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STRAY SHOTS

Topics of Interest, Here, There, and Everywhere.

Now that the voters of Bloomsburg have consented to an increase of the bonded indebtedness of the town, the action of the council in disposing of the money so raised, will be watched with interest. Every dollar of it should be applied to the exact purpose for which it has been raised, and to no other.

Speaking of the indebtedness of the town reminds me of the fact that we have a debt, a big debt, a debt that is getting no smaller very fast. What are we going to do with it? It will have to be paid some time, by somebody, and yet instead of paying off old bonds, every little while we find it necessary to issue a new batch to pay off a floating debt that has accumulated. Now, what's the matter? Well, we are spending more money than we are getting in. Council after council, year after year, a tax rate is laid that does not bring in as much money as council spends. For fear of offending a tender hearted constituency, members of council lay a low tax rate, and for the same reason spend a good deal more than their income, and like any other business, that must cease, or bankruptcy will stare us in the face. There are too many private pulls. A crossing is put in here because a relative of a member wants it; a new street is opened up there because somebody with a "pull" wants work for his teams; an old street is widened and straightened at great expense, because perhaps a member owns property on that street, and so it goes. There must be more strict economy, and better judgment than has frequently been exercised, if this town is ever going to get out of a hole.

And just here, another matter connected with town affairs suggests itself, and that is our abominable system of electing a full new council every year. I verily believe that this system is largely responsible for our big town debt. Nearly every man who gets on the council has some axe to grind. He grinds his axe, and at the end of the year steps down, leaving the bill to be paid by the next council. If two only were elected each year, so that there would always be four old members, this would not happen, for no member would want to incur bills this year that he himself must provide for in some way next year. Under our present system the responsibility is too easily shifted on to the succeeding council. It's a sort of grab game. Get what you want and go out! If there is any way of changing this system, the sooner it is done, the better for all concerned.

The committee appointed at the last Democratic county convention to revise the rules of the party, have been in session recently, and their report is about ready. It was high time that some such steps were taken. Nobody knows just what the present rules are. They were printed in 1880 in pamphlet form, and the only way to find out what changes have been made since that time is to go through the newspaper files. The people want something they can understand. Our old rules are so complicated that one man has had to be called upon year after year to figure out who the nominees are, and it is said that he didn't always figure the same way. The object of these complicated rules was to prevent fraud, but they have signally failed in this, for it is a well known fact that certain delegates are always in the market, and that they are regularly purchased. Let us have a system that will wipe out the Barney Doyle kind of statesmen.

Who will be Sheriff? That is a matter that I can't decide. William Black of Rohrsburg, Albert Herbine of Bloomsburg, and Hud O. Kline of Berwick are in the race, but from present indications it is impossible to predict who will make the nomination.

Don't all start for Alaska at once. It is true that gold has been discovered out there, but there will be plenty of people to dig it before you can get there.

"Not at home" is a phrase so generally used that most servants thoroughly understand its purport. I.e., the mistress of the house is not visible to her friends and does not

wish to see them at that particular hour. Not infrequently this answer of "not at home" leads to remarks at future meetings of an embarrassing nature. "I called late on Sunday hoping to see you; I suppose you had gone to evening service." Or, "I was so sorry not to find you at home on Tuesday morning. I came early, as I particularly wished to tell you," etc. Thus the embarrassed one is driven into a corner, and must confess or remain silent. Why does not society allow of a little frankness in this matter? Why is it supposed to be in such bad taste to say: "Mrs. A. cannot see any one this morning," or, "Mrs. A. is at home, but is very much engaged?" Callers would not consider this information to be a snub, and servants would infinitely prefer to tell the truth and to avoid the cross-questioning which sometimes follows, such as, "When do you expect your mistress back?" "Do you expect her in to luncheon?" "Is it any use my waiting until she returns?" Or, perhaps another member of the family is inquired for, and this is additionally perplexing to a servant who is desirous of carrying out a mistress' orders. In the afternoon hours many servants are allowed to say: "Mrs. A. is at home, but she is just going out," and this is satisfactory intelligence; cards are handed in without further parley. The objection to saying "cannot see any one this morning" or "this afternoon" is supposed to lead to the inference that illness is the cause thereof. The objection to saying "very much engaged" is a strong but unreasonable one, considering how much it explains, and what a common-sense view of the matter it would be to all concerned.

A test case has been made of the alien tax law, in Philadelphia. It is claimed that it is unconstitutional in several respects. Since the passage of the law the courts have been flooded with applicants for naturalization. Many aliens who have been in this country a long time never thought of becoming citizens until a tax is put on their labor, and now they want to be naturalized, not from patriotic motives, but merely to avoid the tax. It is to be hoped that the law will be upheld by the courts and that the Judges of this county will fall in line with many others, and refuse to admit to citizenship men who cannot speak English, and who can't even tell who the President of the United States is.

A DAMAGE SUIT.

Mr. Puterbach Claims Damages from J. W. Perry, for Injuries to a Horse.

That was an interesting law suit that was held before P. K. Shultz Esq. at Central last Tuesday afternoon, the litigants being a Mr. Puterbach, as plaintiff, and J. W. Perry the well-known landlord of Elk Grove as defendant, both of Sugarloaf township. On July 2, Mr. Puterbach was driving up through Jamison City, when a team ran into him, demolishing his wagon, and severely injuring his horse. The team belonged to J. W. Perry, and was driven by a man named Wilcox. Puterbach sued Perry for damages, alleging that Wilcox was the servant of Perry and was in the performance of his master's business when the accident occurred, and that the master is liable for the negligence of his servant. On the other hand Mr. Perry alleged that he had loaned his team to Wilcox to take some boarders down to Jamison City to draw their pay, and that Wilcox was not employed by him on this occasion.

This raises a very nice legal question. The case was ably tried by A. L. Fritz, Esq., for the plaintiff, and the defense was well taken care of by A. W. Duy, Esq., assisted by Harry Stees who took notes of evidence, both students in the law office of Ikeler & Ikeler. Over twenty witnesses were examined, and a large number of spectators were present. Justice Shultz will render his decision next Tuesday.

DIED SUDDENLY.

A. B. Kauffman, who for years has been filling the position as station agent for the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Company at Rupert, died suddenly at about 10:30 o'clock Friday night. The deceased had been stricken with paralysis two times before and the third stroke on Friday night resulted in his death. He was aged about forty-four years and leaves a wife and seven children. The funeral services were held at the house in Rupert Sunday, and the remains taken to Reading for burial.

BASE BALL.

The Bloomsburgs met defeat at Lock Haven on Thursday last in a ten inning game. The contest up to the tenth inning was very close and exciting, but just at that point the boys kept up their reputation for losing extra inning games, and made two bad errors, the opponents then secured three hits which netted them four runs. The score at the end of the tenth inning was Lock Haven 12, Bloomsburg 8. McNealy pitched for our boys.

Demorests defeated us on Friday, for the first time in six games, and the reason of our downfall was because Michael Dunn, who has been pitching good ball of late was simply peaches and cream, for his opponents. He was either tired out or weary, at any rate, he was sent to the stable before the game was over. Hallman took his place. Score.

R. H. E.
Bloomsburg—2 0 0 0 0 0 1 5—8 12 3
Williamsport—0 3 0 1 3 3 2 0 0—12 16 5
Batteries, Dunn, Hallman and Chamberlin, Delaney and Bates. Umpire Forred.

Our club closed the first series at Milton, on Saturday, and lost by a score of 8 to 4. It isn't necessary for us to go into details and give the cause of our defeat. The story can easily be told. We were outplayed, and that is the whole sum and substance of it. As usual, for seven innings we were right in the game and held our own fairly well, but just at the critical time we lost sight of the ball, and while our boys were busy collecting their thoughts Milton spurted around the bases and took the game. Score, Milton 8, Bloomsburg 4.

The second series of the Central League opened at Athletic Park on Tuesday, with the strong Milton aggregation as our opponents. The game was one of those heart breaking, hair raising kind, when sitting still is next to impossible. Up to the eighth inning the score stood 4 to 2 in favor of the Miltonians and their Mr. Walker up to that time that had been pitching unfathomable ball. But his noodle got rattled, or his arm went back on him or something and he got himself in such a hole that even the home rooters pitied him. Before the fun was over and the smoke had cleared away eight Blue Birds flew across the rubber, and the thought of the eight runs caused Walker to sit down in the pitchers box disgusted with his own work. It took some talking to get him to finish the inning. While all this was going on Mr. Everson, a recent arrival in town was pitching good ball, and our victory was largely due to his steadiness in the box. Score:

R. H. E.
Bloomsburg 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 8—10 12 3
Milton 1 0 0 2 1 0 0 2—6 9 2
Batteries, Everson and Chamberlin; Walker and Tobin. Umpire, Forred.

DIAMOND CHIPS.

Watch us in the second. The Williamsport rooters are beginning to talk again, the Demorests won a game or two.

The Gazette and Bulletin can't get through talking about the way the Demorests hit our Michael Dunn last Friday, but it never says a word about the thumping we gave Lloyd here on Wednesday.

Wait till Delaney pitches over here. What we'll do to him will be a plenty. Walker and Conroy, two of Milton's best ball tossers, have deserted them.

Bert Everson is a recent addition to the Blue Bird's pitching department.

Umpire Worthington's work is giving general satisfaction.

That his reputation as a wanderer should not depart from him, the Honorable William Setley, late of everywhere, and subsequent to that of Milton, Pa., took his departure on a train of side door Pullmans. While with us he put up a most excellent article of ball, and his skill at the business led men to give him advance money, and to otherwise entice him until the moral fire of the man snapped and Willie was gone. He took his departure, but thanks to a watchful management, he took nothing else—and if he so wills he can return again and see the games from the bench.—Miltonian.

A GRAND REFORMED REUNION.

The pastors and the people of the Reformed Church within the bounds of the Wyoming, the east and the west Susquehanna Classes, will assemble in a picnic reunion at Packer's Island near Northumberland, on Friday August 6th. A number of prominent speakers are engaged for the occasion. Special R. R. rates will be secured. All are invited.

OHUROB WEDDING.

On Saturday morning at half past nine J. L. Martin and Miss Emma Correll were united in marriage in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church before a large number of invited guests. Miss Lucy Cosper, of Pittston, Miss Edith Correll, sister of the bride, Miss Martha Runyon of Bloomsburg, and Miss Grace Correll, cousin of the bride, of Nayasaki, Japan, were the bridesmaids. The flower girls were Grace and Blanche, sisters of the bride. James Mooney, of Pittston, A. J. Bitauer, of Allentown, Howard Correll, brother of the bride, and Byron Stickney, of Bloomsburg were ushers. The wedding march was beautifully played by Miss Rena Hartzel, of Philadelphia. After the ceremony the newly married couple were tendered an elaborate wedding dinner, at the bride's home on Fourth Street, after which they took the 10:49 train on the Lackawanna road for Cortland, New York, where the groom has accepted a position in a large jewelry store.

The groom is the youngest son of Mrs. Sophia Martin of town. A gentlemanly and trustworthy young man and for several years past has been employed in the jewelry store of J. E. Roys. The bride is a daughter of W. J. Correll, who conducts a large furniture store on Main Street, and is a highly respected young lady. Their many friends all join in wishing them a long and happy life.

BROKE HIS ARM.

D. A. Creasy, O. H. Yetter and several others started out Monday evening for a bicycle ride up the river road. They went up as far as Lime Ridge where they turned and started back. When near the Almedia grave yard they met a young man by the name of Aaron Boone, who was riding in a very reckless fashion, and before he could turn his wheel, he and Mr. Creasy collided, the wheels going together with considerable force throwing both riders abruptly to the ground. Mr. Creasy's arm was broken above the elbow, besides sustaining severe bruises. Boone fared better inasmuch as he was only scratched up a little. The bicycles were slightly bent, but not badly damaged. Whether Boone was running on time or not we do not know, but from all reports he was going entirely too fast for the public road, and others who make a practice of riding at break-neck speed, should take warning.

HIGHLY SPOKEN OF.

The following highly complimentary notice is taken from the Buffalo Express. Mr. Scarlet is for the defense in the Benham poison case now being tried at Batavia New York. It says:

"The feature of the day was, of course, Lawyer Scarlet's address to the jury. It was a masterpiece, no less by reason of the things it left unsaid than for what it said. It was delivered with all the eloquence of the silver-tongued Pennsylvanian, who is a master of oratory. It had its effect and it made no very rash promises as to what would be proven. Still, if the defense can make its case as M. Scarlet outlined it, the jury will have a difficult task on its hands."

"As the eloquent Pennsylvanian waxed warm, jury and audience alike sat spell-bound. It has been evident since the trial began that the brains and eloquence of the defence were centered in Lawyer Scarlet, and his delivery of the opening oration, no less than his words, showed his masterly skill as a pleader."

CAMP MEETING.

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Mountain Grove Camp Meeting Association will be held at Mountain Grove August 4 to Aug. 12. The religious services will be in charge of Rev. E. H. Yocum, D. D., presiding elder of the Danville district. The music, a very special feature of Mountain Grove, will again be in charge of Wm. J. Kirkpatrick, of Philadelphia, aided by efficient assistants. The books to be generally used will be "The Methodist Hymnal" and "Songs of Sovereign Grace."

Lloyd Kelchner died after a brief illness at his home in Rupert Thursday last, aged thirty-four years. The deceased was the proprietor of the Rupert Hotel and leaves a wife and two small children. He was well known by many in Bloomsburg having been employed a few years ago in the barber shop of E. P. Roe. The funeral took place on Tuesday, interment in the new Rosemont Cemetery.

JULY Reductions

Do you expect to travel. We've a large and complete assortment of Trunks, Telescopes and Valises at all prices. A Good Trunk \$2.50 and up.

Means great savings to Suit Buyers. You shouldn't hesitate long about buying suits at present prices. We've about 120 Suits that are strictly all wool and fast color in light, dark and medium colors; also pin checks and color plaids, some sold at \$6.50, some \$7.50 and others as high as 9 and \$10, but we're cleaning up the season's broken sizes, hence any suit in the lot for

\$5.00.

This is probably the greatest Suit Bargain this or any other store in the county has ever put out, and if you value money you'll join the throng of buyers this week. Of course the better and best suits are here for the men or boys' in all the popular mixtures and plain blue or blacks at 7.50, 10, 12, and \$15.

Every Straw Hat in the store at absolute cost to close out.

SUMMER UNDERWEAR

and all other outfits are here.

Gidding's

Negligee Shirts at Reduced Prices. Sweaters, Belts, etc., all reduced to make room.

Among the Scenes of His Childhood.

BUCKHORN, PA., July 20, 1897.

DEAR EDITOR COLUMBIAN, After being confined to my bed at my home for four weeks with the severe illness of ulceration of the bowels and when restoration began to make its welcome return I was moved out here to the scenes of my childhood, at the home of my father, A. B. Hartman, where I have been slowly recovering since last Friday. Am now able to walk around the yard with a cane, having been wonderfully reduced in flesh, and should the weather ever get fine think I would soon be able to walk and ride out in the country.

Here like in all other places time has left its mark, and as I look back, (for 35 years of my life were spent in this little village.) I am lost to know what has become of the then good old staid residents, such as John McReynolds, Jacob Harris Sr., T. J. Vanderslice Sr., Isaac Leidy, M. G. Shoemaker, John Hartman, E. M. Warden and many others, who were an honor to the little town, as well as being strong factors in the county work generally. But these have gone, and sons and daughters and strangers have taken up the work. A few of the then citizens are still here, such as I. G. Pursel, H. D. McBride, N. P. Moore, Wm. Ohl, A. B. Hartman and a few others. The people are all well to do. Their hospitality knows no end. The surrounding community is one of the best agricultural producing that lies out doors, of which the bountiful harvest just being garnered attests.

The wants of the place are well provided for, there being two churches, a graded school, one store, one hotel, two smith shops, wagon and shoe shop and millinery store, with Dr. Montgomery, the popular physician, to look after the health of all.

In conclusion would say it is a pleasure for me to go in and out among these people. For here I played as a boy, went to school, Sunday School and singing school, united with the Church, later taught school, had charge of the choir, played in the band and in my weak way helped to run the little town machine generally.

Yours Respectfully,
FRED. B. HARTMAN.

Watermelons are bringing big prices.

Heavy Fine for Dr. Swallow.

Is to Pay \$500 and the Costs of the Two Trials.

Rev. Dr. S. C. Swallow was on Monday sentenced by Judge Simonton to pay \$500 fine and costs for libeling Captain John C. Delaney, Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds.

When he was called for sentence Monday morning he was surrounded by a number of ladies and some of the members of the Prohibition party. As he retired from in front of the Judge's bench he was presented with a big bunch of white flowers. Dr. Swallow is also to pay the costs in the suit brought against him for libel by the Soldiers' Orphans' Commission. His attorneys will take the case to the Superior Court.

There is one school board in this state that means to prevent its female school teachers getting married, if possible and Dunbar has it. For years the board has had trouble in filling the vacancies caused by the marriage of its women pedagogues and it has finally become so weary of its tax, that a drastic move was decided upon. The board has adopted this resolution: "Teachers must not make love while employed by the board or during school hours. The violation of this rule will be sufficient cause for dismissal."

A terrible explosion occurred yesterday in the armory of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company at New Haven, Conn., whereby seven people were instantly killed and five more were seriously hurt. The entire building was blown to pieces and fragments of human bodies were scattered about in a sickening manner. The explosion was caused by the misplacing of a cartridge that was in process of loading.

While climbing down the hill above the B. & S. Railroad near Red Rock bridge, Mrs. George Bills, of West First Street, slipped and fell to the ground below a distance of about seventeen feet. Two of her ribs were broken, her right shoulder bone cracked, besides receiving several other painful bruises.