

# The Columbian.

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NO 39

## ALIBI FOR RUANE.

Will be Able to Prove That he Was in Berwick at Time of Murder.

### With Murdock it is Different.

Notwithstanding that the Luzerne county authorities are working strenuously to fasten the murder of William Baltis at Wilkes-Barre in the early morning of June 9th last on William Murdock and Patrick Ruane, or Roan, the two men who were convicted at this session of criminal court here for highway robbery and sentenced to the Eastern Penitentiary, there will be evidence, and it seems conclusive too, to prove that Ruane was working for the American Car & Foundry Company at Berwick at the time, and was there on the very morning the crime was committed. Murdock too was employed at the shops but his whereabouts from June 6th to 15th are not known. Both men worked up to June 6th. They left on that date but Ruane returned on the evening of the 8th and resumed work on the morning of the 9th. Murdock did not return until the 15th. It is absolutely impossible for Ruane to have been at the scene of the murder unless he could have gone there between the time he was at Berwick on the evening of the 8th and the time he went to work on the morning of the 9th. An alibi for Murdock, however, can not be proven and he will have to rely on some other way to clear himself.

Chief of Police Jones of Wilkes-Barre together with county detective Richard Jones, city detective Michael Brown, Constable Zelander, of Hazeton and three witnesses, one of whom is employed at the Achison Bakery, on South Main street, Wilkes-Barre, and the others cab drivers in that city came to Bloomsburg on Thursday for the purpose of interviewing the prisoners and if possible get from them an incriminating statement. They were taken to the jail, but learned nothing from the suspects that would in any way strengthen the claim of circumstantial evidence that they have thus far succeeded in weaving about them. Even when chief of police Jones confronted Ruane with the statement that he had been positively identified as one of the murderers, he didn't understand what the chief was trying to get at. There was not so much as a trace of emotion in his manner and he finally flatly denied any knowledge of the crime, and said that he didn't even know a crime had been committed until Murdock came to Berwick on the 15th of June and told him of an account of it in the paper.

Murdock was then ushered in. Murdock at once said: "What's up?" The chief told him he ought to know what was up, when he said, "I don't know anything about it." The chief then asked him what he meant. He replied by saying, "Yes, I saw something in the papers, but there's nothing in it, see." And then he closed up as tight as an oyster, and nothing more could be gotten out of him.

The party then left the jail and returned to Wilkes-Barre. The chief and county detective seemed much put out, as they expected the men to make a statement. They said they did not know any of the witnesses present, but both the cab drivers are well acquainted with Murdock.

The two Altoona men who were with Baltis at the time of the murder made an appointment to be at Bloomsburg to try and identify the men, but they fail to be here. The pictures of the men, however, were sent to Altoona and the two men identified the pictures as the men whom they thought did the shooting. The chief telegraphed the chief of Altoona to learn whether or not the two men had left Altoona to keep the appointment, but no answer was received.

### CHARTER GRANTED.

The State Department on Monday issued a charter to "The Danville & Bloomsburg Street Railway Company," to run from Danville to Bloomsburg. The capital of the company is \$36,000. William F. Pascoe of Allentown is the president.

## TROLLEY CO. LOSES.

Jury Renders Verdict for C. P. Pfahler in the sum of \$1,368.

### THE CASE HARD FOUGHT.

The case that occasioned the most general concern and the hardest fought of the entire second week of court, was that of C. P. Pfahler of Catawissa vs. the Columbia & Montour Electric Railway Co. The case was called before Judge Newcomb, of Scranton, especially presiding, Thursday afternoon. Representing the plaintiff were Judge Herring, W. H. Rhawn Esq. and C. C. Yetter Esq. while the defendant Company had as its counsel District Attorney A. W. Duy and James Scarlet Esq. The plaintiff claimed damages to the amount of \$15,000 for injuries to himself and horse sustained while crossing the defendant Company's tracks at what is known as the Barton crossing a short distance below town. An account of the accident has already appeared in these columns, but we will give it briefly again. It was on the night of November 7th last, Pfahler was driving to Rupert. When he reached the Barton crossing he looked down the track to see if any car was approaching, none being in sight he proceeded to cross. The horse was over, but the wagon was still on the track when a car coming down struck it. He was severely injured on his left hip, left side and on the back of his head. The horse suffered even worse, being injured so badly that it died the next day. On the witness stand the defendant stated that the night was "black dark". It was only between five and six o'clock but notwithstanding the darkness was intense. He had observed the usual care, stopped, looked and listened, but could see or hear nothing. The car had no head light, neither was the bell rung to warn him of the coming danger. Since the accident he has suffered great pain, does not average over four hours sleep a night, is very nervous, and any extra exertion is accompanied by considerable difficulty in breathing. His head has pained him almost incessantly and it appears to be growing worse and his memory is affected. He has been able to work but little since the accident. His earnings before the accident averaged about \$3,000 a year, but since he has earned nothing.

Dr. Morrison Vastine, of Catawissa, testified to having attended the plaintiff after the injury. Besides complaining of a pain in the head and left shoulder, he found that a rib had been broken, which he said pressed inward on the pleura causing pain in breathing. He treated him for nervousness, palpitation of the heart, sleeplessness, pain and loss of memory. The patient's condition in the doctor's opinion was such as might lead to insanity or paralysis.

Dr. George E. Pfahler a graduate of the Medico Chirurgical College, Philadelphia, testified. He explained the defendant's condition and the cause. The plaintiff's affliction he said is such as is usually caused by fright, or narrow escape from some awful fate.

Mrs. Alice Pfahler, wife of the plaintiff, testified to the inability of her husband to attend to business. She said that he sits home and that his condition is sad. She appeared to be visibly affected and it was with difficulty that she restrained her tears.

Phillip Miller a director of the Catawissa National Bank, told of the plaintiff's condition both before and since the accident. He has changed wonderfully. His former keen interest has disappeared, his ambition is gone.

Jerry Berninger an employee of Mr. Pfahler's took the stand and explained the horse's injuries. In speaking of his employer's condition he said he never knew him to be ill a day before the accident. Now he is dull and forgetful, and the work that he used to assist in he never touches now.

George W. Houck of Catawissa took the stand. He was on the car when it struck Pfahler. The curtains he said were drawn across the front of the car shutting off the light ahead. There was no headlight. The car was running fast, and the bell was not sounded,

## The Bloomsburg National Bank

At the Close of Business September 9th, 1903.

RESOURCES.		LIABILITIES.	
Loans and Investments,	\$389,126.61	Capital Stock,	\$60,000.00
Furniture and Fixtures,	8,000.00	Surplus and Profits, (Net)	49,479.73
Cash and Reserve,	79,660.43	Circulation,	58,750.00
		Due Banks,	2,421.72
		Individual Deposits,	306,129.59
	\$476,787.04		\$476,787.04

A. Z. SCHOCH, PRESIDENT.

WM. H. HIDLAY, CASHIER.

that he heard. He heard the crash. The horse and wagon were dragged for considerable distance before the car was stopped.

The jury was taken to the scene of the accident.

Charles L. Pohe the motorman on the car testified that the car was not running over six miles an hour. He did not see Pfahler until after he had been hit. There was no headlight on the car, but the lights inside the car shone out and enabled him to see about six feet ahead of the car.

Samuel Kressler the conductor discredited Geo. W. Houck's testimony respecting the curtains over the front doors. He said they were not drawn until after the accident. The car left the Square at 6:35 and it was about five minutes later when the accident occurred. He felt a sudden jolt, and running out saw Mr. Pfahler in a wagon without his hat. He inquired where the horse was and either Mr. Pfahler or Mr. Pohe, he couldn't recall which, replied that it was under the car.

Several other witnesses were called among them being S. F. Peacock, who at the request of Mr. Duy had gone to the scene of the accident at nine o'clock one night for the express purpose of making a test. He couldn't see the body of a car, but he could easily see the light and hear the bell. His testimony was substantiated by W. H. Eyer and Bart Pursel, who were also there on the night of the test. Mr. Eyer testified that the light could be seen nineteen hundred and the car one thousand feet.

Mr. Scarlet addressed the jury for the defendant and Judge Herring for the plaintiff.

The jury retired at 5:15 Friday afternoon. They returned a sealed verdict the same evening. It was opened Saturday morning and found to be in favor of the plaintiff in the sum of \$1,368.

Mr. Duy counsel for the Trolley Company at once filed motion for an arrest of judgment and new trial.

### OTHER PROCEEDINGS.

The argument in the river bridge equity proceedings was taken up before the Court on Wednesday. The proceedings were very lengthy and many witnesses were called including A. R. Tulebrown chief engineer of the Sunbury and Wilkes-Barre Division, J. J. Keenan a former supervisor of this division; B. F. Bright, assistant trainmaster of this division; Joseph E. McIntyre, former assistant supervisor of the Sunbury Division for the Railroad Company, and Commissioner William Bogart; Daniel Hess of Millville; John C. Hetler, of Hetlerville; Heim B. Wintersten, Stephen Pohe, of Espy; Jacob Peiter, of Millville; J. J. Brown, of Bloomsburg; Henry Folk, of Millville; Aaroy W. Hess, of Millville; Alfred Hess, of Millville; Mordecai Hicks, of Light Street; Commissioner Geo. W. Sterner; County Surveyor Boyd Trescott, of Millville; and Jas. C. Brawn superintending engineer of the bridge, for the Commissioners. The proceedings came to an end Thursday afternoon, Counsel filed briefs and the matter now rests in the hands of the Court. At the conclusion of the case Judge Little announced that the present order of Court respecting the injunction be continued until further notice.

The next case called was that of Kostenbauder vs. Goodman. It was a dispute over a small strip of land at Montana, near Centralia, occupied by defendant, to which the plaintiff claims the title. Notwithstanding the triviality of the matter, it was hard fought throughout. Zarr was counsel for the defendant and Scarlet for the

(Continued on 8th page 4th Col.)

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF

### Are You a Hunter?

If so you will be interested in

## Wells' Special Gun Sale

All first class and reliable. We name a few specials, but come and see our big line and Special Offering at special prices. These are all good game procurers if properly handled.

### SPECIAL GUNS.

A double barrel gun with fine walnut stock, clean bore, finely finished. Always \$16.00, Special at \$8.48 each. This is a 12 gauge gun, a great field piece.

Here is a beautiful 12 gauge hammerless, double barrel, clean bore finely finished. Left barrel choked, right barrel modified. Always \$28.00. We will sell a few at \$22.00. Come and see it.

### HUNTING COATS

At money saving prices. Don't expect these coats at these prices all season, but now.

The old favorite hunting coat that you have always paid \$2.00 for now \$1.65.

The regular \$1.25 hunting coat in this sale at 98 cents.

Leggings from \$1.25 to 50 cents a pair.

Hunting Vests and belts 50 cts to 25 cts.

We claim this to be the finest assortment of Hunter's Goods of all kinds, and at less prices than ever offered in Bloomsburg.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.

FOR SALE BY

**J. G. Wells,**

General Hardware,  
BLOOMSBURG, PA.

### THE GREAT BLOOMSBURG FAIR.

In just three weeks the big fair will be in full blast. Already it is the all absorbing topic of discussion out through the farming districts. Farmers are preparing to bring in their big potatoes, pumpkins, corn, apples and other products. There will probably be more blooded cattle, hogs and sheep here than ever before. Agricultural implements will be here galore. The ladies fancy work department promises to outstrip previous exhibitions, and the attendance will be unprecedented. A good chance to meet all your friends.

The management has spared nothing to make this the best of all fairs in this section of the state. The Cycle Whirling Bretons are booked as one of the attractions. A special prize is offered for a double team match race as one of the attractive features. Other attractions are being booked. A new poultry house has been built this year with a capacity for 1000 birds. The entries are expected to exceed 6000 in the various classes. \$3,500 is offered in purses for the following classes, viz: 2:25, 2:21, 2:18, 2:15 pacing classes; 2:27, 2:22 and 2:17 trotting; free for all trot or pace, Farmer's County race, mixed, 3:00; and a Gentlemen's Road Race for county horses.

### Their Stores Closed.

The Hebrews of town observed their New Years, Tuesday. According to the ancient reckoning the new year began at sundown on Monday. In observance of the event Lewis Gross, D. Lowenberg Est., B. A. Gidding and the Hub closed their stores from Monday evening at six o'clock until Tuesday evening at six.

Next year will be leap year. The years divisible by four, except that of the century year 1900, are the leap years. The holidays all take a jump of one day and the man that is looking forward in anticipation is informed that Forth of July, which fell on Saturday this year, will fall on Monday next year.

## Men of Any Size



Tall men, portly men, and short, stout men frequently find the clothes question baffling.

Those who have worn our special sizes for such proportions know that the solution here is easy.

The worried ones are invited to try on our Suits and Overcoats, in slim, stout and extra sizes, just

to see how easy it is to find a fit.

If you think it necessary to have your clothes made to order, then you have not given this store a trial. We have all of our sizes cut in several shapes to accommodate just such cases as yours. We think that we can

### Fit You to a "T"

The fact is that we guarantee a fit, just as much as we guarantee a fit in any of our regular sizes.

Our Fall Lines are now Ready.

## BEN GIDDING

Bloomsburg, Penn'a.,

Corner Main and Center Sts.

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

## The Leader Department Store.

Dear Madam:—

Our buyer has just returned from New York with the choice selection of the market's offerings. We want you to see them and pass judgment on our taste.

You will remember that last winter white was in high favor. Go where you would to any sort of entertainment and you would find white was the prevailing color, and nothing was daintier or sweeter. This winter white for waists will still be the proper thing.

For Skirts, Jackets and Tailored Suits Bontons, English Cheviots and Zibelenes are about equally favored. Our lines of these goods include all of the popular colors. The Bontons and Cheviots are 54 in. wide and range in price from 1.25 to 1.80 per yard. The Zibelenes are 54 in. wide and are priced at from 1.00, 1.35 to 1.95 per yard.

In Broadcloths we have an exceptionally good article 54 in. wide for 1.19. The colors are Brown, Blue and Garnet.

We show full lines of Chiffon Velvets and the latest effects in Buttons and Dress Trimmings.

CARPETS AND FURNITURE: We can always supply your wants at close prices. Buying as we do from the largest mills of the country, we are able to offer you greater variety of patterns and closer prices than any of our competitors. For small rooms or where an odd piece is wanted, we can give you something way down in price.

Yours truly,  
THE LEADER STORE CO., Ltd.