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THE MALICE OF IT.

Re-enactment of the Ordinance Prohibiting Firecrackers Is Needed.

Privileges of the 4th Abused.

In 1870 when the Town of Bloomsburg was incorporated, a section was introduced in Ordinance Number 1, prohibiting the firing of firearms, squibs, firecrackers, etc., within the built up portion of the Town, except on July 4th. There was such an abuse of this privilege that two years later, after a fire had occurred presumably from fireworks, that Ordinance No. 6, was enacted, which repealed that part of Ordinance No. 1, which excepted July 4th, and made it unlawful to shoot firecrackers or squibs on any day of the year. This remained the law of the town until July 11, 1894, when Ordinance No. 78, was passed which repealed Ordinance No. 6, the effect of which was to revive Ordinance No. 1, Article 6, thus permitting the use of firearms, firecrackers and squibs on July 4th.

The town authorities this year had intended to post notices forbidding the use of these things, but an investigation showed the above situation, and there was no authority to prevent it.

There is, however, undoubted authority to prevent such use of pistols and fireworks as make them a nuisance and a menace to the public. The license to use them on July 4th gives no permission to annoy others or to endanger their lives or property.

Many boys and men seem to be laboring under the impression that the Declaration of Independence was signed expressly for the purpose of giving them the brutal privilege of frightening women, children and horses on the 4th of July. A few instances of this will illustrate what we mean. Two women in a buggy were driving a horse that was evidently in a nervous condition. In front of the Bloomsburg National Bank some boys who were old enough to know better, began firing revolvers and other explosives, and when the women showed their fear the boys laughed and made more noise, deliberately trying to increase the horse's prancing, until they were stopped by a man of more sense.

At the First National Bank corner a man driving a delivery wagon was struggling to keep control of his horse which had been frightened by pistol shots. It was a close question whether the horse was not going to run away, but two boys on the pavement pulled revolvers and fired repeatedly as the horse passed them, regardless of the fact that the animal was almost unmanageable.

Down Market street below Third, on Friday evening, nine young men were quietly sitting on the grass along the gutter, when several ladies approached. Just as they were at the nearest point to the men the latter all drew revolvers and fired simultaneously. All of the women were greatly startled, and one of them nearly fainted from fright.

Two of these instances were seen by the writer, and had he been near enough at the time he would have "smeared in". There were numberless instances of less aggravated cases, such as firing pistols close to people passing, throwing firecrackers under the feet of women and children, and the like. Noisy explosions are permitted on the 4th, for the purpose of celebrating our National Independence. The conduct of a large number of men and boys has made the 4th a source of dread and anxiety to the majority of our citizens, because it has come to be largely an occasion for the exhibition of brutality and cowardice. No one but a brute would fire a revolver so close to a woman as to make her faint, and no one but a coward would attempt to make a horse driven by women run away. We have had nine years of this sort of thing and it is time to call a halt. Let petitions be presented to the Town Council asking them to forbid the use of firearms, firecrackers, squibs, etc., every day in the year, including July 4th, and then there will be no more such exhibitions of devilish maliciousness as were seen on our streets last Saturday.

ANSWER FILED.

Counsel for Defendant in Alleged Canal Nuisance, States Reasons for Dismissal.

Case of General Concern.

In the equity proceedings instituted a few weeks ago by Frank H. Wilson, E. J. Brown, Paul E. Wirt, A. V. Hower, J. H. Coleman, R. R. Hartman, John W. Harman, Wesley Shutt, John E. Moyer, J. H. Fahringer, H. R. Kahler, M. H. Rhoads, Frank Kashner and P. G. Miller regarding the alleged nuisance of the canal and for which the Town of Bloomsburg is claimed to be responsible, Fred T. Ikeler counsel for the defendant, yesterday filed an answer.

In their answer the defendant denies the third paragraph in the bill in so far as it charges the defendant with "negligently leaving an opening under said fill of about fifteen inches square; which said opening or drain fills up and becomes clogged and is inadequate for the drainage of the water through the same." The defendant also denies as alleged in the third paragraph "that said defendant within the time alleged has constructed surface drains at Catharine and Cherry streets."

The defendant denies the allegation of the plaintiff that the town has permitted cess pools and privy vaults to be emptied and discharged into the canal at points between Poplar and Iron streets and has also permitted the refuse and filth from hog pens located along properties between Poplar and Iron streets to drain into the canal.

The defendant further denies that it has adopted the canal or ditch as a part of its general system of drainage.

It denies that the authorities of town have, notwithstanding the complaints, neglected and refused and still neglect and refuse to properly construct drains to carry off the water but on the contrary have constructed additional drains into the canal.

To the contrary of all the plaintiffs' averments, the Defendant avers as follows, asking for a dismissal of the case:

"That all the water now emptied by the defendant into said canal was formerly deposited therein at what is now the foot of Iron street by an open water course leading from the property now of Harman & Hassert and the Bloomsburg Car Manufacturing Company, across East street (by culvert); then by open ditch to foot of Iron street into said canal.

"That this was the natural course of the surface drainage of the Town of Bloomsburg, and had been since its earliest foundation more than fifty years prior thereto.

"That on or about the year 1888 the Town of Bloomsburg, in order to abate certain nuisances caused by the aforesaid open watercourse, and to take the place thereof, constructed an underground drain, for surface water, discharging into said canal at Cherry street, and about six or seven years ago, for a like reason, constructed a similar drain discharging into said canal at Catharine street.

"That none of the water deposited as aforesaid remains, or 'stands in said ditch or canal and becomes stagnant, nor is any of said water prevented from flowing off by reason of any obstruction placed in said canal at Market or Catharine streets; but on the other hand, from Catharine street to a point near the eastern limits of said Town, where it is discharged into a flowing stream known as 'Kinney's Run,' without causing or creating any of the nuisances complained of in Plaintiff's bill.

"That in order to be absolutely certain that none of the water deposited in said canal by the defendant, can be blocked or retarded by any alleged deficiency in the openings under Catharine or Market streets, the defendant has lately caused to be constructed across said canal, at a point west of the Catharine street drain but east of the opening under Market street, an embankment or dam."

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council will be held tonight.

To The Public:

It is no longer considered a violation of banking ethics to ask for what we would like to have, and acting on the theory that what is greatly worth having is certainly worth asking for.

The Bloomsburg National Bank

Solicits the accounts of all responsible people, promising all the courtesies that are usually extended by an obliging and carefully conducted banking house. We propose to continue to conduct our business on safe and strictly business lines, believing that such a course will be to the best advantage of the public generally.

A. Z. SCHOCH, PRESIDENT. WM. H. HIDLAY, CASHIER.

SODA FOUNTAIN EXPLOSION.

Painfully Injures James H. Mercer.

James H. Mercer the druggist, was the victim of what might have been a fatal accident Friday afternoon. He was alone in the store at the time and had gone down into the cellar to charge the soda fountain. It had been his custom to charge the fountain up to about two hundred pounds pressure. The gauge registered one hundred and seventy five pounds when he was called up to wait on a customer. He thought that he had shut off the gas before going up and when he returned he just glanced at the gauge and observed that the needle was against the pivot concluded that the tank was leaking and that the gas had all escaped. Instead, the needle had made the complete circuit and was on the opposite side of the pivot, and when he bent over the tank to find the leak it exploded with terrific force. A large piece of the copper sheeting was hurled against his legs inflicting painful wounds above the knees, while a smaller piece of it flew past his face and buried itself to the depth of half an inch in one of the rafters.

He succeeded in reaching the store and summoning Dr. B. F. Gardner and was removed to his home on West Third street. He was able to go to the store on Tuesday. His business is being taken care of by George Allemen of Moyer Bros. store.

Mr. Mercer though painfully injured was indeed fortunate. Had the smaller portion of the tank which embedded itself in the rafters struck him in the abdomen it would in all probability have produced fatal results.

CANNON ORAOKER EXPLOSION.

Myron, the bright little son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Rishton, had a narrow escape from serious injury, or perhaps death, on the afternoon of the Fourth. In company with Robert Mercer he was playing in front of his home when they saw a large fire cracker lying in the street. They had seen no one throw it down and it was not lighted. Myron picked it up and sat down on the grass and began to pull it apart, when it exploded. His face was cut, his hands burned and his legs badly bruised at the knees. It was feared at first that his eyes were injured but an examination proved that they had escaped. Several physicians were summoned by phone and Dr. Bierman reached there first and dressed the wounds. Myron was able to be down stairs on Monday, though feeling very sore. He will long remember the 4th of July 1903.

Robert Mercer was only slightly burned.

FIRE DESTROYS AUTOMOBILE.

The destructive power of fire has again been demonstrated. This time it is James M. Staver's automobile, and so well did the fire do its work that the once handsome machine now lies at Mr. Staver's barn, a mournful relic. The top and body of the machine were burned and the pipes bent and twisted. The fire was the result of an explosion. J. K. Lockard, who was passing at the time heard the noise, as did some of the employees at the Woolen Mill, and it was only the prompt work of the latter that saved the barn from total destruction. Mr. Staver is unable to account for the explosion.

When ignorance keeps peace in the family, it is downright folly to tell all you know.

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HAMMOCKS

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All this Year's.

No Old Patterns Carried Over.

FOR SALE BY

J. G. Wells,

General Hardware,

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

COLLISION ON ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

Accident the Result of Failure to Heed Regular Signals.

Motorman Harvey Fetterman, was badly bruised in a head on collision on the Electric railway Friday evening. The accident occurred out beyond Park street and was the result of failure to heed the regular signal. Car No. 3, in charge of conductor John Mausteller and motorman Fetterman was coming down from Berwick. When they passed Espy switch the signal lights were thrown on, and properly exhibited at Park street. The up car was somewhat delayed on account of a heavy storm, but reached Park street and ran upon the switch in obedience to the signal and waited five minutes. This was sufficient time, conductor Nagle thought to allow the car to reach there if it was in that block. He failed to take into consideration that the passengers were largely work hands from Berwick and that eighteen stops had to be made in Espy, and concluding that the signal light had been thrown on by mistake, he gave motorman Evans orders to proceed. When the car had reached a point along the burm bank, just above the residence of John Hoffman, Evans saw the car coming only a short distance ahead. His car had attained a pretty high speed, and realizing that to stop would be impossible he jumped as did several of the passengers, and the cars crashed into each other. Fetterman exerted his every energy to stop his car, and was at his post with his hand on the lever when the crash came. He was thrown violently backward striking the end of the car. He was stunned and sustained several cutaneous wounds, but no bones were broken. Dr. Redeker was summoned, and he was removed to his home at Rupert.

Both cars were damaged to such an extent that they had to be sent away. The ends were crushed in and all the glass broken.

Because of their failure to wait, which was directly responsible for the accident, both Evans and Nagle have been laid off for an indefinite period.

The Hawley-Slate Furniture Factory is closed down this week, on account of inventory.

SPECIAL SALE!

MENS' ALL WOOL PANTS,

Were 3.00, 2.50 & 2.00

All \$1.50.

SEE WINDOW.

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| Cotton Voiles - | 35c | 22c |
| Kenilworth Repts | 30c | 20c |
| Grass Matting - | 50c | 37½ |
| China Matting | 30c | 20c |
| Ingrain Carpet | 35c | 20c |
| Velvet Carpet - | 1.25 | 1.00 |

The Leader Store Co. L't'd.

4TH AND MARKET STREETS.