

ATLANTIC COUNTY RECORD.

(MAY'S LANDING RECORD.)

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E. C. SHANER, Editor and Publisher.

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MAY'S LANDING, N. J., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1908.

The people of New Jersey have always been favorable to the building and loan idea, and as a result the greater number of permanent residents own their homes. When a man owns his home in any municipality he is certain to take more active interest in the affairs of the community than if he lives in rented property. Through the medium of the building and loan associations many dependent upon a stated income for their living expenses have been able to acquire homes by paying sums but slightly in excess of the amount they would otherwise have paid monthly for rent. The matter of purchasing a home is at no time an easy one for the man working for a salary, and it often requires considerable self-denial to meet the necessary payments; but in the long run he who makes these sacrifices is amply rewarded. To own his home impels the citizen to an interest in the government of the community in which he lives, and results in better regulation of public affairs.

Sentiment in favor of the development of both coast and inland waterways is gaining ground, and it is probable that some legislation on the subject may be enacted by Congress at an early date. Representatives of nearly all the States met at Washington recently and discussed the question. President Roosevelt, in his message to Congress, strongly recommended the project to the attention of that body, taking occasion to remark the absence of any general plan of development. Navigated as well as navigable waterways are wanted, and to secure navigation there must be some comprehensive plan of development that will bring commerce to the improved channels. New Jersey is prepared to do her part in the promotion of the scheme.

This is the season when indigent and indolent vagrants commit petty offenses and are given comfortable lodging in the County Jail. When such seek imprisonment rather than exist by honest work it seems that there must be a defect in our system of punishment. That the defect is lack of employment in the jail is generally conceded. If prisoners were forced to labor and help maintain themselves there would be fewer inmates of the prison. The institution is maintained at public expense and it would be a measure of economy to give employment to those committed thereto in order that the expense would not fall so heavily on the taxpayers and incarceration would become less pleasant to law-breakers.

One of the best managed and most successful public institutions in the State is the Training School for Feeble Minded Children at Vineland, which is accomplishing a great work among children requiring special training and care. The institution is in charge of expert teachers in this line, whose careful supervision of the work is largely responsible for its success. Under expert guidance the minds of backward children are often trained to normal standards, rendering them capable of service where else they had been public charges. Children who appear to be very backward or exceptionally lacking in comprehension should be placed in this institution whenever possible.

Railroad taxes collected by the State under the late law are not the property of the State, but of the municipalities. The assessment and collection of such taxes throughout the State is made collectively, and people are apt to be impressed by the amount without stopping to think that it is only the assessments on numerous properties which would be lost sight of in the general property assessment if made by each district. The object of this method is to prevent any unjust taxation, but the railroads are not under special tax for that reason.

The teachers of the State will meet in Atlantic City during the latter part of the month, and may take steps to secure a higher scale of salaries. The number of young men in the profession has largely decreased this year and good instructors are everywhere in demand. The present salaries, if paid twelve months in the year, would go a long way toward insuring ability in the ranks. New York and other states have long paid their teachers every month in the year.

If you can afford it Christmas, remember the poor. Standing by the store windows, gazing longingly at the beautiful toys beyond their reach, you will see many children with wistful faces. It takes but little to change those looks into one of great joy. If you can make one of those children happy do it in a kindly way; take all the element of charity or beggary out of it. Remember the true meaning of Christmas, and make the day real.

Governor Fort will have over one hundred appointments to make during the next few months, the majority with the advice and consent of the Senate. No other Governor in the Union has such an extensive patronage.

Camden contemplates a curfew law; perhaps a revival of the old custom might tend to curb increasing immorality among the youth of the communities.

Local Option is rapidly losing ground throughout the State, not because of lack of support, but because the people do not want it. There is little likelihood that any legislation will be enacted on the question at the next session of the Legislature. The only idea that seems to be gaining ground at present is one favoring higher license fees, which would probably lessen the number of saloons but be productive of better regulated excise conditions. There are only a few Legislators who favor Local Option. The others are largely divided over the excise question, and out of such confusion it is not probable that there will be any legislation this Winter.

The growth of automobile travel has given a great impetus to the development of our good roads system and thus has been instrumental in working good for the farmers, however much they may have benefited for speeding and other violations for the law. Even progressive farmers are now resorting to their use on the farm and for marketing their product. Objections to the machine are growing less, and while it will never supersede the horse in many fields, it will be utilized on the farm in the future to a much greater extent than at present.

The January panel of petit jurors has been drawn and the Courts will soon resume their sessions. Law-breakers will be meted their just punishment and tangled business affairs judicially adjusted. There will probably be fewer minor criminal cases than usual owing to the action of the late Grand Jury recommending their settlement in the Recorder's Court.

President Roosevelt is not losing interest in the administration with its nearing end; on the contrary.

STATE PRESS COMMENT.

"The report of the State Excise Commission to Governor Fort is a lengthy document, and makes two more recommendations for the consideration of the Executive which he will probably discuss in his coming message to the Legislature. Among the most important relates to the limiting hereafter of saloons, one bar-room to five hundred inhabitants, the object being to reduce the number gradually. Another recommendation is that the minimum license fee in all cities of more than fifteen thousand inhabitants shall be \$1,000 and in smaller municipalities the fee to \$50. There is a wide disparity in that position, which suggests that the fee might be advantageously graded. Plainfield, with eighteen thousand population, finds the \$1,000 fee profitable in every way, and no doubt all cities having populations in excess of fifteen thousand would also find it of great advantage in regulation of the business and limiting the temptation to cultivate the drink habit. Another proposition of the committee is that Excise Commissioners shall be elective every three years, three members to a board, who shall have power to fix the fee anywhere above the minimum fee and to restrict territory. Camden now elects its Excise Commission of five members, but it is doubtful if they are as efficient as the appointive boards in other cities. But the proposition is construed to be really local option, because it would mean that the people of the cities could elect a board unfavorable to license and put the license fee at such a high figure as to make it impossible for few if any applicants to pay it. That feature, of course, would cause dismay among the saloon men of any of the cities having over fifty thousand inhabitants, although in smaller municipalities it might not be generally acceptable. The recommendations in the report, in the main, will not strike the average citizen as pointing the way to regulate the liquor trade."—Camden Daily Courier.

"While the State Excise Commission has undoubtedly made a painstaking and conscientious investigation of the liquor traffic and saloon conditions, yet it is doubtful if the Legislature will be greatly influenced by its report. The trouble is that the excise question is a dangerous thing to play with and the legislators are, as a rule, afraid of burning their fingers on it. At the same time the need of certain reforms is so manifest that it seems as if something would have to be done. Whether this "something" will take the shape of a county excise board appointed by the Governor, or a general increase of the license fee, or both, remains to be seen. "The State Commission found very little demand for open saloons on Sunday. Only two officials—Mayor Hauselling, of Newark, and Mayor Stoy, of Atlantic City—testified that they believed the people of their cities would support Sunday saloons and their statements were disputed by other witnesses from those cities. Even in Jersey City the police officials declared that if left to them the people would vote against Sunday opening. The testimony adduced also shows that in most of the cities visited those in charge of the government favored fewer saloons and an increase in the license fee. The brewers, it was found, had more to do with the government of many municipalities than the citizens themselves. The commissioners also discovered that prohibition does not prohibit, the only difference being that where the saloons were wiped out the sale of liquor was increased in drug stores or speak-easies, and it was probably for this reason that the commissioners gave little space in their report to local option or prohibition, feeling that regulation is the only just way of dealing with the liquor traffic."—West Jersey Press.

"We have never doubted that the Civil Service Act would be attached in the courts on the question of its constitutionality. The striking thing is that the attack has been so long delayed. A content in Essex County, over possession of certain county offices, however, brings the issue to a legal head.

"Two years ago the Democrats secured control of the Essex County Board of Freeholders. Last Winter, the Democratic leaders in Essex, having fired out of office every Republican they could reach, saw a chance to retain the jobs against the inevitable return of the Republicans to control of the county board, and the Civil Service Act was accepted. The Republicans came back into power this Fall. They proceeded to elect Republicans to supplant the Democratic officials, but the latter claim protection under Civil Service rules. There you have the issue.

"The Republican County Counsel says: 'An issue will no doubt be framed, and we will get an opportunity to test the validity of the Civil Service Act. It will be seen, if the matter is taken into the courts, whether or not it is constitutional. There certainly appears to be something wrong about it, as even the commissioners themselves appear to be in doubt about the constitutionality.'

"The issue will not be unwelcome to friends of Civil Service. They can use the fact of a suit to determine the constitutionality of the Act as an argument against consideration of any bills changing the Act. In view of long opposition to Civil Service, its friends will probably be content to "stand pat" until a court decision is rendered."—Camden Post-Telegram.

"The State Excise Commissioners have directly declared in their report to the Governor that they favored the legalizing of Sunday sales of wines and liquors to bona fide guests. Every licensed place must have ten rooms in order to have the right to sell. Saloons are barred. This condition will be acceptable to many license holders of Atlantic City. Such a law would be an entering wedge for a liberal Sunday. The Commissioners believe that all licensed places should be closed until one o'clock, and after that hour they could be publicly opened. This is the contention Atlantic City has raised. Atlantic City, in its way has been fighting its own battle, and incidentally the battle of all the resorts of the coast. The Commission's report is inclined to extend the privilege to all sections of the State, and not only to resorts. The coast of New Jersey is still capable of being developed and through its development, millions in value will be added to the wealth of the State and its citizens. The Jersey coast by natural location is the seashore playground of the nation. The visitors seek the shore for freedom and recreation and pleasure, and it is no more than a realization of the rights of the visitors that the State should extend to them the liberty they seek in regard to what they desire in the way of refreshments upon any day in the week. The report meets the conditions that were presented by the investigation, and it should be adopted as the judgment of minds made competent by investigation and recommendations that should be influential enough to command the confidence of the Legislature."—Atlantic City Review.

"During the past year, despite the financial panic, there was a notable increase in the number of stockholders in the principal railroads. The case of the Pennsylvania Railroad is a striking example of this fact. Last year, the number of shareholders was 52,622, but at present the number is 54,750.

"The number of women stockholders increased 10.24 per cent. during the past twelve months, showing how largely persons of moderate means and little fortune are coming into the class of wealthy ones. These people had their interest sent to them by mail a few days ago, and the total amount was \$1,477,280. The New York, New Haven and Hartford also announces an increase in the number of its stockholders during the past year.

"The same high rate of increase is also shown by many of the leading industrial corporations. These facts serve to show how very large a portion of our people may be affected by adverse national or state legislation, and how important it is that legislation affecting these corporate interests should be most carefully considered before being enacted."—Trenton State Gazette.

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- 600-525 Bartlett Building, Atlantic City, N. J.

LEGAL.

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the account of the subscriber, as Executor of the estate of Frank Thirion, deceased, will be audited as stated by the Surrogate and reported as settlement to the Orphans' Court of Atlantic County, on Tuesday, the twelfth day of January, 1907.

ROBERT PRASCH, Executor
Dated December 12th, A. D., 1908.

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the account of the distribution of the estate of the late Hannah B. Ireland, deceased, will be audited and stated by the Surrogate and reported to the settlement to the Orphans' Court of Atlantic County, on Tuesday, the twelfth day of January, next.

HENRY C. THOMAS, Executor

Dated December 12th, A. D., 1868.
NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT.
 Notice is hereby given that the account
 the subscribers, as Executors of the estate
 Theodora Franke, deceased, will be audited
 stated by the Sturgate and reported for
 A. to the Orphans' Court of Alameda
 County, on Tuesday, the twelfth day of Jan-
 ary, next.
 GODFREY FRANKS,
 EMMA FRANKS,
 Executors.
 Dated December 12th, A. D., 1868.

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT.
Notice is hereby given that the account of the subscriber as Administrator of the estate of Frederick Bork deceased, will be audited and stated by the Surrogate and reported to the Orphans Court of Albany County, on Tuesday, the twelfth day of January, next.
JOSEPHINE G. BORK,
Administrator.

Dated December 12th, A. D. 1895.

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the account of the subscriber, as Administrator of the estate of Elizabeth A. Naylor, deceased, will be audited and stated by the Surrogate and reported for settlement to the Orphans' Court of Atlantic County, on Tuesday, the twelfth of January, next.

OLIVERT T. BOWLING, Administrator.
Dated December 12th, A. D., 1905.

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the account of the subscriber, as Administrator of the estate of

of Joseph E. McKee, deceased, with the said
and dated by the Surrogate and his
settlement to the Orphan's Court, of the said
County, on Tuesday, the twelfth day of
January, next.

