

# The Columbian.

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NO. 33

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MAIN STREET CROSSING.

AT THE MAGEE WORKS.

Solicitor Harman Says Town Cannot Compel  
B. & S. to Put up Gates.

At the meeting of Council on Monday night Solicitor John G. Harman, Esq., gave an opinion on the subject of erecting gates at the crossing of the Bloomsburg & Sullivan tracks at Main street, in which he holds that the town has no power to compel the railroad company to put up gates.

He quotes the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Penn'a. R. R. Co. vs. Borough of Braddock, 213 Pa. 377, in which the same question that is raised in the present case was before the Supreme Court, who reversed the county court in which the case was tried and the Superior Court as well, declaring that "in the operation of its road and the running of its cars the judgment of the Board of Directors of a R. R. Co., in the absence of statutory provision, is supreme and exclusive." In discussing the measures taken by the railroad company to protect the public, upon whom the responsibility for the public's safety lies, Mr. Justice Brown in the same opinion states: "What particular means, however, shall be employed to protect the public when using streets or highways at railroad crossings is left to the company operating the road, the law merely demanding and requiring reasonable care in view of all the circumstances."

The position of the B. & S. Co. is that it is not their duty to erect gates, and they object to the expense attendant upon their erection and maintenance, and the keeping of a watchman at that point. They have no objection to the gates, but claim that if the town wants them it must put them there and pay the watchman.

And the law seems to be very much in their favor.

COUNCIL MEETING.

The Town Council met on Monday evening and reached an important decision concerning the collection of 1906 and 1907 taxes. As was suggested at the preceding meeting, liens are to be filed against those property owners who have not yet settled up this matter.

Solicitor John G. Harman reported that he had secured blanks from Harrisburg for the application for a state road, from the Town Hall to the Scott township line, and that the necessary data had been obtained. It looks as though this improvement will be made in the near future.

The clearing up of the unsanitary conditions along the old canal bed, mention of which the COLUMBIAN made last week, was discussed. The railroad company which owns the property is willing to co-operate with the town in abating it. This is a step in the right direction.

Matters of minor importance were discussed and adjournment followed.

LET THERE BE LIGHT.

The commissioners of Columbia and Luzerne counties should get together at once, and decide upon some method of lighting the Berwick bridge. It is now dark and dangerous, and the matter of how it shall be lighted is not nearly so important as the fact that it should be lighted in some way. Gas and electric light are both available. The latter will undoubtedly give the best results. It is likely there will be another meeting of the two boards called soon.

The offices at the Magee Carpet Mill are now located on the second floor of the recent addition to the buildings. The main office is a large, light and airy room, finished in hard wood, with handsome roll top desks and tables for the various clerks and bookkeepers.

The Mill is now turning out 1500 rugs of different kinds daily. In this line it is probably the largest factory in the state.

It is hard to realize the full benefit of this great establishment to this community, until a visit to its many departments reveals its extent. Bloomsburg is greatly indebted to the indomitable pluck and energy of James Magee, who has given to this town an industry that employs hundreds of hands, and pays out every month many thousands of dollars in wages.

Besides being the manager of this big concern, and making frequent trips east and west, from St. Louis to Boston, he finds time to run a complete machine shop, and to give considerable attention to the Leader Store Co., in which he is largely interested, and to devote much of his good business common sense to the management of the town affairs in the capacity of a member of council, a position to which he has been elected for several years consecutively as an independent.

Truly Mr. Magee is a busy man.

SAMUEL GIGER.

Samuel Giger died at his home on West Main street on Thursday afternoon from a paralytic stroke which came the day previous. He had been sawing wood the greater part of the day. Becoming tired about 3 o'clock he went into the house to rest. Soon after he attempted to take a drink of water and found he could not swallow. His wife, noticing something was wrong, spoke to him but received no answer. A physician was called who pronounced it paralysis. He was nearly 70 years of age, and had resided here for the past 24 years, moving here from Montour township. He was a member of the Lutheran church and of Pomona Grange.

He is survived by his wife and the following children: Arthur of Milwaukee; Ellis and Frank of Montour township; Isaiah of Montour county, and Charles of this town. The funeral took place on Monday morning at 9 o'clock, the body being taken to the Grovania Lutheran church where services were held, and thence to the Grovania cemetery.

A BARN DANCE.

A very unique party was that given by Miss Ethel Bierman in her father's barn on Fourth street, on Friday night last. The second floor of the barn was very prettily decorated with festoons, corn ears and pumpkins, Japanese lanterns, flags, &c. The lawn was also very attractively decorated and lighted with electric lamps.

The party was given in honor of Miss Bierman's young lady friends from State College, who were Misses Mary K. Jackson, Carolyn Buckholt, Mary Heckle, Eleanor Welsh, Gertrude Welsh, Ethel Sparks, Clara Pond and Millicent Pond. Besides a number of young people from town, there were a number from other places including Danville, Pine Grove and Philadelphia. Excellent music was furnished by Goss' orchestra, and delicious refreshments appropriate for the occasion were served. It was throughout a delightful party.

## The Bloomsburg National Bank

A Strong, Conservative and Well Equipped Institution

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**3 Per Cent. Interest Allowed on Time Deposits.**

WM. H. HIDLAY, Cashier.

A. Z. SCHOCH, President.

RAIN NEEDED.

In spite of Monday's rainfall, which in some sections assumed the proportions of a cloudburst, while in others it was but a sprinkling shower, reports from all parts of Pennsylvania indicate a most serious condition of drought.

In many sections church congregations are offering prayers for rain. Farmers complain that the corn and potato crops are in great danger and that at least two weeks of wet weather is necessary to save them.

In the Upper Schuylkill Valley though there was a heavy shower Sunday night the relief afforded was nowhere near what is needed. Many of the towns are already on short supply of water, and a number of collieries have been forced to close for lack of water. Notably at Shenandoah the water service has been cut to two hours per day, and a number of industrial establishments are shut down.

The Reading Railway is hauling water trains on several of its branches, but on the Catawissa branch water is so scarce that it is stated that the train service will be reduced because not enough water can be obtained for the locomotives.

The long drought is well understood to be due to the clearing out of the forests of the State, and this is a condition that is increasing. Severe drought conditions have been known for several years each summer, but are at their worst this year.

In the Cumberland, Juniata and Lykens Valleys wells and springs are drying up, and streams usually of good volume are reduced to tiny rivulets. Manufacturers and farmers on every hand are forced to haul water for considerable distance.

Forecasts of the weather promise no great relief. It is believed that the coming week will be cooler than the past one, but there is no promise of heavy rain.

Over the eastern part of the State the rainfall for the past three-months is said to have been less than two inches.

Owing to the drought the early potatoes crop was a failure in Berks county, and the farmers fear that Monday's rain came too late to save the late crop from partial failure. Lack of rain during the past month has also affected all the other crops, including corn and fruit, although Berks has not suffered as have some of the other counties of the State. In apples the absence of rain has not been so marked. While there will not be a bumper crop, the orchards are all full compared with Lancaster and some of the adjoining counties. Taken all in all, Berks has been fortunate compared with other sections of the State.

ORGANIZE CLUBS.

There ought to be a Bryan Club in every town in this county. The strength of a party is in organization. Without that, interest flags, and a null vote cannot be brought out.

Twenty-five years ago it was the custom in Presidential years to have a Democratic club, with uniforms and torches, and political parades with brass bands were in vogue everywhere. This custom seems to have been abandoned, as it was troublesome and expensive. But the necessity for clubs still remains. There must be club rooms where the issues of the campaign can be discussed, and an organization to look after the details of the campaign.

It is time to begin to talk about these things, as it is only a few weeks until the election.

J. C. BROWN RETIRES.

In March 1874 the *Republican* was purchased by D. A. Beckley and Jas. C. Brown, and a few years later Mr. Brown became the sole owner. For more than thirty-four years he has been the editor of the only straight-out Republican organ in the county, and has been recognized as one of the foremost leaders of that organization.

In politics his paper has been of the radical type, and has been a close adherent to the organization as represented by Quay and Penrose. Though an active politician for so many years, we believe it would be hard to lay a finger on any political act of Mr. Brown that could be classed as dishonest or dishonorable. He has been a fair and open opponent.

As a local newspaper, the *Republican* has stood for the best in local government and has encouraged and fostered every movement that was intended for the advancement of the community. Probably no man in Bloomsburg has given so much of his personal time and attention to the affairs of the public as has Mr. Brown. He has been prominent in the management of the Normal School, the public schools, the Agricultural Society and the Methodist church, and whatever else was of general public interest. His retirement from the editorial chair after so long a period of usefulness will be generally regretted.

Mr. Brown's withdrawal from the newspaper business leaves the proprietor of the COLUMBIAN the oldest editor in continuous service in the county.

K. G. E. PICNIC.

The Knights of the Golden Eagle held their third annual picnic at Klein's Grove, Rupert, on Saturday. The attendance was good, and a very pleasant day was spent. There were a number of contests in the afternoon. The winners were the following: 100 yard dash, Frank Golder, first, Marvin Mericle, second, 1st prize, Eagle pin; 2nd, a belt. Three legged race, Joe Burrows and Boyd Hirst, gold cuff buttons; 2nd, Parson Derr and Daniel Mericle, neckties. Sack race, Lee Washburn, smoking set; 2nd, Jacob Millard, suspenders. Wheelbarrow race, John Welliver, half dozen handkerchiefs; 2nd, George Vost, quarter dozen handkerchiefs. Ladies' wheelbarrow race, Mrs. W. J. Brobst, fruit dish; 2nd, Mrs. William Shaffer, salt and pepper set. 14 pound shot put, Frank Girton, umbrella; 2nd, C. A. Pursel, pocket book. Nail driving contest, Mrs. W. J. Brobst, umbrella; 2nd, Mrs. C. A. Pursel, hat pin. Pillow contest, Frank Girton, Eagle watch fob; 2nd, John Welliver, pillow.

Hower's orchestra furnished music for dancing, afternoon and evening.

Grangers at Mainville.

The members of the Granges of Catawissa, Beaver and Mainville held a picnic at Yetter's Grove, Mainville, on Saturday last. The attendance was large and it was a great success in every way. Sociability was the order of the morning. In the afternoon an excellent program was rendered. W. P. Zahner presided, and the speakers were C. H. Dildine, Congressman John G. McHenry and Hon. W. T. Creasy. It is unnecessary to say that the speeches were good ones. There was also a solo by Miss Fetterolf, a recitation by Miss Breisch, and a German song by William Zimmerman.

# TOWNSEND

## NEW LINE

of Pleated Shirts, Blue and Tan

50 CENTS.

A NEW LINE OF  
FOUR-IN-HAND TIES

50 CENTS.

# TOWNSEND'S CORNER.

MURDER AT MT. CARMEL.

It is difficult to keep track of all the murders that are committed in Northumberland county. Another one was added to the list at Mt. Carmel last Friday morning.

In a drunken fight Daniel T. Thomson stabbed his uncle, Daniel Burch, in the neck with a pen knife, severing an artery, and before the flow of blood could be stopped, his victim had bled to death. The murderer gave himself up to the police and was taken to Sunbury jail to await trial.

Shortly after midnight Burch went into his boarding house on South Market street, Mt. Carmel, after having spent the evening at the Clover Hose company. There he met Joe Rokus and Thompson, who boarded at the same house with him. They too had been spending the evening over many a social glass, and all being in a jovial mood, they began enlivening the place with their hilarity. Thomson and Burch went into the parlor, and there an altercation suddenly developed between them. Thomson drew a knife and plunged it into the older man's neck. The blade severed the subclavian artery on the left side at the base of the neck. He fell, blood streaming from the wound.

Horror stricken at what he had done, Thomson and others in the house went for a physician, but before they could return with one the wounded man bled to death.

The mother of the murderer, who is a sister of the deceased, collapsed after hearing the story of the crime.

Thomson is aged 27 years, and is unmarried. He is crippled by the loss of a foot last spring in the mines, where he is employed. He is well known politically, being the Republican committeeman in the East district of Mt. Carmel township.

Burch was aged 37 years, and was a man with a remarkable record. He served in the United States Marine corps, and was one of the first to enter Peking at the time of the Boxer troubles. He afterwards served three years in the Philippines. On leaving the service he returned to his home in Mt. Carmel where he organized the Lawton camp of the Spanish-American War veterans.

MRS. CLARISSA BALDY.

Mrs. Clarissa Baldy died at Bramwell, West Virginia, on Monday, August 10th, and the remains were brought to Danville for interment, where the funeral services were held in Christ Church on Wednesday.

Mrs. Baldy was a sister of the late Mrs. J. J. Brower of this town, and an aunt of the Misses Doak and E. B. Brower. Her maiden name was Brothwell, and many years ago her parents lived in the house of F. C. Eyer on Market street, now occupied by Mrs. Joshua Fetterman.

For many years she resided in Danville with her husband, Charles Baldy. He died some years ago. She was 80 years of age, and leaves four children, all of whom reside outside of the state. One son was the editor of the *Montour American* at Danville, but a promising career was cut short by death in young manhood. Mrs. Baldy was a member of the Episcopal Church, and respected and beloved by all who knew her.

MR. REED'S PARTY.

About seventy-five members of the Bloomsburg Wheelmen availed themselves of the invitation of Mr. W. S. Reed to eat watermelon at Columbia Park on Tuesday night. Special cars were run, and the Citizens Band went along and gave a concert in the grove.

The watermelons were plenty and delicious, and after the feast Prof. Wilbur in a few remarks returned the thanks of the club to Mr. Reed. This is the third annual treat he has given them.

The entire absence of straw hats was noticeable. Everybody but four wore caps or soft hats. Last year every straw hat that was visible was smashed. The four exceptions wore derbys, and these were all deprived of further usefulness in short order.

Honestly, it seems to us that the pleasure and popularity of these parties would be greatly enhanced if the rough house feature were eliminated. And our hat was not smashed either.

Lloyd B. Skeer returned Monday from Augusta, Maine, where he went to attend a meeting of stockholders of the Nevada Copper Company.