

The Columbian.

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NO. 17

A BIG BLAZE AT RUPERT.

THE EXPLOSION OF A LAMP CAUSES A DISASTROUS FIRE.

Three Buildings Go Up in Smoke—The Bloomsburg Fire Department Render Valuable Service—The Loss Will Reach Nearly \$12,000.

A fire of extensive proportions, visited the village of Rupert, a short distance below this town, about four o'clock yesterday morning, and destroyed property to the extent of many thousands of dollars. The conflagration was caused by the explosion of a lamp, which had been left burning in Arthur Roberts' store. The store building, the Rupert Marble Works, and the old Rupert Paint Works, the property of L. H. Boody and H. S. Reay, respectively, were completely destroyed. There was almost a panic among the residents, for fear the fire would spread to adjoining dwellings, and L. H. Boody sent a team of horses up to get the Bloomsburg fire engine. The steamer, and the Friendship and Good Will hose carts were sent down, and although arriving on the scene too late to save the buildings mentioned, valuable aid was rendered in the way of preventing the flames from spreading.

The loss will aggregate in the neighborhood of \$12,000. The total insurance on the property is \$7,000.

Admiral Cervera's Autograph.

G. Edward Elwell, on Monday morning received Admiral Cervera's autograph from Spain. It is on a card 3x5 ins., having written on it "Puerto Real, April 4th, 1899. Very happy for give you my autograph, Pascual Cervera," in his own hand writing.

The envelope has a 5 centavos Spanish stamp on it, and is postmarked Cadiz.

Master Elwell also has the autographs of President McKinley, Admiral Dewey, Rear Admirals Schley and Sampson, General Otis and forty-one others of Generals, Rear Admirals, Commodores, Captains, Lieutenant Commanders and members of the Cabinet.

They Wanted Their Fortunes Told.

While a band of traveling gypsies were encamped last week near Tamaqua, two married women and a widow, all residents of that place, were persuaded by some of the dusky-skinned maidens into having their fortunes told, and when it was all over, they discovered that they had been hypnotized out of money, which was given for inside information on matrimonial affairs. They went so far as to sleep on cracked eggs, killed the family cat, crossed themselves on meeting white horses, and spit over their shoulders twice at the sight of a red-headed man.

Of Interest To Working People.

Phoenixville is suffering from a scarcity of skilled and unskilled labor, and some of the industrial plants are greatly hampered. The new silk mill needs 200 to 300 operators at once and can only get 75. There is also a scarcity of labor in the hosiery mills and in some departments of the iron and steel works of the town.

We were informed last week that the situation at Berwick is similar to the above. The demand for houses is enormous, twice as great as can be supplied at the present time, and work is full and plenty.

Death of Miss McGuire.

Miss Addie McGuire died at 10:30 on Monday morning, at the home of her mother, 57 Stanley street. Deceased is survived by her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth McGuire; a sister, Mrs. A. W. Jones, of Jonestown, Columbia county, and sisters Annie and Fannie, at home.—Wilkes Barre Record.

The many friends of the deceased in Bloomsburg will be pained to hear of her demise.

Methodist Episcopal Church.

The First Quarterly Conference, Saturday evening April 29, in the church at 8:00 o'clock. Preaching Sunday a. m. at 10:30 by Rev. W. W. Evans D. D., Presiding Elder, and at 8:30 by the pastor, Rev. B. C. Conner. Sunday school at 9:00 Junior and Senior Epworth Leagues at 2:00 and 6:30. The public cordially invited to all the services. Strangers especially welcome.

BLOOMSBURG NATIONAL BANK.

Will Probably be Ready for Business August First.

The organization of a third national bank in Bloomsburg is now an assured fact. It will be located in Paul E. Witt's room, now occupied by the postoffice. The latter will be removed to the Moyer building, below Market street, in a few weeks, and then the room will be remodeled and furnished with all the modern appliances of an up-to-date bank. A large fire-proof and burglar-proof vault will be erected, with safe deposit boxes, and all the furnishings of the bank will be the best that can be procured. Mr. W. H. Hilday has been engaged as cashier, and has resigned his position as teller in the First National Bank, and severed his connection therewith last Saturday. Mr. Hilday is in every way well fitted for the position. He has had many years' experience in the banking business, is widely acquainted through the county, and is an affable gentleman, possessing the respect and confidence of the community.

The bank will probably be ready to begin business by August 1st. There has not been an election of officers as yet, so we are unable to name the other officers and directors at present. The gentlemen who have the matter in charge are among our most prominent business men and financiers. The capital stock will be \$60,000, with a surplus of \$20,000 paid in, making a working fund of \$80,000 to start with. The stock has nearly all been subscribed, and we are informed that twice as much could have been obtained if desired.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions were adopted by Pomona Grange No. 5 P. of H. at its meeting on April 14, 1899:

WHEREAS, Capitalists, Trusts and the combined interests opposed to Agriculture have again succeeded in defeating, in the Senate of our own State, a measure looking toward equalization of taxation. Therefore,

Resolved, That we unqualifiedly condemn those members of the Senate who have lent their influence and votes to thus continue the injustice under which we as rural tax payers labor.

Resolved, That we will continue to educate, agitate, petition and vote for justice in this matter.

Resolved, That we favor the election of U. S. Senators by direct vote of the people.

WHEREAS, The condition and efficiency of our rural schools as made manifest by comparison is so wotfully deficient and the opportunity under present conditions for improvement so very limited that it seems a hopeless task. Therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly urge upon all rural committees the duty to labor with diligence for consolidation, and the establishment of the full graded school system in every rural district.

WHEREAS, Farmer Thos. J. Edge has filled the position of Secretary of Agriculture since the creation of the department in the State, in a manner to win the approbation of the entire farming interests. Therefore,

Resolved, By Pomona Grange No. 5, representing the active farmers of Columbia and Lower Luzerne counties, that we petition Gov. Stone to continue the tried man at the head of the department.

WM. MENSCH, Sec'y.

Swindled Out of \$900.

We learn from one of our exchanges of a swindle recently worked at Sunbury, by a man who called himself W. O. Weller. A day or two after arriving at that place he circulated among the prominent citizens claiming to be the agent of the American Investor's Company of New York. He organized a branch which was given the title of Sunbury Rent Purchase Society, and was to buy, improve, mortgage, lease and sell real estate and make loans thereon. Monthly remittances were made to New York, and it was the understanding that they could secure a loan with which to purchase property. They made the application for a loan but they didn't get it, and now they are mourning the loss of \$900.

We understand that a tour will be made of this district, for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not any of the bogus stamps manufactured by the counterfeiters recently detected in Philadelphia, have been circulated.

THE MASONS.

INTERESTING CEREMONIES OF CALDWELL CONSISTORY A. & A. S. RITE.

They Banqueted at the Exchange Hotel Last Thursday Evening—A Large Number Present From Different Parts of the State.

The regular quarterly communication of Caldwell Consistory, Thirty-second Degree Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons, was held in Masonic Hall, Bloomsburg, on Thursday evening, April 20, 1899, and continued in session until Friday evening. The degrees from the fourth to the thirty-second were conferred upon a class of thirty-three from different parts of the State. The greatest interest was manifested in the work, and over seventy-five members were present, including all of the past Commanders-in-Chief. A large number of petitions were presented, and it is expected that the next class will number at least fifty.

An enjoyable feature of the session was a banquet at the Exchange Hotel at the close of the work on Thursday evening. The banquet hall was beautifully decorated with flags, and the tables were decorated with cut flowers ferns and potted plants, the menu was beautifully designed and elegantly served, while an orchestra discoursed sweet strains during the entire evening.

After the members had refreshed themselves and disposed of the good things provided for them, Past Commander-in-Chief, Illustrious Brother, Harvey A. McKillip, Thirty-third Degree, took his station as toast-master, and in his able and happy way called upon Past Commander-in-Chief Vosburgh N. Shaffer, Thirty-third Degree, as a member of the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the Thirty-third and last degree for the Northern Masonic jurisdiction of the United States of America, A. and A. Rite, to respond to the toast "The Supreme Council." Mr. Shaffer spoke briefly but feelingly of the relations existing between the parent body and its subordinates, and of the great interest manifested in the rite.

Mr. McKillip then introduced Past Commander-in-Chief, Charles K. Francis, Thirty-third Degree, also a member of the Supreme Council, who responded to the toast "The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania."

Mr. Francis is one of the best informed members of the order in Pennsylvania, and is known throughout the State as among one of its ablest exponents. He eloquently dwelt upon beautiful and impressive lessons taught in these degrees, and at the close of his remarks he was given an ovation by the assembled brethren.

The set toasts having been disposed of, songs and impromptu speeches were made by the members and visiting brethren, and the festivities were continued until a late hour, when they were brought to a close by the singing of a stanza of "Auld Lang Syne."

Death of Mrs. Deborah Doak.

The funeral of Mrs. Deborah Doak, well known in this vicinity, occurred Monday, from the home of her daughter, Mrs. Hagenbuch, at Berwick.

Mrs. Doak died on Friday morning, April 21, of paralysis, after a brief illness, aged 83 years. She was the widow of John Doak, who was well known throughout Luzerne and Columbia counties. Her maiden name was Deborah Fowler, being a sister of the late Gilbert Fowler, of Briar creek.

She was born in Berwick, and early in life married Thomas Seybert, who preceded her to the grave many years. Six children were born to them—Mrs. Samuel Hicks, of Berwick; Mrs. Joseph Fry, deceased, formerly of Williamsport; Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson, of Berwick, widow of the late Col. Clarence G. Jackson; Mrs. Fannie Gilbert, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Sallie Hagenbuch, of Berwick; and Miss Alice Seybert, deceased. One sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Deitrick, of Williamsport, also survives.

Some years after the death of her husband she was married to Squire John Doak, who also preceded her to the grave. No children were born from the last marriage.

She resided for a time at Iona, near Shickshinny.—Wilkes-Barre Record.

George W. Yost is improving his West Main street property.

STRAY PARAGRAPHS.

—Trailing Arbutus parties are on the go.

—Decoration Day programs are being arranged.

—Courting couples seek the dimly-lighted streets of town these evenings.

—It's no sign a house is haunted because there are spirits in the cellar.

—You cannot escape death. It overtakes everybody, even the undertaker.

—Some human beings could very profitably pattern after the fidelity of their dogs.

—It is a well known fact that a successful newspaper reporter must possess a little more nerve than the average man, but that doesn't say that he should make a fool of himself.

—The "I told you so, fellows," were very much in evidence when the news reached town that Quay had been acquitted and appointed United States Senator. But notwithstanding the fact that he was acquitted, it caused the "old man" just a little anxiety before the end was reached.

—And now Judge Peabody, of St. Louis, says "a man has a right to whip his wife, provided he uses moderation in so doing." Well, it is indeed a very peculiar interpretation of the law of to-day. That a man, when irritated by some little thing or other, has a right to strike his wife, is a medieval age theory. He has, no doubt, heard of the adverse comment the public has given his decision.

JR. O. U. A. M. HAVE A SMOKER.

A taste of the many pleasures to be had by connecting oneself with secret society life was shown again Monday evening, when members of the Jr. Order United American Mechanics and their friends assembled in their hall in the Lockard building, corner Main and Center streets. It was the occasion of a "smoker" and general good time. The regular weekly meeting of the Council took place early in the evening, and at the conclusion of the business, the doors were thrown open to receive the friends of the order who filed up the hall in large numbers, and in a short space of time the spacious quarters were comfortably filled. The evening was spent in feasting, playing games of various kinds, social chat and short addresses.

Dr. T. C. Harter spoke on the history of the order, which subject was followed by Monroe Sherman, on the good of the order.

After nice refreshments had been partaken of the festivities came to a close, and it was the wish of all that such affairs were of more frequent occurrence. The Junior Mechanics are quite strong in Bloomsburg and include some of our most representative citizens.

A Sad Misfortune.

John Stevenson who makes a living by fixing up old umbrellas, and who was in town last week, soliciting work in his line, met with a sad misfortune some time during Tuesday night.

Early Wednesday morning his wife's dead body was found lying along the canal a short distance above Berwick. It appears she had not been well for several days, and during Tuesday night her condition grew worse, and they concluded to go to a farm house and get something to ease her suffering, but before reaching the objective place, she was compelled to lie down and died in a few minutes. The remains were taken to Berwick, prepared for burial by undertaker Walton, and interred in the cemetery at that place.

Licensed to Wed.

The following marriage licenses have been granted:

E. E. Creveling and Miss Ella Albertson, both of Berwick.

F. P. Bidleman, of Wilkes-Barre, and Miss Effie C. Follmer, of Rohrsburg.

Jacob McAfee, of Nescopeck, and Miss Esty Tyson, of Main township.

Anderson Berger, of Berwick, and Miss Louisa Mitchell, of Cease's Mills, Luzerne county.

C. R. Mendenhall, of Bloomsburg, and Miss Fannie Furman, of the same place.

C. R. Mendenhall and Miss Fannie Furman, daughter of the late Watts Furman, were married at the home of the bride's mother on East street on Wednesday morning, by Rev. D. N. Kirkby, of the Episcopal church. Only the intimate friends of the contracting parties witnessed the ceremony. We extend congratulations.



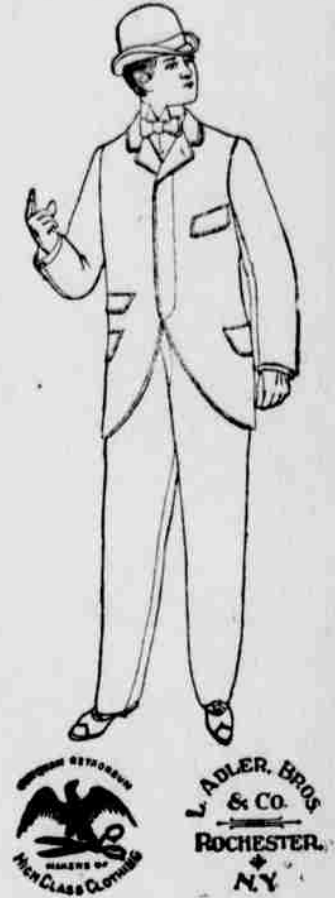
Blue Serges.

We have Blue Serges in Single-Breasted Sack Suit and Double-Breasted Square Cut, at prices that will meet any demand.

Bicycle Clothing

Our Bicycle Pants are just the right thing, with Cuffs in Blue, Red, and goods to match. These are to be worn with Blue Serge Coats.

We also have everything a bicyclist desires, from head to foot.



BEN GIDDING,
Clothier, Bloomsburg.

The Leader Department Store.

CARPETS.

The old adage, that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof," received a strong confirmation this past week. We have claimed all along that our carpet stock was larger and better than the combined stocks in the county, and that you could trade better with us than anywhere else. Our friends, after looking over all the stocks in town, came to us and made their selection. That tells the tale, and so generous has been the call that we have commenced already to duplicate on some of our patterns.

MATTINGS.

The largest stock shown anywhere, and at prices from 12 1/2c up to 35c.

CURTAINS.

We will give you Lace Curtains from 75c up to \$15.00 per pair, and prices between.

OLD CARPETS.

We forgot to say, under heading of Carpets, that we have a number of borders, which will go well with old carpets you want to piece out for larger rooms. It will save you dollars if you don't want to throw away the old carpet. We would rather sell you an entirely new floor, but we are here to save you money, anyway.

BABY COACHES.

We have them from \$5.00 up to \$15.00. You will easily pay 20 per cent. more for each class elsewhere than with us.

OAK BED-ROOM SUITS.

Seven pieces, \$20.00. Easily worth \$25.00.

DINING-ROOM TABLES AND CHAIRS.

New goods—just in.

CURLY BIRCH AND MAHOGANY BED-ROOM SUITS.

We have a few sets left yet of this class. Only one of a kind, and we'll shade the price 25 per cent. to clean up.

TABLE LINEN.

We claim that we carry the finest lines of these goods in the town. We always had the reputation of showing the best values for the money, and we are keeping it up. Just as a sample, we have the finest Crash Linen, Double Damask, for \$2.75 per yard. The patterns are beautiful. City stores show nothing daintier, nor at so low a price. Then we have a good Table Cover, unbleached, at 25c, and an absolutely pure all linen at 50c. Lots between. Before you buy your Table Linen look our stock over. It will give you the standard for comparison, even though you buy elsewhere.

GROCERY DEPARTMENT.

Goods fresh every week. No old stock to work off. Finest California Hams, 6c per pound. Regular, 10c. Have you tasted our fine 20c Mixed Chocolates? Equal to any 25c candy in town. Same brand sold in Philadelphia regularly for 30c. We will buy lard, eggs, potatoes and other country produce.

The Leader Store Co., Ltd.,
Fourth and Market Streets.