

P. GRAY MEEK, Editor

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—Until further notice this paper will be furnished to subscribers at the following rates: Paid strictly in advance, \$1.00; Paid after expiration of year, 1.50; Paid after expiration of year, 2.00.

Williamsport Has Most Destructive Fire in Years.

The loss on Building and Contents Will Probably Reach \$75,000. George Loder's Store Wrecked—N. G. P. Companies Suffer Heavily—Firemen Work for Three Hours.

One of the most disastrous fires to occur in the business district of Williamsport in years, broke out shortly after 9 o'clock Sunday forenoon in the old Ulman opera house building, corner Market square and Market street, and raged with great fury for over three hours. The total loss is estimated at about \$75,000.

On the first floor corner the building was occupied by Michael Levi's Buffalo clothing house, and on the other side by George Loder's china and fancy goods store. The second story contained Jerry Skehan's tailoring establishment, the china department of the Loder store, and military store rooms. The entire third floor was used as the army of Companies D, G and I, Twelfth regiment, N. G. P.

The fire caused the almost complete destruction of the stocks of goods in the stores, heavy loss to the military supplies, Company G losing all its rifles, and what is believed to be an irreparable damage to the building, which is owned by Drew Tinsman.

The companies of Williamsport and South Williamsport were called to the scene and for over three hours thousands of tons of water were poured into the building until the big structure was soaked from roof to cellar.

More than 10,000 pounds of ammunition belonging to the three companies were stored in the rooms along the west side of the second floor, and when this fact became noised around there was intense excitement, but at the same time a reckless disregard of danger. Everybody seemed to be anxious to witness the explosion that did not occur.

The wreck in the Loder store is even more complete than in the Levi store. The stock of notions, books, chinaware etc., being of a much lighter nature was swept from the shelving and tables and is a total loss. In the big china room in the second floor there is scarcely a piece left whole out of a stock valued at \$4,000.

It is thought that about one-third of the property carried by Companies D, G and I, is unfit for use, entailing a loss of \$5,000. The state of Pennsylvania carries an insurance upon all of the property in the hands of the various companies of the National Guard, so that it is amply protected.

Ulman's opera house, now the property of Drew Tinsman, was built by the late Isaac Ulman in 1862. It was the first real theatre with a real stage and scenery that Williamsport ever had. It closed as a theatre in 1874, that portion of the building afterwards being converted into an armory.

Mr. Loder was notified of the destruction of his store by telegram at Boston, and reached Williamsport Monday.

Spectators Who Were Watching Exploding Oil Tanks Are Covered With the Burning Fluid at Ocean, N. Y.

At Least 30 Are Injured Seriously. More Persons May Have Perished in the Intense Heat Making an Exact Count of Bodies Being Consumed Impossible. One of the Tanks Exploded Causing the Accident.

and ambulance in the city was summoned. Grocery wagons and carriages of all kinds were pressed into service and everything possible was done to bring the injured without delay to the hospitals for treatment.

At midnight the first of the injured arrived at the hospital. They were four young boys. Their injuries were frightful. Great patches of flesh were burned off and hung in shreds from their bodies.

BRADFORD, Pa., March 9.—At 8 o'clock an extra freight train on the Erie road broke in two in the Olean, N. Y., yards. The detached parts crashed together and six tank cars containing oil caught fire. A large crowd of spectators gathered about the place to look at the flames, when an explosion occurred in one of the tanks.

Burning oil was hurled over the crowd, and the consuming heat caused many victims. The exact number is at present unknown, because the intense heat renders it impossible to reach the bodies which are being incinerated. One estimate is 15 dead and twice that number burned seriously.

Stockholders of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company Increase Its Capital Stock.

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AS TO HON. JOHN HAMILTON AND HIS NEW POSITION.—Inasmuch as there has been so much speculation as to the real nature of the federal position to which the Hon. John Hamilton, of State College, has lately been appointed by President Roosevelt the WATCHMAN devotes space to the following: It is taken from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, division of publications, and is both authentic and pertinent to the position which the former Secretary of Agriculture has been lately called to fill.

A FARMERS' INSTITUTE SPECIALIST FOR THE OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

The Secretary of Agriculture has created a new position in the office of Experiment Stations in order to bring the United States Department of Agriculture into closer touch with the great farming movement throughout the country.

DEATH OF MRS. ELIZABETH HALL REED.—Mrs. Elizabeth Hall Reed died suddenly of paralysis of the heart, on the 2nd inst., at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Fuller, wife of Dr. Fuller, of Renovo, aged 66 years.

—Mrs. Mary Foreman, who died at her home in Eagleville last Thursday night, was just about 60 years old. She was the widow of the late Henry Foreman. Her death was due largely to the effects of a fall she sustained early in the winter and from which she never recovered.

—Margaret, the infant of Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, of Collins' row, died Sunday morning, and was buried Monday morning from St. John's Catholic church.

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MRS. JULIA BROWN.—Mrs. Julia Brown, relict of the late Henry Brown, died at her home in Habelsburg early Saturday morning, after an illness of six weeks with a complication of diseases. Deceased was 65 years, 1 month and 26 days old and had spent her entire life in Nittany valley, where she was revered as a conscientious, christian woman.

INTERMENT WAS MADE IN THE UNION CEMETERY on Sunday morning, with Rev. Crow officiating. Mrs. Brown was a member of the Lutheran church at Zion.

MISS AGNES McMAHON.—Miss Agnes McMahon passed away at the home of her mother on east Bishop street, on Sunday morning, after a long illness with tubercular troubles.

DECEASED WAS A DAUGHTER OF THE late Peter McMahon and was born in Bellefonte about 26 years ago. Her mother and the following sisters and brothers survive her: Mrs. Frank Walz, Joseph, Katharine, Marge and Frank, all of this place, and George, of Pittsburgh.

—Harry C. Hutchinson, who was born in Mill Hall 44 years ago, died in St. John's hospital, Philadelphia, on Saturday morning, after a short illness of pneumonia. He was an Adams express messenger with a run from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. Deceased was a son of Robert G. Hutchinson and was well-known about Mill Hall, where he retained a home. His body was taken to the home of his sister, Mrs. W. H. H. Welsh, at Mill Hall, and interment was made at Cedar Hill on Tuesday afternoon.

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Hublersburg. Mrs. Joel Struble, of Zion, is visiting Sophia Rocky. Miss Verma Allison, of Nittany, was a guest of Nellie Rothwell, Sunday.

Mrs. Mary McCormick has gone to Altoona to visit her brother, John Love. Wharton and Ray Callahan, of Mill Hall, spent Sunday at Wm. G. Carner's.

James Rathmell has gone to Patton, where he expects to be employed for some time. Harry and John Clevenstone are confined to their home by a severe attack of la grip.

Miss Carrie Otto, a graduate of the Episcopal hospital of Germantown, is a guest at the home of L. E. Swartz.

The auditors met at Hubler's hotel, Monday and Tuesday, to transact the financial affairs of the township. Paul Carner returned home Saturday, after having spent a week at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Wm. Stiver, of Centre Hall.

The Womens Missionary society of the Reformed church of Jacksonville, met at the home of Rev. Crow, Wednesday. Refreshments were furnished by the ladies and a very pleasant day was spent.

The "Yankee Detective" played by the young people of Lamar, in town Saturday evening, was a success financially. Considering the time that was spent in practicing and that they had played it twice before it was not what it might have been, as admitted by the performers.

Prof. A. P. Weaver will open a term of school in this place, commencing April 13th, 1903, and continuing for ten weeks. Students who wish to prepare for the teaching profession or to prepare for college will find excellent opportunity to do so. Such as wish to enter the high school in the future will also find an opportunity to prepare more thoroughly.

John Breon is suffering with poison caused by a new suit of underwear. Florence Kepler returned Saturday from visiting friends in Altoona. Will Grove an employee of the Altoona shops is home for a few days off.

Former sheriff J. P. Condo was here Wednesday doing up our merchants. M. M. Smith, of Bellefonte, was one of the guests at the Jr. O. U. A. M's banquet.

Otis Corl, a Harris township farmer, will farm the Peter Louck farm next season. James McCoil will go to farming on the J. F. Ellerbe farm at Guver this spring.

Miss Agnes Oliver is very much better than she was and is now on a fair way to recovery. Amos Koch is carrying his right arm in a sling on account of a broken ligament in his shoulder.

Misses Maud Irvin and Anna Reed, of Graysville, were guests at J. A. Decker's on Saturday. William Sausserman, one of the Pennsy's trusted employees is home from Altoona for a few days rest.

Miss Mary Homan, of Oak Hall, is visiting at the home of her uncle G. W. Homan. David Louck has purchased the David Shively mansion at State College and will occupy it after April 1st. The house is of brick and in a very desirable location. Four thousand dollars was the price paid. Mr. Shively will return to his farm in Half moon valley.

A Southdown ewe belonging to Frank Black recently gave birth to a pair of lambs. One was perfectly formed, but the other one was minus its entire front part from the point where its ribs start. The back part, legs and tail were perfectly formed and of large size.

Von mer argades hega vil don gafora mere ufer darr. Un laufa haame—this will fit half a dozen young fellows who jumped the freight recently at Oak Hall to ride to Lemont; but the train made its first stop at Pleasant Gap from where they hoofed it back home about midnight.

Hon. J. W. Kepler spent Sunday with his family here. He has been so busy with his legislative duties at Harrisburg that he has had few opportunities of being home, but Mrs. Kepler and his two daughters had just returned from a visit in Philadelphia, Lancaster and Tionesta, and he wanted to welcome them and his father home.

In our last letter we mentioned the marriage of Harry B. Yarnell and Miss June Condo. They arrived home rather unexpectedly but that did not prevent the callithumpians from giving them a rousing reception. The newly married couple had retired for the night but the serenaders would not desist until they had appeared at the front door and were passed judgment upon.

Mrs. Howard Goss attended the funeral of the venerable Reuben Goss at Paintertown on Sunday. The deceased was 75 years of age and survived by his widow and four of his eight children. His death was unexpected and caused by paralysis. He was a most hospitable and genial man and had been a member of the Lutheran church since childhood. His son Howard, of this place, was not able to attend the funeral on account of sickness.

On the 24th one of the biggest sales ever offered in Centre county will be held at James G. Fortney's on the Branch. Mr. Fortney is going to stop farming and all that he has accumulated in 46 years is to be offered for sale. His blooded stock, Herford cattle, Percheron horses, Shropshire sheep and Berkshire hogs are all in fit condition to be exhibited at a fair and will bring a big crowd. He never did raise mongrel stock and his former methods are the best advertisements for his sale.

A very joyous occasion was celebrated on February the 28th at the home of grandmother Elizabeth McWilliams, in Graysville in honor of her 78th birthday. The older people, middle aged and young lassies and laddies all rallied to the affair and in consequence a very delightful time was enjoyed. A splendid dinner was served and the afternoon was spent so pleasantly that time had no reckoning. Elizabeth Sample McWilliams was born and has spent her entire life in this vicinity. Her genial disposition, kind heart and charitable Christian character has endeared her to many friends who hope that the sunset of her life may be long and peaceful.

On Thursday evening, the 27th, Tussey Council No. 515 Jr. O. U. A. M. held its ninth annual banquet in the parlors of the St. Elmo. Reed Randolph, the host, attired in his best frock coat and his wife welcomed every guest and a more cordial greeting could not have been extended. The rooms were elaborately decorated with flags and the tables were beautified with potted plants and fine china. J. H. Ward was the caterer and the tables fairly sagged under the load of good things. Miss Maud Decker presented the banner cake. The Pine Grove orchestra furnished some fine music and Cap't. Wm. H. Fry as toastmaster kept the fun going and the crowd in good humor. David Fulton, Prof. Morris and Rev. C. T. Aikens responded to toasts and the whole occasion was one of pleasure and merriment.

Pine Grove is having an epidemic of banquets. On Saturday evening, the 28th, the scholars of the Pine Grove high school feted and dined in Odd Fellows hall. On account of the inclement weather only one hundred covers were laid. Misses Bell Conley and Clara Ward catered and the menu included chicken and waffles, cake and ice cream. Miss Sadie Goss baked the class cake which was decorated with a red school house. W. H. Fry was chosen toastmaster and he appreciated the honor bestowed upon him. Toasts were responded to by O. B. Krebs, J. M. A. Decker, John L. Dunlap, Rev. C. T. Aikens and M. E. Heberling. Miss Mary Ward presided at the organ and a choir composed of the high school scholars rendered some harmonious music. Homer Decker, Emery Johnson and Mac Fry had the banquet in charge and they had an excellent program arranged which was admirably carried out.

CUPID BUSY.—On the evening of the 4th, Ralph Stover, of Pine Hall, and Miss Sarah Wright, of Stormstown, presented themselves at the parsonage where Rev. C. T. Aikens soon securely tied the knot which united them in marriage for life. The bride is the eldest daughter of Charles Wright and a very excellent young woman. The groom is the youngest son of the late Daniel Stover and is well able to keep the wolf from the door.

DAVIS-WENT.—That same evening Rev. Aikens united Miss Carrie Davis, daughter of Frank Davis, of Baileyville, and Mr. William Went in marriage. The ceremony was performed at the parsonage and the young people will make their home near Penna. Furnace where the groom is operating a saw mill.

FELTY-SHUGERTS.—On Wednesday at noon an auspicious wedding was celebrated at the home of Adam Felty when his daughter, Harriet, was united in marriage to Mr. Harry Shugerts. Rev. J. I. Stonescypher, of the Boolsburg Lutheran church performed the ceremony and only the immediate members of the family were present. The marriage was not unexpected as the groom has been Mr. Felty's right hand man for the past year and it was well known that cupid was getting in his work. The bride is well qualified for a splendid helpmate and is favorably known to a large circle of acquaintances. The newly married couple spent their honeymoon with relatives in Altoona and upon their return they will make their home at the Felty residence.