

The Columbian.

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NO. 19

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ONLY ONE CASE TRIED.

Second Week of Court Broke Record for Brevity. All Over in a Day.

Judge Lynch Presided.

There was scarcely anything to do when court convened on Monday. There were but two cases open and one of these was continued.

Judge Lynch, of Wilkes Barre, sent word that he could not be here 'till noon. The routine work was dispatched and an adjournment taken 'till half past one.

The morning's routine proceedings: William C. Johnston continued as auditor in estate of Nathan L. Moser, with leave to file his report at a later date.

Frank Ikeler Esq., appointed auditor in estate of James M. Shuman dec'd.

Report of the viewers in favor of a road near residence of Levit Kline in Briarcreek township, confirmed nisi and the width of the road fixed at fifty feet.

The report of the viewers, Gideon Michael, Lewis Dietrick, Elisha Ringrose, Newman Bower, Elliot Adams in the case of Ella Markel versus the borough of West Berwick for damages on account of the change of the grade of a road was confirmed nisi. The report did not allow any damages.

On motion of Col. John G. Freeze judgment was ordered entered against James S. Wilson, in the civil suit brought against him by Martha M. Drinker and others, for lack of appearance.

Estate of C. G. Murphy, Margaret Murphy discharged as the administratrix.

His Honor Judge Lynch, was on hand when court convened at half past one, and the case of John F. Creasy and J. Harvey Creasy, Admr. of W. H. Creasy, dec'd vs. Harry B. Creasy, Milton B. Creasy Sarah Creasy was attached. Hon. Grant Herring and C. E. Kreisher were counsel for plaintiff and Chas. J. Fisher Esq. and Hon. John G. Harman, represented the defense. This was an action in assumpsit, and was quite bitterly contested while it lasted. The trial of the case required only a short time and the jury returned a verdict of \$1,467.15 against the defendants.

This left but one case on the list, that of Thos. Elms vs. Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Coal Company, trespass, and that was continued, so that the Court, after the following routine work was disposed of adjourned.

Estate of Francis D. Hess, petition of executor to amend order to sell, granted by the court.

In re-estate of Sarah M. Leidy, court granted petition for writ of fieri facias, returnable sec. reg.

Petition Clinton Herring, Esq., for the appointment of Morris Wilson as guardian of Leland Eyer, minor child of Noah Eyer granted. Bond in the sum of \$300 with surety was approved.

The Court granted the petition of Jennie S. Knapp, minor child of Peter E. Knapp, for the appointment of Mary Knapp as her guardian and approved the bonds in the sum of \$1000.

On petition of Sally A. Barber, the Court appointed F. J. Barber her guardian. On petition of the guardian of Sally Barber for private sale of real estate, petition, order of Court, return of sale and final degree was filed.

COUNCIL REDUCES THE TAX RATE.

Nine Mills for Built up Portion, Five for Suburban and Four for Farm Decided Upon.

Many Requests for Sewer.

The fixing of the tax rate for the ensuing year was the dominant matter before the Bloomsburg Town Council at the regular monthly meeting held Monday evening.

There was a full attendance, President Yetter, and members Magee, Giger, Deily, Mifflin, Runyon, and Rhodes all being present, as well as the solicitor Hon. Grant Herring and the treasurer John W. Lewis.

The first thing considered was the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, which on motion were approved, and then the treasurer rendered his report. During the month he received from Tax Collector W. N. Robbins, on the duplicate for 1903, \$241.14; on duplicate of 1904, \$342.77, and from J. R. Townsend, President of the old council, \$172.35 which with balance in hand at the last report of \$616.46 made a total of \$1377.99; that he had paid orders amounting to \$808.34, leaving on hand a balance of \$564.65. He also reported that there was due on the duplicate of 1901, \$2136.37, on duplicate of 1902, \$562.09, on duplicate of 1903 \$1262.67 and on duplicate of 1904, \$7113.03, making total amount of outstanding taxes, \$11,115.16.

Mr. Magee suggested that hereafter the treasurer furnish the finance committee with a copy of his report some time prior to the meeting of Council, in order that the committee may have sufficient time to examine it properly.

The bond of treasurer Lewis in the sum of \$15,000, with E. B. Tustin and M. I. Low, as sureties, was presented to the Council and approved.

Chief of the Fire Department, G. E. Lewis as per request of President Yetter, made a report relative to the condition of the department, the strength of the various companies and the number of men that had responded to the fire alarm during the month. He also presented a resolution adopted at a recent meeting of the Fire Board, which has for its purpose the retirement by Council of the long standing dispute regarding the number and position of the companies. Before the petition was considered Mr. Magee foreseeing that the matter would require considerable time, made a motion that it be laid over till Monday night and that a special meeting be held at that time to consider it. The motion was seconded and carried and the matter will be taken up Monday night.

Hon. John G. Harman on behalf of the Joseph Ratti Hospital appeared before the meeting and asked Council to construct a sewer in order that the institution may have an outlet. He explained very lucidly the object and purposes of the Hospital, and stated that inasmuch as it is to be a fine home for the sick and injured, and not for profit or gain, the moral obligation to construct a sewer was greater than the legal obligation. He said that \$15,000 had already been paid in cash; \$5,000 subscribed by private enterprise; \$4,500 more pledged and \$2500 to be spent in the operating room. He stated further that a new law signed by the Governor of the Commonwealth might make the

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building of the sewer compulsory. In concluding he said the institution could not be maintained without proper sewerage. Others who attended the meeting in the interest of the hospital were Dr. J. W. Bruner, A. Z. Schoch, Hon. Grant Herring and L. N. Moyer.

President Yetter informed the gentlemen that the matter had already been taken up and that it was in the hands of the town engineer, Jas. C. Brown, who has been requested to furnish an estimate of the probable cost, and that a report is expected inside of a week.

Edward Myers was present and asked Council to construct a sewer on Railroad Street, between Third and Fourth Streets. The matter was referred to the sanitary committee.

Another request for sewer connection, and electric light, was made by Nathan Campbell and Rush Shaffer, residents of Armstrong's addition. They presented a petition, containing many names, and setting forth the fact that they are paying the same taxes as those residing in the built up portion of the town. They want the conveniences or else their properties taxed as suburban land. The matter was given over into the hands of the finance committee for action. C. W. Miller and J. R. Fowler are desirous of having Center street from Main to Pine alley paved. They stated to Council that the property owners were ready and willing to bear their portion of the cost. Referred to Committee on highways.

The committee on light was instructed to investigate the necessity of an arc lamp on Iron street, near Pursell's farm, a request for which was made by J. S. Williams.

A complaint was made by Geo. Hite. He stated that a cess pool in front of his house on East Third Street, into which his sewer emptied was full, and he would like to have the street sewer. Referred to committee.

C. W. Runyon, of the finance committee, reported that they had held several meetings to go over the tax duplicates, and that they had sent out notices to all delinquents, informing them that if the taxes were not paid at once they will be collected by law. The report was accepted. Mr. Magee then spoke of the tax rate for the ensuing year and made a motion that it be fixed as follows: Built up portions of town, nine mills; suburban, five mills, and farm four mills, which is one mill lower than the rate last year, personal tax, nine mills; occupation, nine mills. This motion was seconded by Mr. Runyon. In support of his proposed rate Mr. Magee said that he had gone into the whole matter carefully and thoroughly and was satisfied that if the taxes were collected in a business like manner there would be enough money and a surplus at the rate he proposed.

Mr. Rhodes moved to postpone the action of council but the motion was lost and Mr. Magee's plan was made the voice of the council when a roll call was made. It will probably be adopted in legal form at the next regular meeting of the council as the ordinance requires that at least seven days must elapse from the time that the rate is proposed until it may be finally decided upon.

Solicitor Herring stated that he had been asked for an opinion upon whether or not local corporations can be taxed by the town. He said when they paid a State tax upon their capital stock, they were exempt from taxation.

[Continued on 8th page, 4th Column.]

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TERRIBLE DISASTER NEAR HARRISBURG.

Eastern Express Train Crashes Into Cars Loaded With Dynamite.

50 KILLED, 100 INJURED.

South Harrisburg was the scene of an appalling disaster at fifteen minutes past one o'clock this morning, when a train known as the Eastern Express, going west, crashed into an eastbound freight. Two cars of the latter train were loaded with dynamite and three terrific explosions followed. Both trains were piled in a mass of wreckage which immediately took fire and many smaller explosions resulted.

It was extremely difficult to ascertain the details this morning, but it is estimated that fifty were killed and one hundred injured. Definite figures could not be had as the blazing mass is unapproachable, and many of the victims are pinned in the debris.

The train left Chicago at 9 a. m. on Tuesday, and Pittsburg at 4:55 yesterday afternoon. It was due at Harrisburg at 1:15 this morning, at Philadelphia at 4:25 and at New York at 7:13.

It was impossible to get within 100 yards of the fire, as explosions were occurring continuously.

When the first explosion occurred human bodies were thrown clear out of the berths in the sleeping cars, many landing down the railroad embankment, and some hurled into the Susquehanna river. All the physicians in Harrisburg were summoned to work with the injured. A fire alarm was sounded and the firemen arrived to find themselves practically helpless in the work of rescue.

Immediately after the wreck all the passengers who could, ran from the scenes of horror, to safety, from the incessant explosions. There were great numbers of men, women and children awakened from their sleep in the berths to find themselves in a perfect hell of horror. With practically no clothing they were compelled to wander about the fields, as there are but few houses in the vicinity of the wreck.

The agonizing cries of the injured ones were heart rending. The office of the Paxtang Light, Heat & Power Co. looked a hospital.

The Harrisburg Traction Co. ran out a number of cars which were used to carry the injured to the hospital at Harrisburg.



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