

Saint Mary's Beacon
COUNTY NEWS.

Lenten Services.

St. Andrew's Parish: Every Wednesday and Friday at 8.30 p. m. evening with Lenten and letters on some religious subject, at St. Peter's Chapel, Leonardtown.

St. Mary's Civil List.

The Governor has dominated to the Senate the following civil list for St. Mary's county:

Justices of the Peace—James Rock, Richard M. Atell, William A. W. Clark, John Shadrick, Charles A. Watts, Joseph F. Morgan, John F. Duke, Vincent Camaleri, Philip H. J. Readmond, George R. Sive, Henry Waring, Thomas M. Carpenter, Albert S. Beale, George W. Burroughs, James T. Milburn, Henry C. Adams, William T. Bailey, E. R. Evans, Peter Spalding, Thomas C. Greenwell, Edward A. Burch, Martin L. Hammett, George F. Cullison, Joseph Robrecht.

Registration Officers—Wallace Dunbar, Robert J. Beas, Giles F. Dyer, George R. Garner, Joseph H. Jones, John E. Raley, James T. Blair, John A. B. Sherman, Henry F. Smallwood.

School Commissioner—J. Frank Bohanan.

Supervisors of Election—J. Frank Smith, Bennett R. Abell, James A. Tension.

Leonardtown Local. (From our Regular Correspondent.)

8 a. m. 10th February, '94, Spring like weather prevails.

Farmers and truckers are making fair progress, the former grubbing, cutting briars, etc., and the latter paying close attention to their hot beds of tomatoes, cabbage and sweet potatoes. Gardens are being put in tip-top order with the view of an early planting.

Railroad gentlemen have been down this week recently making promises as formerly and the credulous, with mouths open, are ready to swallow every word told them. It is the old, old tale, i. e., we are going to have railway facilities, in an incredibly short while. Alas! for the short-sightedness of mortal beings.

Our highways are in a miserable condition at present. Messrs. Tension, Turner and Combs will please make a note of this fact, so that whenever the Spring commences they may know what to do for us down here in St. Inigo's. We are somewhat acquainted with the complexity of the machinery which operates the Court, and we make due allowance for shortcomings at this time. Officers-holders generally are compelled to accommodate themselves to the peculiar whims and fancies of those who place them in their respective positions.

Schools are largely attended and teachers are trying to discharge their duty, which is commendable in them. Their position is certainly not of the sinecure type.

AZZANA. [COMMUNICATED.]

Editors of the BEACON: I send you an extract cut from the *Spies and Intelligence* of this country, Harford, showing how the rich gaming clubs have little by little, monopolized not only the best ducking shores, but are getting control of the entire rivers. This colored man, Plummer Godwin, supplied this town, Bel Air with fine rock, white and yellow brick, pipe and other fish all through the open weather of Winter and early Spring, taken from Bush river, which is fully a mile wide. But upon the plea that he disturbed the ducks while feeding and maybe deprived these clubs of some sport, which is doubtful, they break him up in his lawful business and deprive the citizens of this town of the fruit of his labor by a law passed for the special benefit of these rich, favored ducking clubs and not for the people of the county. Now, our citizens have no right to the water and cannot kill a duck anywhere except on the Havre de Grace flats, for which they must first take out a license.

Just so, Messrs. Editors will be with the citizens of St. Mary's when the oyster beds are leased out, then slowly perhaps, but surely, will the shores and rivers, yes, every place that can raise oysters, be finally leased—and the time will then come when they will be debared from taking oysters from any and all the waters of the county, and enactments will be made to protect the lessees in their encroachments upon the rights of the citizens of St. Mary's just as have been done for the ducking clubs of this county.

Truly &c. BAZZ SMITH.

DUCKERS AGAINST FISHERMEN.—A test case was tried before Justice Penning by a gun club composed of residents of Bush River Neck, in the vicinity of Old Baltimore. The case on the docket was Jay F. Tower vs. Plummer Godwin, colored. The charge was illegally fishing with gill-nets anchored in Bush river, contrary to section 121 of Public Local Laws, article 13. The sportman vs. the fishermen drive the ducks from the feeding grounds. Godwin was fined \$20 and costs, the lowest penalty. The prosecutors paid the fine, but insist that in the future the law shall be enforced.

A New Cure for Rheumatism. Joseph V. Dory, of Warsaw, Ill., was troubled with rheumatism and tried a number of different remedies, but says none of them seemed to do him any good; but finally he got hold of one that speedily cured him. He was much pleased with it, and felt sure that others similarly afflicted would like to know what the remedy was that cured him. He states for the benefit of the public that it is called Chamberlain's Pain Balm. For sale by Wm. F. Greenwell & Son, Leonardtown, Md.

We Want No Change.

Two years ago a commission was appointed to investigate the present mode of apportioning the State school tax to the various counties. The claim has been made for years that there were and are inequalities in the distribution. The method prevailing is to distribute the colored fund according to the colored school population in the respective counties, and the white fund according to the total of both white and colored school population. Thus, it is claimed, the white schools of Southern Maryland and part of the Eastern Shore, having the colored element to increase their share of the funds under the present system of apportionment, get more for their white schools proportionately than northern and western counties where the colored population is sparse. On the other hand it is claimed that the burden of a large colored population, largely non-tax paying; extra local provisions and expense for this population; small bases of taxation rendering high tax rates necessary, all entitle the counties of lower Maryland to all at present received, and more.

The commission as already stated, is composed of John T. Morris, president; Robert Schriver, secretary; J. C. Magruder, R. C. Mackall and George M. Uphar. Messrs. Morris, Schriver and Mackall, unite in a majority report suggesting changes in the present law. Messrs. Uphar and Magruder sign a minority report opposing any change in the present method of distribution.

The changes recommended by the majority are, mainly apportionment to white schools according to white population only and upon the basis of an annual enumeration of pupils in schools; the making of county school tax rates always at least as great as the State school tax rate; the lengthening of the school year to seven and one half months in the counties where schools are kept open now for a shorter period, additional aid to be given by the State to such counties as are unable to bear the necessary expense; a fixed average of teachers' salaries for the State, approved by the State Board of Education; the placing of the expenses of building furnishing and repairing school houses on the counties.

The dissenting minority claim injustice to the poorer counties under the contemplated changes, and the fact that while Baltimore city would be the greatest gainer by the new plan she does not ask for it, but on the contrary Mr. H. A. Wise, Superintendent of the public schools of that city, a school man of national reputation, opposes any change in the present system of distribution and says: "It would be unwise, if not unjust, to make the apportionment on the bases of either enrollment or the average attendance. In short, after making numerous calculations upon different bases, we are unable to suggest any plan for general application better than the present plan."

This is the unbiased opinion of a man who has given much study to the problem which a Legislative commission was asked to solve and which they have failed to agree upon. The Legislature will act wisely if it lets the matter remain as it is.

To Messrs. Uphar and Magruder, who have so clearly shown in their minority report that no changes are needed, is due the thanks of the Eastern Shore and of the Southern Maryland counties for opposing the perpetration of an injustice which would work such a serious loss to their public schools.—*Marlborough Gazette*

Localwise and Otherwise. Did you get a valentine? As a reliable "weather-wise" the ground-hog is away ahead of all competitors.

According to our exchanges the fat just now seems to be "checker playing." It is endemic here in a mild form.

Miss Elizabeth Ford, of Patuxent, and Miss Ella Herbert, of St. Clement's Bay, are visiting friends in Leonardtown.

Carpenters are at work repairing the stables of Ching's Hotel, this village. Mr. Joseph H. Milburn has the job in charge.

The Brittan's Neck Farmer's Club will meet Saturday next, the 24th instant at Mr. John T. Johnson's. A full attendance is desired.

Mr. George H. Mattingly, of the St. Joseph's section, is the happy possessor of one hundred young chickens. Who can beat this?

Mr. John W. Williams requests us to say that he will be in Town on Tuesday, the 27th, inst., to meet all parties who have not settled their taxes.

Mr. Rebecca Fewwick, Miss Jennie Raley, Mr. Mills Hayden and Mrs. Ann E. McCully, of this district, are reported on the sick list. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

During Lent, devotions will be held at St. Aloysius Church, Leonardtown at 7 o'clock, p. m., Friday, consisting of Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The schooner "Maggie Clark," William Jenkins, captain, Harry Jones, first officer and Milton Jones, second mate, left Leonardtown Monday morning last for a cruise on the Potomac.

During the hearing of the Charles county contest case before the Senate elections committee there was a personal encounter between Colonel L. Allison Wilmer and ex-Judge Magruder, counsel in the case. Col. Wilmer knocked the ex-Judge down.

The meeting called by Senator Wilkinson for Saturday last was fairly well attended, and the non-taxpayers, however, we believe, outnumbered the taxpayers. The meeting determined nothing and was a general exhibition of ill temper.

Mr. John G. Briscoe, died in Baltimore on Sunday last in the 62nd year of his age. He was born in this county. Mr. Briscoe was a private in the First Maryland Confederate Artillery. Ex-Secretary of State, James T. Briscoe, is his brother, and Judge John P. Briscoe is his nephew.

St. Mary's people are by no means a unit on the re-assignment. Some of them argue that a new assessment would cost our county at least \$5,000 and could not result in adding more than \$200,000 to the basis, and some even claim that it would decrease the basis.

We are much indebted to Congressman Compton for the interest he has taken to secure better mail facilities for our town. We are now receiving our mail before 4 p. m., whereas under the old arrangement it did not reach here before 7 in the evening. Many thanks!

While oystering on Tuesday last George Neale, colored, tonged up a half pint flask filled with "cocktails." The flask had been in the water long enough for a barnacle to form on it. It was sampled by some of the tongers, who said it had gained strength by contact with the bottom of the bay.

The St. Mary's Railroad and Telephone projects like the ground-hog have come out of their holes and, unlike him, we hope will stay out. We are pinning for the time when a locomotive will locomote over our road bed and Leonardtown may "sing" La Plata over a phone.

Mr. Giles F. Dyer, of Motley's Neck, has returned to him by Dr. Samuel Wagman, of Washington, a memorandum book and papers which were lost eleven years ago. Mr. Dyer's name and address were in the book and thus Dr. Wagman was enabled to restore it to the owner.

March Court is coming apace and we hope our subscribers by that time will try and save up enough to pay part at least of their little bills. During the past year we have largely subsisted upon glory and, while it pains us to acknowledge the fact, we must confess that we have lost flesh on the diet. Give us something more substantial and we will try and grow bigger.

We have heard of many commendations of *Inoginitis* card published in last week's BEACON and of some who seemed to derive pleasure from his slight strictures upon the county papers. We have yet to hear, however, of any one coming forward and offering to put up a few hundred dollars to start the canning establishment "*Inoginitis*" suggests. Here is an opportunity for some of our capitalists to distinguish themselves. Don't be bashful!

Dr. Thomas I. Franklin, now between 70 and 80 years, is called the model farmer of West River. He has a place for everything and everything in its place. Every field has its barn and everything that grows, feeds and catulates that field finds shelter in that barn, which saves much time in hauling and attention to stock. He fertilizes well, keeps large flocks of sheep, has made money in farming, and is without one of the best informed of the county.—*Morning Herald*. Dr. Franklin formerly resided in St. Mary's and married a sister of Hon. B. G. Harris.

His Excellency, the President—DEAR SIR:—As the time is near at hand when the term of the Naval officer in Baltimore will expire and his successor will be appointed, I beg leave to say that I am an applicant for that position. Being unwilling to trouble your Excellency in the matter, I filed my application March last (nearly a year ago) with the Secretary of the Treasury, who has control of the affairs of that office. I was an applicant in 1885 for the same place, but Mr. Freeman Basin, of Baltimore, was preferred. I filed on the occasion some valuable recommendations, such as ex-Gov. Graham's, Hon. Samuel J. Randall's, with others which have been in my memory, but I presume they are on file in the Treasury Department. I also filed a unanimous resolution adopted by a Democratic Convention of this county strongly recommending me for the place. Knowing the habit of our Senators and Representatives to get themselves pledged to some particular local friend or interest, I have not applied to any of them for their favorable action. Indeed, one of them seems to be an applicant himself, much to the dissatisfaction, if not disgust, of our party friends in this county, and I presume elsewhere, for they cannot approve the course of a Representative of our people deserting that honorable position, in the middle of his term, in which he was expected to do full service, and turning as a combatant on some valuable recommendation, such as ex-Gov. Graham's, Hon. Samuel J. Randall's, with others which have been in my memory, but I presume they are on file in the Treasury Department. I also filed a unanimous resolution adopted by a Democratic Convention of this county strongly recommending me for the place. 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