

The Columbian.

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NO. 1

A BIG FIRE.

Four Barns Destroyed and Several Others Damaged.

The Most Destructive Blaze That This Town Has Had For Many Years.

BloomSBurg was visited by a most disastrous conflagration shortly after two o'clock Sunday morning. The fire occurred midway between First and Main Street, and started in a building owned by G. W. Sterner and occupied by W. F. Slagle. It was used as a carriage and farm repository. It was an unfortunate hour for a quick response from the fire department, and the flames consequently had gained great headway before the companies reached the scene. By the time the hose carriages were on hand the devouring element had enveloped the major portion of three buildings, the above and the barns of F. P. Billmeyer and W. A. Hartzell, and while the firemen worked hard and heroically about all that could be done to confine it to the buildings adjacent to the burning where several buildings were destroyed and many others damaged. The heat was intense and the work of the wagons and equipments stored in the Slagle building, which in an ordinary fire might have escaped without much damage, was warped and twisted and rendered entirely worthless except as so much scrap iron.

The origin of the fire is a deep mystery and baffles the ken of everyone. The theory of spontaneous combustion is advanced, but generally disbelieved. A consideration of the time of its occurrence and of the building in which it started points strongly to incendiarism. But of this there is a lack of evidence to substantiate the belief, unless from a basis of pecuniary gain, and even this motive, when the life and property of so many was endangered, is hardly conceivable.

Mr. Slagle and family were in Sunbury visiting relatives and came home the next day to realize the unfortunate occurrence. His loss will probably reach \$4,000, but this, of course, is partly covered by insurance. He had something like twenty-five vehicles stored in the barn, besides a lot of robes, harness, and other property. The house in which he lived was damaged by the flames, and the furniture, most of it new, was rendered worthless. The barn belonged to G. W. Sterner. His loss of \$3,000 is covered, or nearly so, by insurance.

E. Woolsey, the confectioner, is a loser to the extent of about \$300. He occupied the Billmeyer barn. His delivery outfit, consisting of a horse, three wagons and a lot of harness was totally destroyed. The animal was so badly burned that it died shortly after it had gotten out of the barn. Mr. Wolsey had no insurance and the loss is a total one. Whether or not there was any insurance held by Mr. Billmeyer we have been unable to learn.

W. A. Hartzell was a heavy loser. His livery stable, ten or eleven sleighs, a lot of harness and robes were consumed, besides a valuable dog. He carried an insurance of \$2,000 but this includes the entire property, hotel and all. So that the amount that he will receive by reason of the fire is quite insignificant.

P. S. Moyer and Son, tinmiths, were the occupants of Mrs. James Barton's barn. This building was reduced to ashes. The entire loss is placed at \$1,200; Mrs. Barton \$700 and Moyer & Son \$500.

By the burning of a small shed or outbuilding, near the Sterner barn, Louis Rosenthal lost a small amount. His household furniture was also slightly damaged by water.

The other buildings damaged were the barns of C. B. Lutz, Mrs. Tustin, and G. M. Quick.

It was by far the biggest as well as the most destructive fire we have had in many years, and but for the noble work of the firemen the losses would have been far greater than they are.

There is excellent skating on the race beyond Irondale.

IN THE KRICKBAUM CASE.

The proceedings in Quo Warranto against County Commissioner William Krickbaum, in an effort to oust him from his office, were started by District Attorney John G. Harman, on the following information:

BLOOMSBURG, Dec. 18th, 1900. To John G. Harman, District Attorney for Columbia county:

WHEREAS, I have reason to believe that William Krickbaum, one of the Commissioners of Columbia county, is the holder or owner of stock in certain corporations engaged in furnishing supplies, water and light for said county of Columbia, and while being such Commissioner is also one of the bondsmen for Jeremiah Snyder, Treasurer for Columbia county, and that the said Krickbaum is individually interested, directly or indirectly, in certain contracts entered into by the County Commissioners for said county:

Therefore, I request you, that in your official capacity, you make the suggestion to the proper court of the county of Columbia of the above matter.

T. J. VANDERSLICE. As stated in our issue of two weeks ago, on this information a petition was prepared and presented to the court, and Judge Little made an order directing service on Mr. Krickbaum, and fixed December 31st for a hearing on the petition. On that date many people were expecting that there would be a general hearing of the case, but at the appointed hour the Judge went upon the bench, and the following proceedings were made:

Now, Dec. 31, 1900, on application of Grant Herring for relator, W. H. Rhawn appearing for respondent in above, entitled case, a rule is granted on the respondent to answer, plead or demur to the suggestion filed in said case within twenty days from this date, or judgment sec. reg.

BY THE COURT. In accordance with this order, Mr. Krickbaum must either plead, demur, or answer in twenty days. What the next step will be after that, depends upon which he does. Should he answer raising an issue of fact, testimony will be heard. Should he plead or demur, the case will come up before the Judge on argument as another preliminary step. It is one of those cases that can easily be protracted for a long time, and it is possible that Mr. Krickbaum's term will expire before a final decision is reached.

The *Sentinel* gives the following as a reason for the bringing of the action: "The charge made against William Krickbaum, for his removal from office, is the outcome of the incompetency of the present Commissioners' clerk, Robert F. Vanderslice, son of T. J. Vanderslice, whom Mr. Krickbaum, as County Commissioner, has found to be incapable of filling the position now held by him, and has said so time and again. His father fearful of his removal evidently took these steps to compel Mr. Krickbaum to still retain him."

BLOOMSBURG'S CENTENNIAL.

BloomSBurg was laid out in 1802 by Ludwig Eyer, and was then known as Oyersburg. In 1902 it will be one hundred years old, and this event should be properly observed. Just what time in the year it was laid out we are not aware, but that could probably be ascertained.

It is not too soon to begin to discuss the matter. The Board of Trade is already organized, and is composed of our leading business and professional men, and it would be proper for them to consider the matter. A committee should be appointed to formulate some recommendations on the subject, and report thereon. Don't postpone it. Act now.

Topic Cards.

A fine line of samples of Topic Cards for Christian Endeavor, Epworth League and Baptist Societies are kept at this office. Committees should call early and make their selections so that the cards will be ready by January 1st. This office can furnish them as cheap as they can be obtained in the city.

Volume Thirty-Six.

With this issue, THE COLUMBIAN enters upon its thirty-sixth volume, having been established in 1866. Since 1875 it has been under the management of the present owner. It will be our endeavor during the coming year to keep it up to its usual standard, and to make such improvements as are possible.

THE NEW CENTURY

Crowds Throng the Streets Until Nearly One O'clock.

Bells, Whistles, Fire Crackers, Tin Horns, and Shouting Greet the Birth of the New Century.

BloomSBurg was far from being asleep Monday night. Even a Fair day with its varied program of pleasure never assembled the people of town in such large numbers. Main Street, in the vicinity of the Court House was a veritable sea of humanity. The people began to make their appearance as early as ten o'clock. Their objective point appeared to be Market Square. This was because it had been advertised that a bon fire would take place there. But, owing to a strong wind, it was deemed best to dispense with the bon fire. Then the crowd began to move toward the Court House. Finally the bell tolled the hour, which was greeted by a roar of voices, tin horns and revolvers. The BloomSBurg Band lent pleasure to the occasion by rendering patriotic and popular airs. To the Rescue Fire Company of the Fourth Ward belongs the credit of keeping the big crowd in a happy frame of mind throughout the entire demonstration. Their appearance on the street headed by a donkey and a goat was the signal for an outburst of laughter and cheers. The make ups of the whole party were great.

It was about an hour after the birth of the new year and century that the people began to disperse to the various points of the compass, all seeking their homes and rest. Many of the residents had their dwelling houses illuminated throughout the evening.

They're After the "Typo."

Proprietor Ent of the Central Hotel this town, and Moyer, of the City Hotel, Danville, are after Charles Adams, a tourist' compositor, who was a guest for a week and two weeks and left without settling. From all reports he is one of the undeserving variety, and by oft and continued violation of confidence placed in him has gained the name of a professional beat. He turned up in this town about three weeks ago, first at the Young Men's Christian Association. He was sent to Mrs. Phillips' boarding house for supper, lodging and breakfast at the Association's expense. The next morning he came to the COLUMBIAN office and asked for help. He was given work for several days during which time he displayed a lack of energy and utter disregard for the office rules. Upon a request from Mrs. Phillips the amount of his board bill there was held for her. He then went to the Central Hotel, and remained for a week, when he suddenly disappeared. Now the above-named gentlemen are after him. When last seen he was wending his way toward Berwick. At Sunbury, where he also left an unpaid board bill, he gave his name as Charles Porter, and at Danville Frank Allison.

He was apprehended at Sunbury on Tuesday, brought to BloomSBurg, and lodged in jail to await trial at Court.

A Centralia Wedding.

At one o'clock Thursday afternoon at the M. E. church at Centralia, Miss Gertrude Buckley, youngest daughter of Rev. J. W. Buckley, pastor of the Centralia church, was united in marriage to Mr. Hoyt, of Johnstown. The affair was quite a social event in the mountain town. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father. The happy couple left on an afternoon train for an extended trip. They will take up housekeeping in Johnstown.

Calendars.

For some unexplained reason the Calendars for 1901, which we ordered some time ago, have not arrived. They are expected soon, and one will be given to every subscriber in arrears who pays for a year or more. Those who have paid in advance can get one by calling at the office. We shall have none for general distribution, except to our patrons.

This is inventory week with many of our merchants.

THE RECORD BEATEN.

During the Past Year "The Columbian Office" Surpasses itself in its Job Printing Department.

In 1899 the COLUMBIAN Office turned out 1233 jobs of printing, entirely independent of the newspaper. That was a good year, the best the office ever had, and we supposed that it was up to its limit, but 1900 has far surpassed it. The records show that there have been completed, from January 1st to December 31st 1900, the unprecedented number of 2248 jobs of printing. We closed the year with eighteen unfinished orders on the books. This patronage we ascribe to the fact that we aim to accommodate our patrons, and to keep up-to-date in our outfit.

The work is well done by competent hands, and at reasonable prices. Mr. Geo. C. Roan, who learned his trade in this office, and has been constantly employed here for more than twenty-five years, is the Superintendent of the mechanical departments, and it is largely through his efficiency and skill that the office is enabled to turn out such good work and so much of it.

To our many patrons we extend the greetings of the season; and desire to express our appreciation of their liberal and continued patronage. We are better prepared than ever before to do fine work, or special work, and invite all to visit our plant before ordering printing from out of town.

SHERIFF BLACK RETIRES.

On Monday next Sheriff William W. Black's term of three years in the Shirevalty of Columbia county will expire, and he will vacate, and become once more a private citizen. Sheriff Black has made a careful, conscientious, and efficient officer. The business of his office has been transacted promptly and intelligently, and yet with as much leniency for unfortunate debtors as was consistent with the requirements of justice. He has been ably assisted by his son, Bruce, whom we are glad to state, will remain in the office as Deputy sheriff under the new official, Daniel Knorr. The Sheriff and his family have made many warm friends in BloomSBurg, and the fact that they propose to reside here will be good news. Mr. Black has rented the B. F. Davis property on the corner of Fifth and Iron streets, and will move in there next week.

Baptist Church.

Next Sunday will be the anniversary of my pastorate in BloomSBurg. Let us make it an occasion of rejoicing and renewed consecration to the services of God. A sermon, appropriate to the occasion, will be preached in the morning, followed by the celebration of the Lord's supper. I desire very much to see every member of the church and congregation present. The public also are invited to worship with us.

J. D. SMITH Pastor.

For Sale.

Three town lots on Ninth street above Catharine, 33 feet front each, and running back to the canal. Will be sold on easy terms. Inquire at this office. 10-4 tf.

J. G. WELLS,

Successor to S. F. Peacock & Co., Market Square.

Skates

and

Sausage

stuffers.

J. G. WELLS, GENERAL HARDWARE.

SPECIAL REDUCTION SALE!

COMMENCES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4,

ON WINTER

Suits and Overcoats.

All broken sizes, half price. Others, at one-third and one-quarter off. All staple goods, no reduction.

BEN. CIDDING.

Come in and see us—we'll treat you right.

The Leader Department Store.

Diamonds.

A writer, in one of the daily papers, said that among the "upper ten," those who are accustomed to "six figures" it was not considered the proper thing for a woman to receive as a present anything which was to be used in house furnishing. That the proper gift for her royal highness—the American woman—was diamonds, expensive furs, or other "trifles."

Now, this may be all right for those who can afford to spend \$1,000 where we can spend \$1.00, but we're old fashioned enough to believe that one of the most suitable gifts is something which will make home more comfortable and more beautiful. So we want to talk to you about

Rockers and Rugs.

ROCKERS.—Our stock has been carefully picked. First, we take into consideration the comfort to be obtained out of the chair. They having made selection on this basis, we choose the prettiest of the most comfortable. That gives us the right kind of goods. Come down and try them. Sit in them, and think how much comfort such a present will bring to your friend. We have all the popular finishes and colorings, and the highest price is \$10.00, from that down to \$1.25.

RUGS.—A good second to the rocker. In fact, it really takes first place, for it is older, and the magnate of the Orient counts his wealth in magnificent rugs. We show some of the finest products of the American looms. The colors are artistic and the designs chaste. We show these in prices from \$1.00 to \$10.00. We will be glad to have you look these over.

Toys.

Well displayed and all kinds, for all prices.

THE LEADER STORE CO., L'T'D.,

FOURTH AND MARKET STS.,

BLOOMSBURG, PA.