

Saint Mary's Beacon.

LEONARDTOWN, MD.

THURSDAY Morning, March 8.

The two hundredth anniversary of the removal of the capital of Maryland from St. Mary's to Annapolis was celebrated in the latter place by a street parade, several addresses, songs and a ball.

It is said that the appointments to the Federal offices in this State will be made shortly. On the list of applicants for the position of Naval Officer is the name of our fellow countryman, Hon. Benj. G. Harris. All who know Mr. Harris can testify to his democracy and his fitness for the position. May he be remembered in the distribution of favors.

A most commendable effort is afoot to organize a fire department for Leonardtown. Our village has been very fortunate in the past, but past immunity from fire is no guaranty for the future. We need greater facilities for extinguishing fires and we hope that the property owners of the town will heartily co-operate with the young gentlemen who are seeking to fill a long felt want.

The long deferred passage of the Wilson tariff bill makes Democrats heart sick. End the suspense! Redeem the promises of the party. The people won't be hurt if they are enabled to get coal, ironware or clothes cheaper. We will wager that if a vessel load of any of these articles was landed anywhere in our county, and disposed of at free trade figures that the first people on deck would be many who clamor loudest for McKinley prices and McKinley tariff rates.

From the Baltimore papers of a few weeks past we notice that the House Committee on war claims has reported favorably a bill to pay residents of Maryland for supplies furnished the Federal Army during the civil war. In the list we see no St. Mary's names yet we are told that along the St. Mary's river and in other sections of our county much property was taken for the use of the Union forces. If any of our people have just claims they should present them.

The Proposed Assessment.

The Democratic Advocate, of the 2nd instant, contains an instructive article on the "Cost of Assessment." From it we glean that should the bill now before the House of Delegates become a law, St. Mary's would be one of the counties in which the Board of Control and Review would sit for two days in the week, beginning work on the second Tuesday in September and continuing until the third Tuesday in November.

In all the counties the boards are to have one clerk, at \$30 per day, and in Baltimore two clerks at \$50 each. The per diem of assessors is \$3.50 in the counties and \$5.00 in Baltimore.

St. Mary's is to be divided into two assessment districts with three assessors to a district, and eighty-eight days are to be allowed for their work.

Should there be no extension of time, the assessment, exclusive of room rent, advertising, books, blanks and stationery, would cost St. Mary's, \$2,000. The Advocate figures that the total cost in the city for assessment would reach about \$50,000. In the counties the extra will cost an average of \$500, and the total cost in the State without any extension of time, will be about \$130,000.

Eureka!

Mr. Frank M. Neale, agent of the Industrial Land Development Company, of New York, has been in the 8th district of our county examining the lands bordering on the Patuxent River and the Bay with a view to securing a site for a town of manufactures.

Mr. Neale is working for practical, hard-headed business men—men, with money which they wish to invest but who desire first of all to find a place where their investments will return dividends. Like all who know of St. Mary's this Development Company sees that it is a goodly country, that its lands are fair to look upon and that it has harbors capable of floating the navies of the world. Rich lands and a fine harbor are what the Company wants. It knows what it is after and when it sees it presses its willingness to pay a fair price for it and its agent is asking on the lands suitable for his company's purposes "options," or the assured privilege of buying the lands at a certain price and at a given future time. The men at the helm in this business are not dreamers, builders of air castles or cranks but are masters in the art of fortune making and shrewd investors of money in paying schemes. We hope the land owners of the section will not frighten away the enterprise seeking a habitation in our midst by fixing fancy prices upon their lands, but will demand only a fair consideration and treat with the company as they would with a neighbor seeking to deal for cash. We have known not a few instances where a desire to obtain a big price for land has been the cause of a lost opportunity to dispose of property which it was most desirable to sell. If one desires to sell, fix a price at a figure which is not so high as to drive away the prospective buyer.

Consider what benefits would result from the founding of a manufacturing town in our county such as this company is seeking to establish? In an incredibly short space of time our population would be doubled and our wealth quadrupled. Our farmers would have a market at their doors for their produce and lands that to day are idle and valueless would find work and a competency to thrive cultivators. Moreover, the parties who sell to the company would find the ready money obtained from the sale find investments in the booming town which would make their fortunes, and we would see repeated in old St. Mary's the history of success which like enterprises have told in the new South and in the great West. May success attend all and every effort to develop the resources of St. Mary's!

Farmers' Club.

Saturday, Feb. 24, 1894. The Britain's Neck Farmers' Club met at Mr. John T. Johnson's with twelve members present. The proceedings of the last meeting were read and approved. The examining committee, consisting of Messrs. J. Thos. Abell, J. C. Abell and J. J. Alvey, aged about 63 years:

We, the examining committee, have examined the farm of Mr. J. T. Johnson and find the wheat crop looking fine; tobacco well advanced in stripping; the barns are very much in need of whitewash; farm stock in fair condition; sheep and lambs numerous; house neat and comfortable. We think that pallings should be renewed and feel assured that the lady he has lately taken will see to that.

Messrs. S. A. Abell, H. Davis and B. L. Hancock were elected honorary members. Mr. S. A. Abell was nominated for active membership. The subject of tobacco was then taken up and discussed. President Yates said some grades of tobacco would not heat. He thought he could prize 1500 lbs. of his tobacco in a hoghead and it would not hurt. Mr. J. Thos. Abell read the following paper, which the members highly commended:

Gentlemen:—The question for today, the thorough conditioning of tobacco for packing, is caused by the recent order of the buyers that we should not pack more than 850 lbs. in a cask. This is of great importance to the farmers of this county. There are two different ways, if not more, which have been in use among farmers since I can remember, about 25 years. 1st, the most common way for general sorts of tobacco is to straddle it after stripping; let it hang there until entirely dry, and when it comes again in order, that is, when the outside is soft and the inside of the bundle will not break, then pack in heavy bulk, no difference as to size. I generally make them four courses wide and as long as the space in the barn will admit. Tobacco so managed will certainly keep any length of time, packed heavy or light, and so managed is very hard to bruise, if at all. The second, is for very fine tobacco, as I have seen done by the late Samuel Spalding and J. L. Abell, and last, but not least, A. Joseph, was to place sticks on poles and double row it, that is, tails just lapped on each other and heads out, and they would move these every day, handling them from one place to another until the tobacco would become hard enough to go in bulk. This is more work than common grades will pay to do, but very nice tobacco comes out with much better face if so handled. Very fine tobacco should not be prized as hard as common tobacco as it is easier to bruise. The trouble about tobacco is caused by the ignorance of the buyers' late order for heavy weights, as some farmers did not or could not take this process to condition their tobacco. They strip one day, prize the next and ship, which they can prize heavy, and which is sure to rot. The inspectors should have stayed it and made the man pay for the work he did not take time to do himself. But we will not have a good farmer or grower as inspector as long as politics rules the appointment. They cannot command enough votes for that. Now, gentlemen, it is certainly the height of ignorance for the buyers to say that pricing heavy bruises and causes the rotting, for, if after stripping, the tobacco is high when bulked and it gets warm, what does the farmer do? He goes to piling every pole and weight in the barn on top, so as to pack it as tight as can be. This order is in the interest of carriers and sellers, and against farmers and buyers, on account of freight, if he ships it out. I have tried in a short way to give my views on this question and hope you will throw out to such you may consider of no good to tobacco growers.

Another matter now agitating the minds of all is the road and bond bills that the Senator from this county is trying to pass. We tried the election of road supervisors when I was a young man, about 1857-7, and it was abandoned. I did not pay attention then to why it was done, but think it was wise, because it made small farmers go in for the place, and I think every time you start a farmer out in active politics you have ruined him nine times out of ten, and the man who gets the most votes is not always the best man to mend roads. I do not want to go backward, but advance in all things. We cannot juggle business and politics together. They are not the same properties—will not combine. The bond act is something new to us. I never thought it good to borrow money, never thought a debt a blessing to myself, and cannot see how it will be a blessing for the public. Some one more wise than I will have to tell you. But like the road law, business and politics will not work together. So long a time for the bonds to run and the change in masters every 4 or 6 years I do not think in the end it will be good to fasten this debt on those to come after us, to pay may be twice or often, because every change in men will cause a change in the investment of the bonds, therefore I am opposed to the two bills.

Mr. J. T. Johnson was requested to take charge of the club's bill. If he should become troublesome, he was authorized by the club to sell him and turn the proceeds over to the treasurer. The next meeting will be held at Mr. J. C. Abell's. Messrs. J. P. Abell, R. T. Woodburn and Geo. F. Tennison were appointed examining committee. Subject for discussion—Preparation of land and planting corn.

After partaking of refreshments a vote of thanks were tendered Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Stephen Alvey and Miss Page Alvey, who assisted the hostess, for their kindness, and the club adjourned to meet the third Saturday in March.

W. S. DAVIS, Secretary.

Arguments in the case of Wharton, involving the right claimed by Maryland to take oysters in the Virginia portion of Potomack sound, was begun in the United States Supreme Court by Thomas S. Hodson.

The most severe electrical storm in years passed over Gauleville, Texas, Sunday night, accompanied by heavy wind and rain. A large number of houses were unroofed and several overturned.

Clifford Hand, convicted at Ann Harbor, Mich., of the murder of Jay Palmer, has asked for a new trial on the ground that the evidence of the State's attorney influenced the jury.

On the 1st inst. 23 "Friendly Hall" in the 7th district. AUEL CRIGHTON, father of Mrs. A. C. Frances Palmer, aged 83 years.

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