

# The Columbian.

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NO 31

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOLS OF OOLU MBIA COUNTY, 1893.

During the past year 233 teachers were engaged in the 229 schools of the county. This was an increase over last year of 15 teachers and 11 schools. This necessary increase in the number of schools and teaching force of the county makes more work for all school officials, but it proves that the directors are wide awake and progressive and that just demands for better schools will be promptly and prudently supplied.

The schools and the working of the public school system of this county are in a good condition. There is, however, properly and necessarily, room for improvement, yet it certainly may be justly said that the schools never were in as good condition as at present and that the aim and the effort of all connected with them are evidently in the right direction.

Five new school houses were erected during the year. A one-room building in Centre, a one story, two-room building in Fishingcreek, a one room building in Orange, a one story two-room building in Scott, and a one-room building in Sugarloaf.

These are good substantial buildings, supplied with patent desks and slate blackboard surface.

A number of school houses were repaired and repainted and better furniture was put into many of them.

Anatomical aids were put into the schools of Beaver, Centralia, Fishingcreek, Main and Pine.

Again this year entertainments were held by several schools and money thus raised to purchase books.

These schools which had libraries added new books to their collections; other schools started libraries.

This is one of the most encouraging and praise worthy efforts that has been made by teachers and pupils. Everything possible is being done to encourage and assist this movement. It promises much.

Many of the schools have introduced a complete series of supplementary reading. It is a decided success.

Webster's Unabridged Dictionaries were put into sixty seven schools this year, and most of the schools not yet supplied with this necessary book will be furnished with one the coming year.

Several of the districts supply part of the text books free.

It is understood that some districts will follow the example set by Jackson and supply all books free.

Columbus Day was quite generally and appropriately observed. A number of schools were presented with flags on that day.

The High Schools of Catawissa, Centralia, Berwick and Bloomsburg sent out a number of graduates this year. Some of these graduates join the Senior class at the Normal and are graduated from that Institution at the end of one year.

The Normal prospers, the largest class (113) in the history of the school was graduated this year.

Improvements are still being made in the buildings and the Faculty has been increased to meet the demands.

The following districts lengthened the school term one month: Benton, Berwick, Briarcrest, Catawissa, Fishingcreek and Greenwood. Montour, Orange and Scott increased the length of the term two months, and Millville Borough, incorporated within the year, commenced with eight months.

In the following districts the average salary paid teachers was increased: Beaver, Benton, Berwick, Bloom, Catawissa, Centre, Centralia, Fishingcreek, Greenwood, Franklin, Jackson, Madison, Millin, and Mt. Pleasant.

Every district in the county has done something to advance materially the cause of education.

During the year, 375 visits were made to schools. Some were visited three times, about 75 were visited twice, and every school in the county was visited at least once.

Nearly all schools are visited by Directors. In some districts Directors visit regularly. It would be well if this were so in all.

Our teachers, with but few exceptions, are careful, industrious and faithful.

The majority of them are doing more professional reading than ever before and their work is better and more fully appreciated.

The best teachers naturally and properly seek positions where salaries are highest and terms longest.

It is gratifying and encouraging to observe that many of our Directors appreciate the fact that the little boys and girls, the primary pupils, should have the very best teachers.

That the work of the primary teacher in many districts is more fully appreciated than two years ago is indicated by the fact that a salary equal to or greater than that paid to grammar

school teachers is now paid to some of our primary teachers.

It is hoped that still closer attention throughout the county will be given to the selection of teachers for the small children.

It is thought timely and proper to repeat the statement made in our last report that the small children in the rural schools should receive more attention and better instruction.

The directors are to be commended for the careful attention given to school matters and for the successful management of the schools of their respective districts.

The people of Millville Borough elected two women as members of their School Board—Mrs. Frank Heller and Mrs. E. B. Hogue. Both these ladies are experienced teachers and take great interest in schools.

It would doubtless be a benefit to the schools of every district if the Boards would more generally avail themselves of the provisions of the school law in reference to the Pennsylvania School Journal. It is generally conceded that the director's great duty is the selection of teachers. For many reasons it is evident that if directors would more freely consult principal in the selection of teachers for graded schools, or the superintendent in the selection of those for ungraded schools, and sometimes in both cases, that there would be fewer failures on the part of teachers in the school room.

Eight successful local institutes were held. As brief accounts of each were given in the monthly reports nothing further need now be said.

The county institute was a success. The address of welcome was delivered by Rev. P. A. Heilman of the Lutheran church of Bloomsburg.

Excellent instruction was given by State Supt. Waller, Dept. J. Q. Stewart, Dr. E. E. White, Supt. J. M. Coughlin, Miss Ella L. Richardson, Mrs. Welsh, Prof. Noetting, Welsh and C. C. Case, and Rev. I. M. Patterson of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Bloomsburg. Good work was done by some of the teachers of the county.

An excellent essay read by Mrs. Cora Holmes of Montour district deserves special mention.

Evening entertainments were: Lectures by Rev. Theo. F. Clark, Dr. S. P. Henson, Rev. Russell H. Conwell, and a concert by the Schubert Male Quartette of Chicago.

The Berwick schools, under the judicious supervision of Prin. E. K. Richardson and by reason of the liberal aid of the directors sent carefully prepared work to the World's Fair.

I thank the directors, the teachers, the pupils, the press of the county, the Department of Public Instruction, and all others who by kind aid and wise and willing counsel have materially helped to make the work of the past year reasonably successful.

WILLIAM C. JOHNSTON,  
Co. Supt.

## COURT PROCEEDINGS.

An adjourned session of court was held on Tuesday afternoon, all the judges on the bench.

Restaurant license of John S. Mann in Berwick transferred to C. W. Freas.

Petitions of Sunbury, Hazleton and Wilkesbarre R. R. Co., for appointment of viewers to assess damages for taking of lands of Rebecca and Andrew Hunsinger, Lavina and Philip Rabuch and Alexander Robinson filed.

Petition of Mt. Carmel Water Co., for leave to file bond presented to L. A. Riley & Co., filed.

Etta Barrager vs. Russel Karnes. Time to file bond extended to Aug. 9, '93.

C. G. Barkley continued as auditor in matter of sale of property of William Roup to report Aug. 9, '93.

In matter of sale of real estate of Michael Fetteroff. Leave granted for heirs to bid at sale.

W. H. Snyder appointed commissioner to divide school property of Catawissa township.

Est. Henry Hosler de'ed. Rule granted on executors to show cause why real estate shall not be sold and distribution made.

In re lunacy of Jacob Beers, J. C. Rutter M. D., T. B. Hanley and F. C. Eyer appointed a committee to inquire into his sanity. Court adjourned to meet August 9 at 3 o'clock.

Don't Kill Birds.

An exchange warns its readers against killing the robin red breast as follows: A person killing a robin in this state is liable to a fine of \$2 to \$20 for each offense, or imprisonment for twenty days, or both. In fact the law prohibits the killing of any or nearly all the birds on the list of those that are inhabitants here except the sparrow.

## ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA.

One of the most beautiful sections of country that it has ever been our privilege to traverse, is the valley of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. Starting at Bloomsburg, as clean and pretty a town as there is in the state, we boarded a train on the North & West Branch railway last Saturday morning. The view of the town from the other side of the river is grand. There is so much foliage through the town that it looks as though it were built in a grove. The Normal School buildings stand out boldly on the hill, and present an imposing appearance, while the towers and steeples of the churches and other public buildings, and the steam and smoke ascending from the many mills, furnaces, foundries, shops and other industries, give to the stranger riding by in the cars, some idea of the importance and prosperity of the place.

At the point near where the N. & W. B. station is located, great changes have taken place in the past fifteen years. The ravine was then a very pretty spot, and used to be a favorite resort for picnic parties. There was an excellent spring of water, and other accommodations. This was before the railroad was built and there was plenty of room near the bank of the river for the erection of tables. Those who desired could climb the mountain, while those whose tastes ran to water, could indulge in fishing and boating. It was here that the first picnic of the Bloomsburg Literary Institute was held, in the days of Professor Henry Carver, and those who remember it, will agree with me that it was a delightful occasion. Now there is no place for a picnic. The railroad embankment has spoiled the little grove that used to stand close by the river, the pretty ravine has grown up with underbrush, and a number of shanties have been erected at the foot of the glen, so that there is no longer anything wild or romantic about the place.

But the whistle of the locomotive puts an end to these thoughts of the past and the train comes rushing and snorting around the curve, and stops at the little station, and we are soon on our way up the river. The tracks follow the water pretty closely most of the way to Wilkesbarre, and at this season of the year it would be hard to imagine a more charming ride. The placid waters with their numerous beautiful islands, the tree-clad mountains rising majestically on the opposite side, the pretty little hamlets and the large and busy towns on either side, all combine to make the scenery beautiful and attractive. We pass through Nescopeck, Nanticoke and Wilkesbarre, changing to the Lehigh Valley road at the latter city; then on through Pittston, Tunkhannock, the county seat of Wyoming county, Laceyville where the news agent supplied the passengers with ice cream made by the Laceyville Creamery Co.; Wysox, noted chiefly for having been the home of the late Victor E. Prolet who was well known in this county; on past Towanda, and up through the foreign section of Bradford county, Ulster, Milan and Athens, to Sayre, our destination. Besides the three places above mentioned which are named after foreign cities, Bradford county has a Rome, a Troy, and a Canton.

Sayre is a prosperous borough of about 3000 inhabitants. It has been built up entirely within the past twenty five years. It was laid out when the Lehigh Valley railroad was first built up the river, and was at first distinctively a railroad town, the shops and offices of the road were located there, and Robert A. Packer, the President of the company erected a magnificent mansion with extensive grounds, and all the adornments that great wealth could provide. At his untimely death, this fine property went to the Packer heirs, and was by them presented to the public and converted into a hospital, and is now known as the R. A. Packer Hospital. A beautiful stone Church, the Church of the Redeemer, stands near the hospital. It was erected by Mary A. Packer, now Mrs. Chas. Cummings, a daughter of the late Asa Packer, and one of the richest women in America. The Wilbur House, another familiar Lehigh Valley name, is the largest hotel in the place. It is a fine brick structure, elegant in all its appointments, and the proprietor, T. R. Jordan, and his estimable wife are among the best known people in the northern part of the state.

Sayre is just now excited over a legal war between two electric railway companies, and the outcome of the contest is hard to predict. Under the new management of the Valley road the offices have been removed to Buffalo, and many of the employees discharged, which makes some considerable difference in the activity of the place. The borough lies entirely on the level and has plenty of room to grow. There are many beautiful residences, and the town is supplied with gas, electricity and water, the latter system being somewhat similar to that of Bloomsburg, supplied from a reservoir on the hillside. The water is pumped up from the river.

After a brief stay at Sayre, business called me to Towanda, the home of my childhood, and about which cluster very many pleasant recollections. But of this town we have written on several former occasions and there does not appear to be anything new to be said. Although a great business centre, the two banks recently showing a line of deposits amounting to a million and a half dollars, it has not made much progress in the past few years. The electric railway through the town is now contemplated. The water supply is brought sixteen miles through pipes by gravity, and is of excellent quality, being pure spring water. The court house of this large and wealthy county is out of date, and the town clock in its steeple has stood at a quarter past ten for many years. Somebody ought to prod the county commissioners, and waken them up to a realization of the fact that this is the nineteenth century and that progress is the watch word.

Strangers who visit Towanda and desire first class hotel accommodations would do well to call on Landlord Reed Nelson, at the Park Hotel. This house is centrally located, and is well kept, the table being especially attractive, and the rates very reasonable. We have enjoyed his hospitality on several occasions, and can speak from personal knowledge.

## COMPLETE SURPRISE.

A complete surprise was given E. C. Caswell, one of the proprietors of the Bloomsburg Woolen Mills, on Saturday of last week. It was his birthday, and the family consisting of Mrs. Mame Caswell, Miss Emma Caswell and J. M. Staver, conceived the plan of inviting a few friends to dinner and thus give a surprise to E. C. as he came in from his morning's toil. A handsome silver tea-set had been selected as the birthday gift, and T. F. Forrest of New York presented it in a short, but interesting speech. Among the guests present were Mr. Pierson Smith and wife, Mrs. John Bubb and daughter, all of Jersey Shore; and Mrs. John Sypher, wife and daughter of Milton. In the afternoon and evening the visitors took a drive through the principal streets of our town and noted with pleasure the many evidences of prosperity. The Bloomsburg Woolen Mills, of which E. C. Caswell is the senior partner was the first of the many substantial industries to locate in Bloomsburg.

Jacob Beers was taken to the Danville hospital Tuesday. For a short time he has been confined in the County jail, while the necessary papers were prepared for his removal. The crowded condition of the hospital, prevented earlier removal; the authorities of the hospital said that the only thing that could be done would be the release of some one of the patients confined there from this county. Hiram Albertson who has been there about eight years was judged sufficiently improved to admit of release, and accordingly after the preparation of the necessary papers he was brought home, and thus a place provided for Beers. While Beers was confined in the County jail he had vague ideas, he thought he was in a great manufacturing business, and very wealthy. On Monday he tore up his iron bedstead, and then proceeded to tear out the pipes of the water closet; he said he was making bicycles and needed the iron. The Sheriff ordered the Warden to remove him to the jail yard while the repairs are being made. In the yard he began to tear up the flag stones and broke the iron gratings on the windows. When taken to the cell again he began tearing up the stone flooring. The sheriff was accompanied by Commissioner Sands and J. S. Williams in removing him. Beers was told they were going to take him along to bail out a friend at the hospital. When they arrived there Beers wanted to buy the whole institution and was ready to write a check for the price of it.

The first trip of the steam-boat Columbia was not a success. It took four hours to go to Esby and back. The machinery, being new, did not work smoothly, the wrong kind of coal was used, and there was not enough of it, and the propeller being set too high was half out of water. After everything is properly adjusted, the boat will make good time.

## MRS. J. J. BROWER.

On Friday, July 14th, at 7 o'clock in the evening, Mrs. Eliza Brower, wife of J. J. Brower, breathed her last, after an illness of more than two years, though she had not been confined to her bed until the last few weeks. Her age was 76 years, 6 months and 26 days. She was a daughter of Dr. Eleazer Brothwell, and three members of her father's family survive her, Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Baldy of Danville, and Mrs. Henry Doak of Bloomsburg. She was married to J. J. Brower at Millville in 1841. Since 1850 they have resided in Bloomsburg. Besides her husband she leaves four children, E. B. Brower, Mrs. L. S. Wintersteen of Bloomsburg, Mrs. Jas. Brugler of Port Jervis, N. Y., and Mrs. J. H. Lingle of Bellefonte. The funeral took place at the house on Monday at 5 o'clock, the services being conducted by Rev. W. C. Leverett, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, of which Mrs. Brower was a member for many years.

## Avoid the Hump.

Condemnation of what is known as the "bicycle stoop" is becoming general and rightly so. That eminent authority, the London *Lancet*, has pointed out the serious damage to the spines and chests of bicyclists which the prevailing habit of bending low over the steering bar of the machine must inevitably produce. As a health giver and muscle developer the bicycle is unequalled, if properly ridden. But there are, unfortunately, a large number of wheelmen who seem intent on perverting it into a means of deformity and disease. The awkward and unnatural stooping position while riding is copied from the attitude assumed by bicyclists on race tracks in order to gain the utmost purchase possible and lessen the resistance of the wind. In racing it may be useful. Elsewhere it is folly.

The *Elk County Democrat* contains the following notice of Alonzo M. Ent, son of the late ex-sheriff U. H. Ent.

"A. M. Ent, as it now looks, is likely to be the nominee of the Democratic party in this county for prothonotary, etc. He was appointed by Governor Pattison to fill the office made vacant by the death of Col. Horton. Mr. Ent, as the *Democrat* predicted, got right hold of the work at once and to day the several attorneys who practice at these courts speak of his official acts in the highest terms. He is competent beyond all question and has the office in excellent shape. Mr. Ent is a thorough bookkeeper by profession and has lived in Fox township quite a number of years."

## NINTH REGIMENT.

The Ninth regiment infantry, Third brigade, National Guard of Pennsylvania, will encamp at Berwick from Saturday, July 22nd to Saturday, July 29th. Governor Pattison and staff will be in Berwick Tuesday, July 25th, to inspect the Ninth regiment and will leave in the evening for Shickalmy, (Northumberland) to inspect the Twelfth regiment. A dress parade will be given every evening at seven o'clock and a band concert until nine o'clock.

## No Fees For Deputy Coroners.

An important decision has been rendered by Cyrus L. Pershing, President Judge of Schuylkill county courts, refusing to allow fees to Deputy Coroners and holding that the Salary Board must fix the number of deputies in a county and the salaries to be paid. This is the first decision rendered in the case of a Deputy Coroner and will effect many counties of the State where like cases are awaiting disposition.

Have you seen the comet? Bor-dame's comet—so named after the Salt Lake man who first spied it. If not you should make it a point to get a peep at this celestial stranger, especially as it is full of mystery, since nobody can identify it or know anything about it. For several nights it has been away down low in the northeast behind the Big Dipper, but it is going west and south, and therefore apparently rising higher, and is now above the Dipper. It is visible to the naked eye and more brilliant than the stars around it.

Rev. E. H. Yocum, the newly chosen Presiding Elder of this district, preached in the M. E. Church Sunday morning.

The School Furnishing Co. are crowded with orders and have a bright outlook for the future.

## BRIEF MENTION.

### About People You Know.

U. J. Campbell of Mainville was a visitor to Bloomsburg on Tuesday.

W. A. Marr Esq. of Ashland was in town on Tuesday on legal business.

Miss Grace Neal is visiting Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Elwell in Towanda.

W. B. Cummings is off on a two weeks vacation.

Mrs. William Leverett is making a summer visit at her father's, I. W. McKelvy.

Mr. James Glisson and Mr. Ford of Phila. will sing in the Lutheran Church Sunday evening, July 22nd.

Dr. Honora A. Robbins and Mrs. J. E. Robbins are at the World's Fair.

Mrs. J. G. Wells is visiting her sister Mrs. Dr. Kirby, in Mauch Chunk.

Mr. T. F. Forrest of New York City who has been the guest of the Caswells and other friends in this section during the summer will return to New York soon.

J. R. Townsend and son Harry were in New York and Philadelphia this week. Harry will take a course of instruction in cutting before he returns.

Mr. George C. Yocum, a son of Presiding Elder Yocum, has accepted a position in the home office of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association, of Brooklyn.

Cletus Jones who was working in the *Sun* office at Nanticoke, was confined to the bed for nine days by an attack of rheumatism. His parents went up last Saturday and brought him home on Monday. He is able to walk now with the aid of a cane.

The Berwick school board will build a four room addition to one of their school buildings.

Mountain Grove Camp Meeting will begin Thursday, August 31 and will be in charge of Rev. E. H. Yocum, the new Presiding Elder.

The Methodist Episcopal Sunday School will attend preaching service in a body next Sunday. The Infant School will sing selections, also the larger school, while the services of the day will, as a whole, have reference to the children.

Editor Smith of the *Benton Argus* is making an effort to get up an excursion from the upper end of the county to Atlantic City. If he goes at it with his usual persistency, the excursion will take place. His announcement is that the round trip shall not exceed \$8.50.

An address was given Sunday morning in the Presbyterian church by a young man, a native of Macedonia, who is preparing himself in this country for the ministry. He confined himself to the manners and customs of his native land. In the evening he addressed a large audience in the Lutheran church.

Hay is selling in Europe at \$50 a ton. Last year's crop was a failure and the indications are that this will also be one; in which event, America will be called upon to supply the demand. Hay baled from last year's crop is now being sold in New York city at \$30 a ton and shipped over this country this season will make hay exceedingly high, as the reports reach us that in many parts of Europe there is no hay and all of last year's is exhausted.

The Presbyterian Sunday School which had their picnic at Central Thursday, returned to the good old bygone days and spread one common table for all. They argued that Sunday School picnics were intended for the younger people and the only way to make it a success would be to make ample provisions for all of them by having a great variety of eatables furnished from one table through the generous hands of all the older people of the Sunday School.

We copied last week an item from the *Shickshinny Echo* which stated that Cummings & Verdy had sold their branch store at that place. We are informed that the store did not belong to the firm, but was the individual property of W. B. Cummings. Some of our readers, by overlooking the fact that the notice was copied from a Shickshinny paper, got the impression that Cummings & Verdy had sold their Bloomsburg store, which is incorrect. They have no intention of doing anything of the kind.