## STRONGEST BANK IN THE COUNTY

Capital \$100,000

**Undivided Profits** \$30,000

\$150,000.

#### First National Bank,

OF BLOOMSBURG, PA.

Solicits the Business and Accounts of Farmers and Business Men.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED BY A STRONG, CONSERVATIVE

## 5 Per Cent. Interest Paid on Time Deposits.

OFFICERS:

F. W. M. Low, President, James M. Staver, Vice President.

Myron I. Low, Vice President. Frank Ikeler, Cashier.

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T

DIRECTORS:

E. W. M. Low, F. G. Yorks, V. Hower James M. E Stackhouse, lames M. Staver,

S. C. Creasy, Fre Myron I. Low, Low Frank Ikeler, Fred Ikeler, Louis Gross,

## THE COLUMBIAN.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

STABLISHED 1837. CONSOLIDATED 1869 UBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING, A. Bloomsburg, the County Seat or, Columbia County, Pennsylvania,

GEO, E. ELWELL, EDITOR, GEO, C. ROAN, FORMAN.

l'enne; -- inside the county \$1.00 a year in atvance; \$1.301f not paid in advance. Garade the county, \$1,25 a year, strictly in Ali communications should beaddressed

THE COLUMBIAN, Bloomsburg, Pa,

HURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1:08.

#### Wages and the Cost of Living.

It took \$3623 last year to pay for the necessaries of living that could be bought for \$2500 in 1897. Sixty-nine cents ten years ago had the buying power of the dollar today. This is the graphic way in which Professor Joseph French Johnson, of New York University, drives home the meaning of "increased cost of living." His two simple statements make it startlingly plain that there is a seamy side to modern American presperity.

Our Republican friends commonpoint to the existing high scale workmen's wages as evidence of exceeding blessings of the antry under Republican policies. hardly need be pointed out that advance of wages is of no advantage to a workman if everything that he buys has advanced in the same proportion. The true gauge of a laboring man's prosperity is the purchasing power of his income, and even those workmen whose wages have most advanced are lucky if they can live as well now as they could ten years ago With the professional classes and with clerks, salesmen and other middle-priced employes, the situa-tion is much less favorable. Lacking unions to promote their interests and having no organized class identity to enlist the attention of stump orators and legislators, they have had no advance in income to keep abreast of the advance in prices. For the most part, the position that paid \$2500 in 1897 pays the same salary in 1908. The one evident financial difference that the decade has brought to the man who holds it is that the \$2500 of 1897 is worth only \$1725 today.

From the standpoint of the vast class which lies between the great captains of industry and those who labor for them is there not something of mockery in a high tariff prosperity? Just what is there in it for the bank clerk, say, who married ten years ago on \$25 a week? Would not even the highpaid skilled workman prefer to be free to purchase his necessaries in the cheapest market and take his chance on being able to exact a good living wage for his labor .-Richmond Times Dispatch.

### More Capitol Trials in April.

The next trial of alleged Capitol grafters will take place on April 5 and Joseph M. Huston, the architect, who so far has escaped the net, will be one of the defendants, and he will not be granted a severance this time. Along with Contractor Sanderson and former State Officials Snyder, Mathues and Shumaker, the architect and designer of high-priced trimmings will face

Attorney General Todd, Assist ant Deputy Attorney General Todd, District Attorney Weiss, Senator John E. Fox, of Harrisburg, were present for the prosecution, as was Attorney James Scarlet, of Dan-

#### State Road Improvement.

In a letter to this paper comhighway improvement by the State. Mr. J. H. Weeks, the chairman of Pennsylvania Motor Federation, which has instituted a campaign to secure favorable action by the Legislature, thus definitely outlines its

"Our Main Highway Bill provides for a commission to be apinted by the Governor who shall prepare a complete plans of all the roads in the State which they be- turbably goodhumored, and as the lieve should be converted into State professor said, Mr. Roosevelt Roads, not alone those that the first appropriation of \$5,000,000 tonians have a grudge against the will cover. In other words, we President. He extended the workare advocating the planning of a ing hours in all Departments from complete system. It is unquestion- 4 to 4:30 o'clock causing what was ed that such a system will embrace imagined to be intolerable hardship at least three across-the-State highways and a number of north and ment employees, interfering with south highways with branches run- their dinner hour and with the

fact that our "State-aid" roads of government clerks live eight and only go into such sections as can ten and even forty miles outside of those of the great world powers at afford to pay one-fourth of the cost. the city, quite a number of them the present time, according to the The poorer sections get no roads for coming over in the morning from navy year book, prepared by Pitthe reason that they cannot afford Baltimore and returning in the man Pulsiver, clerk to the senate to pay their share. In certain locali- evening. President-elect Taft will navy committee. ties important highways pass not have to do what Mr. Roosevelt through these poor sections, with has done, fortunately perhaps for France has dropped to fourth place the result that an immediate amount his local popularity but it may be and Japan to fifth. of traffic is compelled to go over safely assumed that he will not reroads that are almost impassable.

The present plan has resulted in should be supported by the general pine board at an expense of any-fund. We naturally have a selfish where from fifty cents to a dollar tive which shall make them waterproof and dustproof."

indicated is the sensible treatment of the State's highway problem. If there is to be substantial progress in road improvement there must be a system by which each stretch of work accomplished shall be part of a contemplated whole. The entire scheme of betterment should be lodged in the State authorities, and the fund acquired by general taxation. It is as unjust to deny good roads to the poorer sections of the Commonwealth as to deny paved streets to the poorer sections of the city.

### Troops Soon to Leave Cuba.

New Year's day will witness the beginning of the evacuation of Cuba by the American army of pacification, which has been in possession of the island since the beginning of the provisional government, in October, 1906. The First Provisional Regiment of Marines, numbering about 900, which will be among the first troops to leave, is now concentrating from various posts at Camp Columbia. About half this regiment will sail from Havana on January 1, on the cruiser Prairie, for Newport News, after which the Prairie will return and embark the remainder.

Headquarters and Companies A, B, C and D, Twenty-eighth Infantry, will embark on the transport Sumner at Matanzas, on December 31. From there the transport will ville, who left off prosecuting the proceed to Havana and embark Powder Trust for the Government Companies F, G and H, stationed long enough to come to Harrisburg at Guanajay, and Company E, to help care for the interests of the stationed at Guines. The Sumner State. Mr. Scarlet will again be also will sail for Newport News, the chief counsel, taking active the ultimate station of these companies being Fort Snelling, Minn.

### WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent,

Washington, D. C., Dec. 28, 1908 The Ways and Means Commit- form of a special message. It is tee, that has been sitting so long in said that the President has com-Washington, has discontinued its pleted it after working day and so-called investigations and Congress having adjourned, we are in the midst of the holiday season, An unusually large number of Senators and Members remain in said, has been submitted to the Washington, but these are cheered | Cabinet and the paper was carefully by the visits of their sons and daughters who are in eastern President's counsellors. It is said schools and colleges or may be in that those who are anticipating a western and southern schools and vitriolic document will not have colleges. For there are many worse their expectations realized The places to spend the holidays than paper is said to be conservative, in the capital city of the United calm and temperate. Congress will States. The ground is covered scarcely have assembled in the Capwith six inches of snow, but the days are bright and there has ceived by it and those who have scarcely as yet been any really cold scen it, believe that the country

The citizens of Washington, those who make it their home, are President had sufficient reason for interested in the preparations for the words that have been so heatthe inauguration of President-elect edly criticised and discussed in his Taft. Seventy-five thousand dol- annual message. lars have been already subscribed mending its arguments in favor of for the expenses of the screet pageant and the inaugural ball and it is interesting to note that this a- Will Not be Protected any Longer in Pern. the Good Roads Committee of the mount is \$12,000 greater than the total subscription for President Roosevelt's last in auguration. There is no doubt but that the subscription will be considerably increased for donations are coming in in sums of \$ co or more.

Locally Mr. Taft is a much more popular man than President Roosevelt. He is genial, tactful imper-"ain't". Thousands of Washingto at least twenty thousand governning into every section of the State. schedules of local trains, for it The difficulty today lies in the must be remembered that hundreds scind the order.

The inauguration on the fourth nothing but patchwork, mostly of March is expected to surpass in roads leading from nowhere to no splendor and in volume of spectawhere, and has practically frozen tors, street parade, and inaugural out the poorer townships. We ball, any similar event that has maintain that the main highways been given before. As usual, Penn- the tonnage of all the vessels in the should be constructed and main- sylvania Avenue, on the south side, tained at the expense of the State. will be lined with bleachers where They are for general use, and the spectators may sit on a rough interest in advancing the cause of and a half and watch an almost good roads in Pennsylvania, but endless procession, military and our bills have been worked out not civic, with fifty or more brass bands solely in the interest of the auto- interspersed, for five or six hours. mobilists, as many seem to think, The day is usually inclement and but according to the motto we have frequently almost intolerable. The adopted, "Good roads for the farm- seats that cost \$1.50 will have awner means good roads for the auto-mobilist." Our bills provide for be exposed to the frownings or no boulevards, but for common-smiling skies, as the case may be. sense roads treated with a preserva- In thirty years residence, your correspondent remembers only one pleasant fourth of March and that It is obvious that what is here was the day of the first inauguration of President Cleveland.

> Andrew Carnegie's admission before the Committee on Ways and Means that an international combination of steel manufacturers existed has naturally excited many people interested in the tariff problem and it is said that steps will be taken to get to the bottom of this alleged international trust. Mr. Carnegie denied that he knew anything of it personally, but he did not deny its existence and had loads on each of the tracks of two heard of it from several sources. 190-ton locomotives, followed by a There has been talk of summoning uniform load of 5000 pounds per J. Pierpont Morgan, on the assump- linear foot. tion that if there is a big trust any- The main arch is to be flanked it is somewhat natural to suppose that he is advised as to any international relations.

It is predicted by those who profess to know that President Roosevelt's reply to the demand of the House of Representatives for the ed in Binghamton,

information upon which he based the assertion in his annual message that Members of Congress were averse to investigation by secret service men, is prepared and in the night to get it off his hands in order that he might enjoy the Christmas holidays with a light heart The draft of this message, it is scrutinized by every one of the itol before this paper will be rewill be convinced, as will also Members of Congress, that the

The American Eagle.

sylvania.

The State of Pernsylvania will remove its official protection from the great American eagle it a bill in contemplation and having the backing of the State Game Commission becomes a law. Now the eagle is protected and there is a fine of \$50 for each and every eagle killed The state game officials take the ground that the eagle is a bird of prey and does more damage than good. It has been ascertained that the United States government does not protect the gagle, and the plan is to make it legitimate game.

U. S. Navy Second in World.

England Alone Now Leads Us on the Sea.

Our navy stands second among

Germany follows third, while

The year book shows that Great Britain has sixty-one first-class battle ships, the United States thirtyone, Germany thirty one, France twenty-six and Japan fifteen.

France takes precedence of both the United States and Germany, if navy is counted. All told, France has 516 vessels.

#### Pennsylvania's Big Bridge.

One of the most daring and remarkable engineering structures ever proposed is the bridge which the Pennsylvania Railroad will begin building from Port Morris, a suburb of New York, to Queen's county, Long Island, as soon as work on its terminal station is farther advanced.

With the approaches the bridge will be three miles long and span the Hell Gate ship channel with an enormous arch 1000 feet in the clear. The entire bridge, except the piers for the arch, will be of steel, having an estimated weight of So,000 tons.

The novel feature of the plans is that the train floor of the bridge instead of resting on the crown of the arch is hung from it. The crown is 300 feet above the water and the floor 140 feet, enabling the largest steamer to pass under with ease.

The bridge will have four tracks, two for passenger trains and two for freight, and is designed for live

where, he is in it, or may know by piers, from which will rise something about it. Moreover, double towers 200 feet high. The Mr. Morgan had much to do with towers will be of massive proporthe creation of the steel trust and tions, with the lower portion of granite and the upper of concrete.

> William Rabb of Danville, son of Dr. I. L. Rabb of this town, was united in marriage on Monday to Miss Ann e Reifsnyder of Danville. The ceremony was perform-

# DO YOUR SHOPPING

## PURSEL'S.

A GREAT VARIETY OF **GOODS SUITABLE** FOR HOUSEHOLD USE

F. P. PURSEL.

**BLOOMSBURG** 

PENN'A.

We Have Ten Styles of

## Envelopes and Paper to Match

-FOR -

Invitations, Acceptances, Regrets Announcements, &c.

Full size Wedding with two Envelopes, down to Billet-doux size with Card to Fit.

Twenty-Four Styles of Type

FOR CARDS AND INVITATIONS.

We Do All Kinds of Printing

Columbian Printing House,

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

Worth Knowing.

Burning oil is spread by water, To extinguish it throw down flour, sand or earth. The idea is to prevent the oil spreading.

Fried chicken with cream sauce and corn fritters is an old dish, but one that too seldom finds a substantial place in the home.

A faint scent of violets is imparted to handkerchiefs by adding a er in which they are boiled.

To soften hard water, put one ounce of quicklime into four gallons and a half of water. Stir it thoroughly and allow it to settle. Then pour off the clear solution which will be enough to add to four barrels of hard water.

Trespass Notices.

Card signs "No Trespassing" for sale at this office. They are printsmall piece of orris root to the wat- ed in accordance with the late act of 1903. Price 5 cents each. tf

## Weak Throat—Weak Lungs

Cold after cold; cough after cough! Troubled with this taking-cold habit? Better break it up. We have great confidence in Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for this work. No medicine like it for weak throats and weak lungs. Ask your doctor for his opinion. He knows all about it His approval is valuable. Follow his advice at all times. No alcohol in this cough medicine. J.C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

Always keep a good laxative in the house. Take a dose when your cold first comes on. What is the best laxative for this? Ayer's Pills. Ask your doctor his opinion. Let him decide.