

The Freeman's Journal

AND THE ONEONTA PRESS

\$2.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

THE OLD RELIABLE DEMOCRATIC FAMILY NEWSPAPER OF OTSEGO COUNTY

ESTABLISHED IN 1808

VOL. CXLV. NO. 24.

COOPERSTOWN, OTSEGO COUNTY, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1922.

WHOLE NO. 5910

TWO LEADING COUNTY NEWSPAPERS ARE NOW COMBINED IN ONE

THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL ABSORBS THE ONEONTA PRESS

Added Circulation and Influence for County Seat Newspaper — Editor Miller's Valued Editor

With this issue, The Freeman's Journal takes under its wing the only Democratic county newspaper in Otsego County, the Oneonta Press, which for several years has been the proprietorship of Hon. Chester A. Miller, has been an important factor in the politics of the county. With the recent curtailment by the State Legislature of most of the patronage heretofore allotted to political newspapers, many such papers are facing the alternative of suspending publication or going on at a loss. The publishers of the Freeman's Journal believe there is yet a living in Otsego county for one county newspaper of the Democratic faith, and will continue the effort to publish such a paper as will be a credit to the county and the party. This can be done if the Democrats of the county give their loyal support to it.

Legal notices and other current advertising contracts made with the Oneonta Press will be completed by the Freeman's Journal, much to the advantage of the advertiser because of the larger circulation of the combined publications. This added circulation should be a matter of interest to Journal advertisers, also. The Freeman's Journal will now be more than ever a county newspaper; the field having been widened considerably by the absorption of the Oneonta Press. The circulation of the Freeman's Journal has grown rapidly during the last year and there are now few papers in the State of New York which cover their county more fully. It is the policy of the Freeman's Journal to print the news, political and otherwise, in a fair and unbiased manner, thereby commanding the respect of all parties.

The final issue of the Oneonta Press appeared this week, containing the following valedictory by Editor Miller:

"With this issue the subscription list of The Oneonta Press passes into the hands of the Freeman's Journal."

Have Started Action in Libel Suit

Attorneys Close & Johnson of Oneonta Sue New York Times

Sheldon J. Close and John G. Johnson, well known attorneys at Oneonta, have commenced proceedings against the New York Times Company for libel according to the Oneonta Star, it being their contention that during December, 1921, the New York Times, a newspaper published by that corporation, printed an article containing reflections upon the manner in which the attorneys conducted the defense of George Brazee, who was acquitted of the murder of Anna Van Patten at Elk Creek, Otsego county, on August 8, 1920. The article was held for publication by each of the attorneys, who are being represented in the actions by Attorney Lincoln L. Kellogg of Oneonta. The newspaper complaint was served on the secretary of the New York Times Company on January 4, but no answer had yet been received. The case would ordinarily come to trial in Otsego county at a term of supreme court. The contention of the attorneys are that at the October, 1920, session of the supreme court, then sitting at Cooperstown, Justice Tuttle assigned Messrs. Close and Johnson to defend Brazee, under an indictment on the murder charge. They said James J. Byrd of Cooperstown, conducted the case throughout the trial, which ended on March 14, 1921, a verdict of murder in the first degree being rendered. The case was carried to the court of appeals and that court sustaining the decision of the trial court, a plea of executive clemency was made to Governor Miller.

During December, 1921, the New York Times published in a column one place in the paper, an article in which it stated that Johnson and Close had neglected the interests of Brazee during the trial. It also stated that "after this" Brazee retained Mr. Byrd, "who fought to the last day to save the life of his client." As a matter of fact, Mr. Byrd was one of the attorneys for the defense throughout the trial. The contention of the complainants is that the article cast a reflection upon their ability and integrity in the defense of their client. Naturally jealous of personal and legal reputation, Johnson and Close have instituted the suits, the progress of which will be followed with keen interest from our full and fervent supporters. We'd like to see some Balkan shiver. The well-known word to observe And hear the loud Springfield Union.

"Your big brother is rather shiftless, isn't he?" "No, he isn't," replied Johnson. "He does lots of shifting. Every time he is asked to do anything he shifts it onto me." — Boston Transcript.

"Margy, I don't understand baseball at all, do you?" "No, I don't understand it either," replied Johnson. "Everything is decided by a man they call the 'vampire'." — South Bend Tribune.

Serving Sentence For Animal Cruelty

Oneonta Man Arrested After Three Months Chase Now in County Jail

Jacob Ziminger of Oneonta is serving a term of 30 days in the Cooperstown jail as a result of his inhuman treatment of his horse about three months ago. The man was arrested Wednesday by State Troopers and taken here for trial. Justice Hitt at Unadilla imposed the sentence.

Ziminger possessed an old and decrepit horse which he used on various jobs which he undertook as a day laborer. Ziminger was driving near Cooperstown about three months ago when the horse stumbled and fell. The animal was too weak to get up and the heartless driver declined to relieve his misery and left it by the roadside to die. The horse lay where it fell for three days slowly starving to death. The matter was reported to Mrs. W. E. Hyde of Cooperstown, county agent for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and she after seeing that the horse was killed, had a warrant issued by Justice Hitt for Ziminger's arrest. The case was put in the hands of the state police at Unadilla.

For three months the troopers tracked Ziminger through half a county. He was probably trying to dodge arrest but his work took him from place to place and the police were always a town or two behind him. Wednesday he was located at home, 12 West Broadway in Oneonta and Sergeant Hopkins and Trooper Dutcher arrested him and brought him to the county jail. Justice Hitt gave him the option of paying a \$30 fine or spending 30 days in the county jail. Ziminger was arrested on the charge of being a vagrant and was taken to the county jail. Sheriff Williams, who took him to the county seat.

Getting Ready to Collect Income Tax

Forms Will Be Ready For Distribution This Week or Next

District Director Fred J. Graff of Utica is in Albany this week at a conference of officials of the State Income Tax bureau to put in smooth running order the machinery for the collection of the 1921 tax. The Bureau reports its suggestion of some weeks ago that taxpayers whose 1919 returns were affected by the 1919 retroactive law, and who in the Klauber case, should file claims for refund. The opinion permitted by the retroactive law is that if they want prompt relief, they should file their 1919 returns as if they were for 1920. The Bureau provides for the re-examination of the 1919 returns and the refunding in proportion to the retroactive law. The retroactive law is the decision in the Klauber case.

Committed Suicide At Fly Creek

Body of Antonio Mazroczek Found Floating in Lake

Antonio Mazroczek, an Austrian 44 years of age, committed suicide by hanging near Fly Creek, sometime between Friday evening, when he left the home of a friend and Saturday morning when his lifeless body was found floating in the water. Dr. Floyd J. Atwell conducted an investigation by direction of Coroner N. W. Getman of Oneonta and a verdict of suicide was announced when it was discovered that the footprints of only one man led to the tree. Mazroczek came from New York on Thursday, accompanied by another Austrian, a friend who recently had been in the prison at Albany. On Friday evening he went out for a walk and when he failed to return the family conducted a search but could find no trace of him. The body was found hanging to a tree on the farm Saturday morning. The body has been shipped to Philadelphia where he has four children living. The man's wife died about two years ago and it is understood that he has been in poor health since that time.

Would Exempt Ex-Soldiers from Income Tax

A bill designed to exempt former soldiers from the provisions of the state income tax law was introduced in the legislature Monday by Assemblyman Michael E. Reifman, Democrat of Oneonta.

Under its provisions, single men who saw service in the World War would not be subject to the tax. Married men would receive exemption on incomes up to \$4,000.

DeGroat Taken to Cooperstown Jail

D. C. DeGroat, who has been held in custody at Oneonta since Friday, was taken to Cooperstown Monday afternoon to await the action of the grand jury in the first degree murder case of the late Mrs. DeGroat.

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New Board Met To Organize

J. D. Beardslee is Chairman of Supervisors' Committees Appointed

Board in Two Day Session Completes Organization and Votes Big Bond Issue

The 1922 Board of Supervisors with the membership as announced in our last issue met at Cooperstown last Wednesday and Thursday for the purpose of organization and to transact some important matters of business. With the exception of Mr. Haight of Milford, who was reported as being absent, the entire Board was present and the roll called. At the completion of the roll call, J. D. Beardslee, Republican of Prittsfield, was elected chairman. This resulted in fifteen votes being cast for J. D. Beardslee, Republican of Prittsfield, and M. M. DeGroat, Democrat of Laurens, Mr. Beardslee being there by declared elected. Mr. Hand then moved that the Board be organized and the motion was carried.

Mr. Whipple next moved for a resolution to the effect that the Board be organized and the motion was carried. Mr. Whipple, newly appointed county attorney and former clerk, was unanimously elected to continue in the office. Mr. Beardslee and Mr. Kilkeny each made a few brief remarks, thanks for the honor and the Board respectively, appointments, and assured the members that they would strive assiduously during the coming year to do the best for the county. In justification of the confidence reposed in them.

The only matter of business brought up was a request from the Democratic members to change the designation made to the Oneonta Press to print the concurrent proceedings of the Board for 1922.

On Thursday morning the list of standing committees for 1922 was read and the following appointments to the twenty-eight such committees:

Board of Assessment — Bates, Campbell, Sawyer.
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Richfield Spa. Man Killed by Fast Train

Thought Coming Train was that Which Was to Take Him to New York Used Tracks Instead of Subway

Vito Montemurro hesitated for a moment in front of the Lake Shore Express train at Richfield last Thursday night and was killed two hundred feet from his death by the heavy train running 40 miles an hour on the main line through the village.

Montemurro, who resided in Richfield Springs, where he conducted a wholesale wine, ale and cigar store, was about to leave for New York, and was to have taken a train due 10 minutes after the passing of the Lake Shore Express. Montemurro, standing on the north side of the tracks, saw the fast train coming, mistook it for his and attempted to cross to the south side of the tracks, although the crossing gates had been lowered. As he reached the center of the tracks, the fast train was running. Montemurro hesitated a minute before the locomotive caught his body. He had continued onward, eye witness think he might have crossed safely. Reports to the effect that persons called to Montemurro and caused him to halt a minute were heard shortly after the accident.

Coroner J. W. Graves was called to John Campbell's undertaking parlors, where the body was taken and examined the remains. After a half hour of hard work he communicated with the relatives, a wife and four children, by telegraphing.

The injuries which caused Montemurro's death were a torn skull, a broken punctured lung, a broken leg, broken arms and a broken neck.

The body was taken to the home of his wife, Mrs. M. M. DeGroat, who was carrying a ticket to New York City, purchased a few minutes before the accident. The family has moderate amounts in several banks.

Car Overtaken at Hartwick Seminary

Captain William Harrison and Three Other Men Have Fortunate Escape From Injury

Captain William Harrison of the Salvation Army, and three other men, had a fortunate escape from injury last Friday night when their car was overtaken by a motor car while riding overtaken completely. The men were able to free themselves, however, and escaped from the car.

The four men, Captain Harrison, Charles Bell and Warren and William, were on their way to the seminary on a trip to Fort Plain. Captain Harrison's car, owing to the icy condition of the road, Captain Harrison had to stop. The motor car, which was carrying a number of passengers, was traveling at a high speed and struck the rear of the car. The car was overturned and the men were thrown out. The motor car driver was killed and the car was completely smashed.

The men, who were but slightly injured, crawled out through one of the doors and phoned to Oneonta for assistance.

Veteran Commended For Important Service

Grover Bestwick of Cooperstown Junction Receives Divisional Citation for Gallantry in Action

Grover Bestwick of Cooperstown Junction, a veteran of the World War, has just received from United States army headquarters a citation of honor signed by Major General O'Ryan for gallant service during the battle of which Bestwick was a member. He has also received word that he is to receive a military decoration from the French government.

The following extract from the citation indicates the nature of the heroic conduct which merited the recognition:

"The following named soldier is commended for the meritorious services rendered during the battle of Grover Bestwick, Headquarters company, 106th Field Artillery. For gallantry in action in remaining on constant duty for 48 hours, maintaining telephone connections between the battalion headquarters and the advance observation post of the battalion during the attack of September 26, 1918, at Chateau court, France."

January Milk Prices Changed

Reduction Has Been Made as the Result of Unsatisfactory Market Conditions

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors held in Utica on December twenty-first and twenty-second, it was voted by the Board to offer the milk for sale to the teachers at the same prices as had prevailed in December; that is, class 1, \$8.87 and class 2, \$2.25.

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One Hundred Years Ago

FROM THE FILES OF THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL

Naval engagement—A singular affair, which resulted in a capture has taken place between the United States schooner, Alligator, Cap. Stockton, and a Portuguese ship, the Mariana, bound from Bahia to London.

Married—In this village, on Monday evening last, by the Rev. Mr. Tiffany, Lt. Col. Augustus Rogers to Miss Eliza Boden.

All persons indebted to the subscriber, either upon Note or Book Account, are requested to make immediate payment to George A. Starkweather, (at the office of Samuel Starkweather, Esq., in Cooperstown), who is duly authorized to settle and collect the same.

The Next President—How many political horses are destined to run for the presidential plate, is more than we can determine from present appearances. A number of races are to be brought at an early hour upon the turf. But hush—we must not reveal the secrets of the turf; let the proud animal be announced hereafter. There is, says Shakespeare, a noble lustre in those eyes.

More About the Spread of Jaundice

Strange Disease is Appearing in Several Parts of the State

Since our last issue in which we mentioned the number of jaundice cases at Bowers town, our exchanges have been bringing daily information about the same situation in other parts of the state.

The situation is serious may be gathered from the fact that the full season of the disease in the state is now being investigated by the health department of the State. The health Commissioner Herman M. Biggs, has asked every physician in the state to telephone or telegraph information concerning any unusual prevalence of jaundice in his practice.

An odd feature of the situation is the fact that in all localities where the disease has been reported, it has been noticed that rats and mice have been seen in unusual numbers.

The disease which is sometimes mistaken for influenza, is characterized in most cases by a sudden onset with headache, fever (often 103 degrees or more), vomiting, diarrhea and pronounced gastro-intestinal disturbance. Jaundice rapidly develops, accompanied by marked itching. Nervous manifestations, dizziness and persistent hiccough have also been recognized and in some cases the kidneys were affected to a number of cases. The disease is somewhat prolonged convalescence, marked by silliness of the flesh and loss of strength.

Local outbreaks of this disease suspected to be epidemic jaundice had attracted the attention of the health department as early as April 1920, and a more definite outbreak was reported in Otsego county in January, 1921, and since that time there has been an active campaign to identify the disease and especially to trace its connection with the rat.

In one town in St. Lawrence county, six cases occurred among eighteen children attending school. The report of the sanitary inspector showed that all children in the school at the school house and that the entire neighborhood had been rat infested since the summer.

Pending complete investigation of the causes of the disease, the health department is warning to householders to protect food from rats or mice. Cold meats, butter, sugar, lettuce and other foods to be eaten uncooked should be kept covered as much as possible, he said.

The disease appeared frequently in the trenches during the World War, the department statement said. It is prevalent in Japan, where the mortality is much greater than in any other part of the world. No fatalities have been reported among the several hundred cases that have come to the attention of the health department.

Dairymen's League At New Berlin

Work has commenced on the creamery now owned and operated by the Dairymen's League Cooperative association.

At this station into a fine building capable of handling all the milk output of this section—New Berlin Gazette.

Bloomfield Heads Health Committee

Senator W. H. Gibbs of Erie was named chairman of the senate committee on the affairs of cities by Majority Leader Lusk Monday, succeeding John E. Sullivan of Monroe, resigned. Senator Allen J. Bloomfield of Otsego succeeds Senator Gibbs as chairman of the committee on public health.

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