, Sunday and Monday, have, we believe, never before been known during the month of January. Sunday and Monday, in particular, were two ideal spring days, so warm and balmy that furnace fires were allowed to go out and house doors stood ajar from morning till night. The mercury climbed well toward the summer heat mark on the thermometer, several instances being reported where the temperature on piazzas partially sun exposed, reached 88 and 90 degrees. Robins were both seen and heard on Hudson avenue Sunday. The rise in temperature has also caused the lilac bushes to start their buds and reports from some quarters say that fruit buds also started. On Kinderhook street Monday, the punctures which the sharp points on linemen's clumbers made in the maple trees showed that the sap had started to flow. The May-day temperature also struck out the promenaders. Sunday afternoon and the streets presented a scene of unusual activity.

In the Superior Court at Pittsfield, Mass., Monday, George E. Phelps, charged with stealing 2,400 yards of cloth from the Arnold Print Works of North Adams, was found guilty on three counts. It will be remembered that Phelps tried to dispose of some of the stolen goods to Max Koffelt of this village but Mr. Koffelt suspected they were stolen and declined to buy.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Donnelly, from Millford, is a guest of the Misses Segendorph. The box social will be held to night in the Reformed church. Each lady will bring a box for two. Mrs. Charles Tracy and Mrs. A. J. Gaddis are recovering from their illness. On Friday afternoon the King's daughters of the Reformed church will meet at the parsonage. Saturday afternoon the Junior O. E. Society will meet at the Lutheran church Sunday evening the Junior society of Christian Endeavor will hold a public meeting in the Lutheran church. Let there be a large attendance to encourage the young people in their work. Miss Martha McOppnell entertained a few of her friends Saturday evening in honor of her guest Miss Lizzie McDowell.

Sunday evening the house of John Sheridan got on fire caused by the burning of a chimney. Being unsuccessful in putting out the fire he gave an alarm and with the timely assistance of his neighbor, Samuel Downing, it was put out with the use of the improved fire extinguisher and thus saved his house from burning. Elias B. Jones, a former resident of this town was buried at Winsted, Conn., Jan 3d. He was a brother of J. B. Jones of this place who is the only descendant of Anna Starbuck of Nantucket Island. He leaves a widow and three children, William of Plymouth, Cnn. Oscar of New Haven and Gertrude of Staatsburgh, N. Y. He was a war veteran of New York state and enlisted in the 91st regiment and was stationed at Harpers Ferry during his service.

PHILMONT.

Mrs. Slater, who has been quite ill, is somewhat better at this writing. The official board of the M. E. church realized about \$60 from their turkey supper last week. Miss Luella Hubbard has gone to Troy to the home of her sister, Mrs. B. N. Herrick, for an indefinite time.

March 17th is the date set for the presentation of a comedy drama by local talent under the auspices of Philmont Council Knights of Columbus.

The Philmont Band went to Hudson last week to play for Company F. at the Armory, at the presentation of medals to the marksmen of the company who qualified at the field practice last July.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Harder, Edward L. Harder, Dr. W. D. Fabyan, Henry Billaudel, F. B. Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. I. A. Sagenkirch, Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Bankin and Mrs. Geo. A. Lockwood have been spending a few days in New York.

The officers of the Philmont Hive, Lady Maccabees, were installed at Maccabee Hall on Saturday evening, by Mrs. Luella D. Smith, Past Lady Commander, of Hudson. A number of invited guests of the Lady Maccabees were present and a banquet followed the installation.

CANAAN FOUR CORNERS.

Thursday evening prayer meeting at E. P. Babcock's. Mrs. B. H. Carpenter is considered somewhat better.

M. C. Schilling is able to stir up every day. Mrs. Peter Petry, who has been in poor health for some time is quite ill. Mrs. Charles Hill and children are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Petry.

Mrs. Will Hamilton, of Pittsfield, was a recent guest at S. E. Hamilton's. Mrs. Bither, of Austerlitz, who is ill was brought here Tuesday to the home of her stepson, Wm. Bither.

CANAAN.

Mail carrier Shayer made part of his trip Tuesday on foot, owing to the bad condition of the roads. A. E. Howes continues quite ill. Little Mildred Gearling has just recovered from chicken pox. Four from here attended a party given by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Popas at Chatham last Friday evening and report a most enjoyable time.

James L. Daggett, the Claverack farmer who disappeared some time ago has not yet been located.