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**ADDITIONAL LOCAL NEWS.**

**MIGHT IT MEAN SOMETHING FOR BELLEFONTE.**—We do not know if the report is true, or if true what the object is, but we do know that the Pennsylvania Railroad company does not employ men to make surveys and take elevations without a purpose in view. The story that comes to us is that that company, within a few days past has had surveyors at work down about the old Nail works property doing something that looked like work that would need be done to locate new tracks or to lengthen the old ones that are there.

Possibly the report was not correct, probably the purpose suggested has less foundation in fact, and it might be that the parties seen there doing surveying and engineering work were College boys practicing for their examination in engineering. But be these reports and surmises as they may, no more joyful news to the people of Bellefonte could be given them, than that after all these years of waiting they were at last to have High street given back to the public for the purposes for which it was laid out and is kept up and that the railroads, freight, classification and storage yards that have occupied it for so many, many years were to be moved outside of the borough limits.

It may be, however, that what gives rise to the hope is the fact that within the past month the company has gone to the expense of relaying the brick between its tracks across High street and that only last week it hauled in a small car load of crushed lime stone and filled up the water puddle holes that ornamented its passenger station grounds. It is these two evidences of intended improvements, and they are about the only ones we have seen for a long time, that make some people think that the company is really waking up to its condition and needs about Bellefonte, and puts others of us to wondering if it really might mean something that would give a hope of getting High street relieved of that eternal congestion that not only hinders and delays the business of the town, but railroad traffic as well.

**ORGANIZED PROTECTION FROM FOREST FIRES.**—The meeting of timber land owners of northwestern Centre county called to be held in the court house, Bellefonte on Saturday afternoon, January 24th, has been postponed until Saturday, February 1st, at one o'clock in the afternoon, owing to the fact that those men who were selected to make addresses will be unable to come until that time. In regard to this organized movement for protection against forest fires we have received for publication the following communication as to "Why organized fire protection is especially practical for this community."

First and most important is the fact that the land owners in northwestern Centre county are awake to the value of such an organization.

The majority realize something of the tremendous losses caused by forest fires and how urgently necessary it is that active steps be taken immediately to stop this loss. When you hear our plans I believe every one will believe them to be highly practical.

Second. Our district contains in the central part of Rush township a few thousand acres of State lands which are now entirely unprotected and if ever reforested will require a system of fire protection.

We also join a large body of State lands in Burns and Snow Shoe townships and only the river at Karhuas separates us from State lands in Clearfield county. Our association will be a great aid in protecting these lands from fires.

Third. Northwestern Centre county has in spite of numerous fires a very thrifty young growth of valuable timber species. Perhaps none superior anywhere in the world.

Last spring and fall very little damage was done by fire.

Frequent rains were favorable to giving the young trees in many sections a start.

Fourth. Our district is the source of many valuable springs and streams and the water shed of the important Susquehanna and Moshannon rivers.

Fifth. It may be thought by some that much of this land is owned by coal companies who have no interest in their land except for the coal underlying. This, however, is not the attitude of many of the large coal operations, and why should it be?

They need mine material and there is no reason why they should not be receiving profits from their surface land as well as from their coal underneath.

Paper, coal and railroad companies in this community, as well as other concerns, will need the timber that northwestern Centre county will grow.

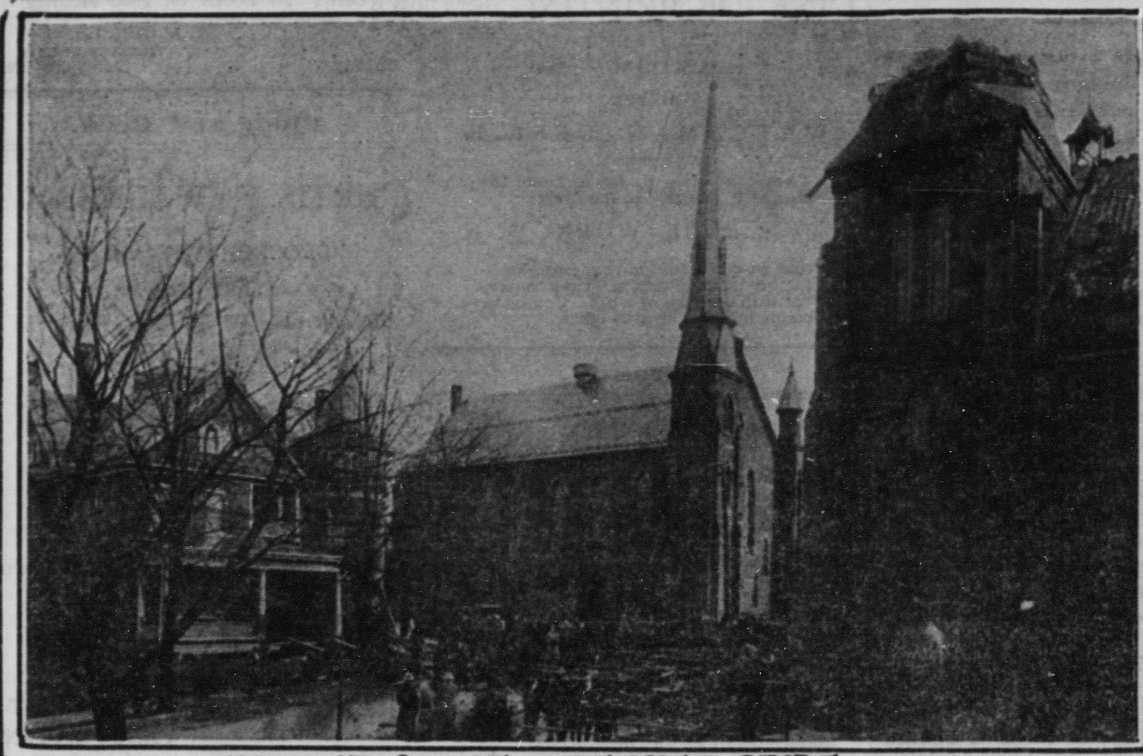
And many towns now depending almost entirely on coal mining will find the more intensive lumber industry of the future a very welcome substitute for the coal industry when coal will be exhausted.

We should most surely look out for the future of our community which will be very sadly effected when the coal is exhausted and if by any chance without protection our mountains should become bare.

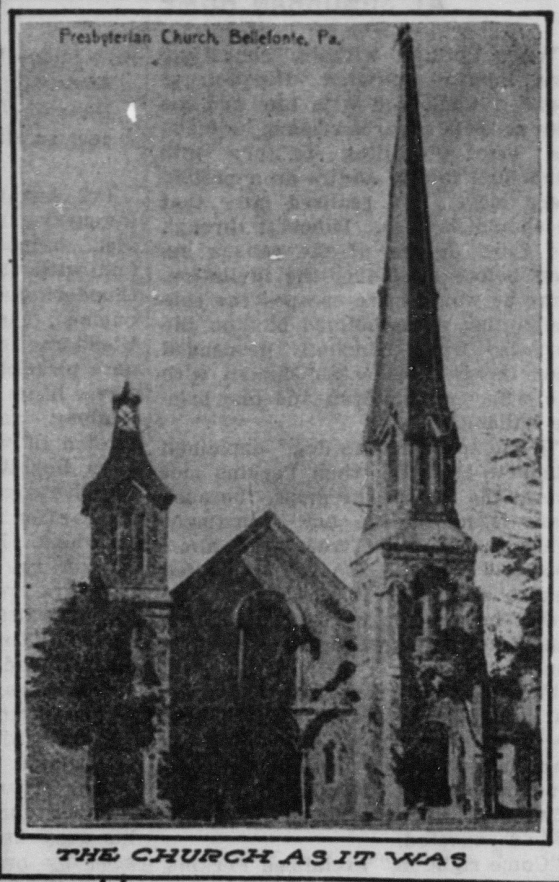
Our land is a consecutive body of timber land, most of it good for tree growing only.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

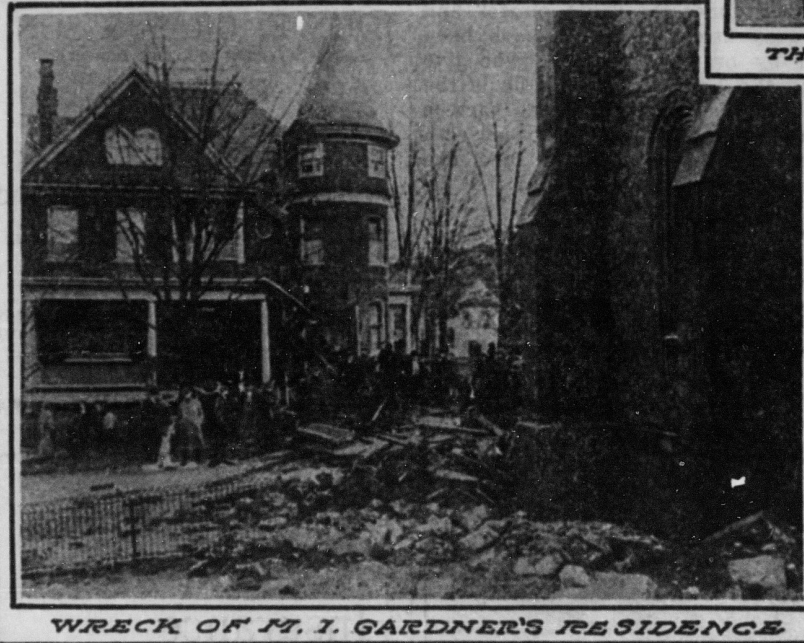
**Views Showing Damage to Presbyterian Church by Saturday's Storm.**



FOUNDATION OF WRECKED SPIRE



THE CHURCH AS IT WAS



WRECK OF M. J. GARDNER'S RESIDENCE

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STEEPLE BLOWN DOWN IN SATURDAY'S STORM.**—During a fierce rain and wind storm which passed over Bellefonte Saturday afternoon the steeple of the Presbyterian church was blown down, part of the slate roof blown off of the Presbyterian chapel and more or less damage done throughout the county. Following an hour's sunshine the storm began about 2:30 o'clock, and was accompanied with thunder and lightning. The rain poured down in torrents and the wind was a raging tornado. During one of the fiercest blows the tall steeple on the church started to fall full length but when at an angle of forty-five degrees it broke in the middle, and the top doubling back saved the M. J. Gardner house across the street from being demolished. As it was the steeple reached far enough to knock a two-foot hole in the roof and smash into kindling wood the end of the porch. Mrs. Cyrus Strickland, Mrs. Gardner's mother, was standing in the bay window of the Gardner house when the steeple fell, but fortunately not even a pane of glass in the window was broken. One or two big stones from the coping of the steeple crashed through the roof of the church and knocked the plastering off the ceiling but did not break through the joist. When the steeple fell Herbert Beizer, son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Beizer, with another boy, was standing in the southern doorway of the church, having taken refuge there from the storm, and neither one was injured. The same hurricane of wind that blew down the steeple tore off about one-third of the roof on the rear end of the north side of the chapel and hurled it against the house occupied by Dr. Edith Schad, breaking the side porch and some windows.

The Presbyterian church was completed about the year 1872 and had the highest steeple of any church in town. At one time it was considered in a dangerous condition but it was afterwards anchored with cables on the inside and it has not been very long ago that a building inspector pronounced it safe. At that, residents in that locality have always felt uneasy and will no doubt sleep better at nights now that it is down. The damage to the church and chapel will amount to about \$2,500, which is not covered by insurance. The damage to Gardner's house will probably be about \$250.

The above constituted the main damage done in Bellefonte, although there were a number of windows broken, limbs blown off of trees, etc. Joe McCulley, driving one of Shuey's delivery wagons, was on his way to Lyontown with a load of groceries, was caught in the storm and wagon, horse and all were blown over and rolled down an embankment. Fortunately neither horse nor driver was hurt, nor the wagon very badly damaged.

The storm went in streaks and one of them passed over Benner township in the neighborhood of Shiloh where the entire roof was blown off of the Henry Walters barn. The barn is 150 feet long and wide in proportion so that the damage is considerable. A portion of the roof was blown off the barn on the Oliver Witmer farm near Shiloh, and an addition which Clay Witmer recently built to his barn up Buffalo Run was unroofed. One of the tenement houses on the Brockerhoff farm along Buffalo Run is also minus a roof as a result of the blow. Considerable damage was done at Tyrone, where several houses were blown down, but nobody hurt.

Raymond Johnson, of Milesburg, aged nineteen, is in the Altoona hospital with a fracture of the left leg sustained in the storm at Bellwood. The roof of the P. R. R. machine shop blew off there in a bad wind storm recently, and heavy corrugated tin is now being placed on the building. Johnson, with other workmen, was beside the building when the gust came on Saturday. The heavy pieces of tin were lifted like so many bits of paper, and the workmen went running in all directions for safety. Johnson was unable to escape, and was struck just above the left ankle by a piece of metal six feet square.

—Don't read an out-of-date paper. Get all the news in the WATCHMAN.

**HARPER.**—Following a week's illness with pneumonia Mrs. Jests Anne Harper, widow of the late William Harper, died at her home on south Thomas street on Friday of last week. Her maiden name was Gramley and she was born in Miles township on August 25th, 1838. She was married to Mr. Harper at Madisonburg in 1864 and three years later they came to Bellefonte and Mr. Harper embarked in the mercantile business.

Mrs. Harper was never strong physically and for many years had been an invalid so that her life was spent mostly in her home. She was not only a good woman but one whose kindness of heart and neighborly qualities were far above the average. When a young woman she became a member of the United Evangelical church, but because of her ill health had not been an attendant for years and just a short time before her death she became a member of the Reformed church.

Mr. Harper died February 20, 1901, but surviving the deceased are two daughters, Mrs. R. S. Brouse and Miss Carrie Harper, both of this place. One brother, Henry Gramley, of Nebraska, also survives. The funeral was held from her late home on Thomas street at ten o'clock on Monday morning. Dr. A. M. Schmidt, of the Reformed church, had charge of the services and burial was made in the Union cemetery.

Those from a distance who came to Bellefonte Monday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Harper included, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, Mr. C. Royer and Miss Dornblazer, of Clintondale; W. H. Brouse, of Blyburg, Indiana; Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Topelt, Brooklyn; Jerome G. Harper, Renovo; Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Gentzel and J. G. Royer, Zion; Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Gramley, Mr. and Mrs. S. Shaffer, Mr. and Mrs. S. Krumrine, Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Royer, of Rebersburg; Mrs. E. Greeninger, Mrs. D. Kerstetter, Mrs. A. Barner, Mrs. E. Stamm, Loganton; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gramley, Altoona, and Mr. and Mrs. George Emerick, and Mr. and Mrs. David Meyer, Centre Hall.

**MCCLOSKEY.**—David McCloskey, one of the oldest men in Centre county and best known residents in Curtin township, died on Sunday night at his home on Marsh Creek, a short distance above Romola. He was born on May 29th, 1819, hence was in his ninety-fourth year. He was a remarkably well preserved man, having always enjoyed a splendid physical constitution, and until a few months ago was able to walk from his home to Beech Creek. He was a familiar figure on upper Marsh creek for several generations and a fine old gentleman, who was held in high respect and esteem. He was a brother of Campbell D. McCloskey, of Beech Creek township, and father of Mrs. Barnard Rupert and Mrs. William Rupert, of Beech Creek. The funeral was held on Wednesday.

**KELLEHER.**—Katharine Estella Kelleher, a sister of Joseph Kelleher, of Bellefonte, died at her home in Tyrone on Saturday morning after almost a year's illness with a complication of diseases as a result of an attack of pleurisy. She was thirty-three years of age and was a member of St. Matthew's Catholic church. Her funeral was held on Tuesday morning, burial being made in the Oak Grove cemetery, Tyrone.

**WITMER.**—Mrs. Dora May Witmer, wife of James Witmer, died suddenly and unexpectedly about nine o'clock last Saturday evening, at her home near Filmore. She had not been well for a week but had been confined to bed only two days. On Saturday afternoon there was a consultation of physicians and it was decided to bring her to the Bellefonte hospital on Monday. That evening she complained about her bed not being comfortable and Mr. Witmer came to Bellefonte and purchased a new bed but when he got home he found his wife dead, she having expired very suddenly about a half hour before his arrival. The direct cause of her death was myocarditis-inflammation of the cardiac muscular tissue.

Mrs. Witmer was a daughter of John and Susan Laughner Gingerich and was born near Centre Hall on March 13th, 1859, hence was aged 53 years, 10 months and 5 days. She was united in marriage to Mr. Witmer when a young woman and most of her married life was spent in Benner township. Of a quiet and unassuming disposition she devoted herself to her home and her family and her death is deeply mourned.

In addition to her husband she is survived by three children, namely: Mrs. John M. Shaffer, of Elizabethtown; Beatrice and Harrison at home. She also leaves three brothers, John Gingerich, of Sunbury; R. E. and Edward living near Huntingdon. Funeral services were held at her late home on Tuesday morning, after which the remains were taken to Shiloh for interment.

**AGED GEORGES VALLEY COUPLE PASS AWAY.**—Living together for almost fifty-four years Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ertle, of Georges valley, were buried in the same grave in the Georges Valley cemetery yesterday morning.

Mrs. Ertle, who had been ailing for some weeks with a complication of diseases, died at 6:30 o'clock last Saturday morning. Her maiden name was Mary A. Minnich and she was born in Penn township November 16th, 1835, hence was 77 years, 2 months and 2 days old.

Mr. Ertle was stricken with paralysis on Thursday of last week and a second stroke on Tuesday resulted in his death the same day. He was born near Penn Hall, Gregg township, on December 27th, 1827, hence at his death was 75 years and 25 days old. He and Miss Minnich were married in May, 1859. They are survived by two daughters, Mrs. J. W. Dobbie, of Georges valley, and Mrs. Seward C. Decker, of Altoona. They also leave five grand-children and one great grand-child.

Mr. Ertle leaves two brothers and one sister, Daniel, of Marshalltown; Adam, of near Penn Hall, and Mrs. George Gentzel, of Spring Mills. Mrs. Ertle leaves one brother, John A. Minnich, of Savannah, Pa., and one sister, Mrs. John H. Mesmer, of Penn Hall.

The double funeral was held from their late home at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning, the officiating ministers being Revs. Fred W. Barry, J. M. Tice, E. E. Haney and J. M. Reareck.

**SMITH.**—Mary F., the infant daughter of H. W. and Cora Shaffer Smith, of Zion, died last Friday after a brief illness with pneumonia. She was aged two months and twenty-three days. Burial was made at Zion on Sunday.

**SHERRY.**—Ambrose Joseph Sherry, son of George W. and Pauline Sherry, of this place, died in the Fordham hospital, New York city, on Sunday following an operation for appendicitis. He had been ill about three weeks.

Deceased was born in Tyrone on October 17th, 1883, so that at his death he was 29 years, 3 months and 2 days old. His parents moved to Bellefonte when he was quite small and his boyhood and youth were spent here. He was educated at St. Vincent college, at Beatty, Pa., and St. Mary's college, Belmont, N. C. While at the latter place about three years ago he was married to Miss Wilda Fleming and shortly thereafter he left college and accepted a position in New York city, where he had lived since.

Surviving him are his wife and a little son, born last Thanksgiving day; his parents and two brothers and one sister, Leo, of Pittsburgh; Oscar and Marie at home. Funeral services were held at his late home in New York on Monday evening after which the remains were brought to Bellefonte Tuesday morning and taken to the home of his parents. Final services were held on Wednesday morning after which burial was made in the Catholic cemetery.

Those who were here for the funeral were Mrs. Fleming, of Belmont, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Kennedy and son Frank, of Lock Haven; William Croft and daughter, Mrs. Herbert Hull, of Tyrone, and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Sherry, of Pittsburgh.

**TATE.**—Mrs. Robert Tate died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Thomas Shope, in Milesburg, on Monday, after an illness of weeks with a complication of diseases, aged seventy-nine years. For many years Mrs. Tate and her sister, Miss Shields, made their home at Nittany but several months ago the latter fell and broke her hip, and as a consequence was brought to the Bellefonte hospital for treatment and is still confined to that institution. At that time Mrs. Tate closed her home and went to live with her daughter.

Deceased is survived by three daughters and five sons, namely: Mrs. Mary Fultz, of Millwaukee; Mrs. Shope, of Milesburg; Mrs. Harry Stover, of Hubersburg; N. H. Tate, of New Orleans; Edward, of Ridgway; Charles, of Flemington; John, of Salona, and Robert Mills, a son by a former marriage, of Tyrone. The funeral will be held from her late home at Nittany this (Friday) morning, burial to be made in the St. Paul cemetery at that place.

**CLARK.**—W. Edgar Clark, a former resident of Blanchard, died at a sanatorium in Texas last Saturday night, after an illness of some weeks with Bright's disease, aged fifty-one years. He was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William W. Clark and was born at Marsh Creek. For a number of years he was employed as a traveling salesman, selling cigars for the Young brothers. When his health began to fail several years ago he went to Louisiana where his brother has lumbering interests, and for some time he improved, but the disease finally resulted in his death. In addition to his wife he is survived by a son, Dean R., and a daughter, Florence Clark. He also leaves four brothers and three sisters, one of the former being J. Irvin Clark, of Blanchard. Nothing is definitely known regarding the funeral.

**GLENN.**—John Glenn, one of the oldest and best known residents of Boggs township, died at his home at Curtin on Saturday evening. His death was the result of a stroke of paralysis, which he suffered some weeks ago. He was born at the place where he died on June 19th, 1841, hence was in his seventy-second year. He was an industrious citizen and a staunch Democrat all his life. He never married but is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Margaret Dexter, of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Susan Nolan, at the old homestead. Funeral services were held in the Catholic church in this place on Tuesday morning at ten o'clock, burial being made in the Catholic cemetery.

**HOPPER.**—Mrs. Sarah Ellen Hoffer, widow of the late John Hoffer, died at the Hayes apartments in the Bush house at nine o'clock on Wednesday evening. Twenty-three years ago she suffered a stroke of paralysis and ever since she had been more or less an invalid, her condition during the past year or so being quite serious.

Deceased was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Pruner and was born at the old Pruner homestead on Pine street and had lived until Saturday would have been seventy-three years old. She was one of a family of eight children, five sons and three daughters, and is the last one to pass away.

Forty-seven years ago she was united in marriage to John Hoffer who died in 1885. Mrs. Hoffer continued her life at the old homestead until the death of her brother, the late Col. E. J. Pruner, when she went to make her home with her only daughter, Mrs. R. G. H. Hayes, who is her only survivor. A number of years ago she became a member of the Presbyterian church and had since been a faithful advocate of its doctrines.

Dr. George E. Hawes will have charge of the funeral which will be held from the Bush house at three o'clock this (Friday) afternoon, burial to be made in the Union cemetery.

**SPOTTS.**—After a lingering illness extending over a period of many months Mrs. Rachael Jane Spotts, wife of John Spotts, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lena Lansberry, in Unionville, on Wednesday of last week. Her maiden name was Rachael Jane Way and she was born August 21st, 1834, being aged 78 years, 4 months and 22 days. In addition to her husband she is survived by one son and a daughter, Alfred Spotts, of Union township, and Mrs. Lena Lansberry, of Unionville. She also leaves the following brothers and sisters: William, Caleb, Cecelia and Melissa Way, all of Union township. The funeral was held last Saturday morning, burial being made in the Advent cemetery.

**ACHENBACH—DRAUCKER.**—B. Earl Achenbach, a son of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Achenbach, of Lock Haven, formerly of this place, and Miss Lola Ethel Draucker, also of Lock Haven, were married at noon on Monday at the rectory of St. Paul's Episcopal church in that city by the pastor, Rev. Louis Nichols. The bridegroom is employed in Philadelphia where the young couple will be at home after February fifteenth.

**HOMAN—SUNDAY.**—Waldo E. Homan, of Oak Hall, and Miss Anna B. Sunday, of Pennsylvania Furnace, were married in Altoona on Wednesday evening. Immediately after the ceremony they departed on a wedding trip to Niagara Falls and for a visit with friends in Carbon county.

**MAYES—HEBERLING.**—At the Methodist parsonage in Stormstown on Wednesday evening, January 22nd, Edward W. Mayes and Miss Nancy Heberling, both of Marengo, were united in marriage by the pastor, Rev. M. J. Runyan.

**To Prevent Accidents.**

The Pennsylvania Railroad company has renewed activity in an effort to prevent accidents and fatalities on its trains and right of way. The police department has been notified to be doubly vigilant in apprehending and arresting trespassers. Other employees, including trainmen, signal men and track foremen, have been instructed to assist in keeping trespassers off the company's property by bringing to the attention of the police officers any violators who may come under their notice.

During the month of December seventy fatalities were reported on the lines east of Pittsburgh, in which number were included trespassers, employees on duty, and others. For the safety and protection of the people the Pennsylvania Railroad company purposes using its utmost endeavors to prevent accidents and fatalities on its trains and right of way. In addition to its regular force of policemen, "spotters" have been engaged to see that not only would-be trespassers are prevented from their own foolhardy acts, but also to see that employees do not violate the rules and thereby unnecessarily endanger their lives and limbs. It is largely from a humane standpoint that the company acts, and by reducing the number of trespassers, the number of fatalities will in turn be reduced.

**Why Fear Downward Revision?**

From the Johnstown Democrat.

Protectionists declare even the slightest tariff revision downward would hurt our business and lessen our exports. "The slightest revision downward will throw men out of work," is the cry of the multi-millionaire tariff trust heads who have been getting an ever-increasing amount of protection all these years, while at the same time importing foreigners to take the place of American workers and paying their workers little more than a pittance.

Is there anything in the argument of the rich protectionists? If they are right in their contention that some tariff revision would lessen our exports, one would naturally think that Great Britain, with free trade, would have perished long ago.

But Great Britain is not perishing. For the month of November the total amount of trade in Great Britain was \$620,000,000. The increase in exports as compared with the "boom" figures of November, 1911, was \$11,860,000! There is now full employment for labor in that "benighted" free trade kingdom. Even the protectionists are forced to admit "a cycle of splendid trade and national well-being" and that there is no protectionist country that shows a parallel prosperity. There is food for reflection in these figures. They show there is nothing to the contention that revision downward of the tariff is likely to ruin business. Honest business men of the country fully realize this and have no apprehensions because of Democratic ascendancy.