

The Columbian.

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BLOOMSBURG, PA., THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11, 1909.

NO. 44.

WHEN YOU WANT TO

Open a Bank Account Have a Check Cashed
Borrow Money, or Make an Investment

CALL ON THE OLD RELIABLE -

The Farmers National Bank
OF BLOOMSBURG

Capital, \$60,000

Surplus \$100,000

C. M. GREVELING, PRES. M. MILLEISEN, CASHIER.

DIRECTORS

J. L. MOYER N. U. FUNK C. M. GREVELING C. A. KLEIN
W. L. WHITE C. W. RYNYON DR. J. J. BROWN M. MILLEISEN

3 Per Cent. Interest Paid on Time Deposits.

Bloomsburg's Worst Fire.

F. P. Pursel's Large Department Store Totally Destroyed by the Fiery Element.

FIREMEN DID SPLENDID WORK.

The most destructive fire that Bloomsburg has ever known was that of Wednesday morning, when the large department store of F. P. Pursel on Market Square was burned.

Robert D. Young noticed the smoke as he left the *Morning Press* office a few minutes before six o'clock. On looking further he found it came from the store, and he turned on the fire alarm. Samuel Metz noticed the smoke about the same time, and going to the west side of the building he saw flames through the cellar window. He says it was not near the furnace, but in the back end of the cellar near the elevator shaft, among some barrels and boxes on the floor. This would preclude the possibility of the fire starting either from the furnace or from an electric wire.

Mr. Young and several others ran for the Winona nose cart, and soon had a line of hose to the store. The fire alarm rang but once, number 13, and it was a little while before all the other companies were on the ground. Before long, however, eight streams were being thrown in the building, and hose was brought from the Magee Carpet Mill and Harman & Hassert's, and several more streams put on. The steamer was brought out when it became apparent that the force of the main water pipe was not sufficient to drive the water from so many lines to the roof.

The smoke was so dense that it was impossible for the firemen to enter the building, so all they could do was to throw water through the windows. In spite of their efforts the fire gradually ate its way up in the rear of the building until it reached the roof. Creeping along under the tin roof it finally broke through the center, and at about 9 o'clock the roof fell in.

The third and first floors were burned through and fell in later.

It was a stubborn fire, and it looked at one time as though the building would be totally destroyed, but by splendid work and persistent effort the firemen finally got it under control. Flames would appear in one spot and water turned on it until it was subdued, when it would break out in another place, and so it went for six hours, until the fight was won, and the fire entirely under control.

The entire contents of the building are ruined. The damage to the building is great, but its extent cannot be ascertained until an examination shows whether the walls

will have to be torn down.

The loss on the stock is probably \$75,000, with \$50,000 insurance. The building was worth \$40,000, and on this the insurance is \$20,000. All the new fall stock of goods was in, and a large line of holiday goods had just been received. Besides the loss on goods and building, Mr. Pursel's loss in trade just at this busy season, and the holidays approaching, will be heavy.

The Pursel store is one of the oldest business stands in town, and one of the finest in this section. For many years it was the McKelvy, Neal & Co. store, and for twenty-five years I. W. McKelvy's. In 1894 F. P. Pursel and E. H. Harman purchased it, and at the end of a year Mr. Pursel bought Mr. Harman's interest. For the past 50 years the store has had the reputation of keeping the largest and best line of goods in the county, and has enjoyed a very large patronage. Mr. Pursel rebuilt the building, making a three story building 46 by 112, instead of two stories 46 by 60. The stock was more than double what it was when he purchased the business. The employees in the store number twenty-five.

Just what Mr. Pursel will do at once is not known. It has been suggested that he may open a store temporarily in the Supplee building, and if so, it will not be long before he does it. It is certain, however, that the old stand will be rebuilt and restocked as soon as it is possible to do it.

FIRE NOTES.

During the Pursel fire sandwiches and coffee were served to the firemen by C. W. McKelvy, Frank Bomboy, U. G. Morgain, and the Exchange Hotel.

Amandus Sobers, a Winona fireman, had his hands cut by glass, and was bruised by falling down a ladder. He was taken to the hospital.

Harold Moyer received a scalp wound from broken glass that fell from a window.

More than a dozen of the firemen were cut on their faces or hands by broken glass.

There was six feet of water in the cellar, and this was pumped out by the Friendship steamer.

The entire stock is a complete ruin.

Fire broke out at intervals during the day, the last one being at about 9:30 in the evening. A line of hose from the court house plug was kept ready for use, and watchmen were on guard.

COUNCIL MEETING.

The Town Council met last Monday evening, at which pavements, sewer extensions, and additional street lights were discussed. One thousand feet of fire hose was ordered from J. R. Schuyler.

A bill of \$300 was presented by M. T. Creasy for the loss of a horse which he claimed died from lockjaw on account of its stepping on a rusty nail on East Seventh street.

Several bills were ordered paid, and Town Treasurer Campbell's report for the past month was accepted.

DEEDS RECORDED.

The following deeds have recently been entered on record by Recorder of Deeds Frank W. Miller:

Mary A. John to Matilda B. Lazarus for property in Bloomsburg.

Claude C. Paden and wife to Ernest F. Paden for property in Berwick.

Henry Detrick and wife to Stephen Kisner for property in Briarcreek township.

Henry Shaffer to Stephen Kisner for property in Briarcreek township.

John Kisner and wife to Stephen Kisner for property in Briarcreek township.

SECURITY

"I am the pink of courtesy."
—Shakespeare.

The pink of courtesy, implying perfection founded upon respect and satisfaction, is the study of every successful Bank.

Moral: Courtesy here is insisted upon as a Bank duty.

SECURITY AND COURTESY have contributed largely to the SUCCESS OF THIS INSTITUTION.

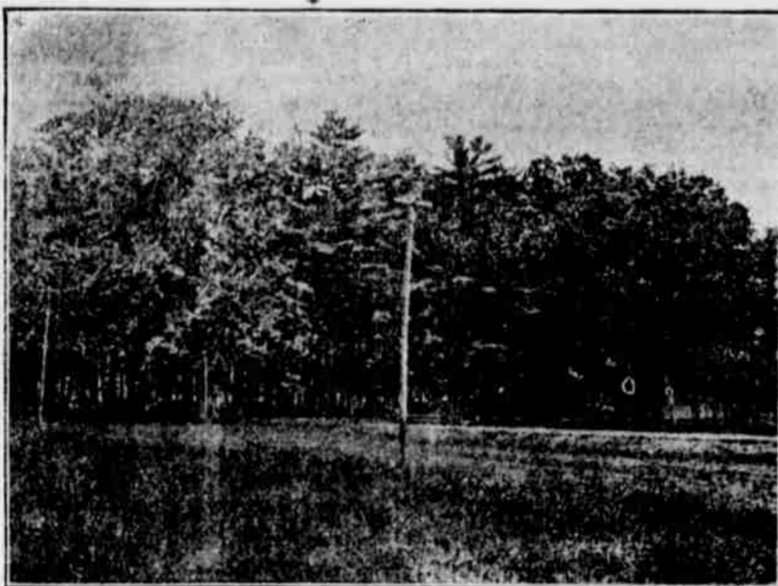
We pay 3 per cent. on time deposits

THE BLOOMSBURG NATIONAL BANK
BLOOMSBURG, PENNA

Oak Grove Park.

Once an Ideal Spot for Recreation, and Should Have Been Preserved as a Public Park.

NOTHING LEFT BUT THE TREES.



On East Fifth street in Bloomsburg is a grove of fine old trees. The grove belongs to the Bloomsburg Land Improvement Company. It formerly belonged to Nesbit and Hoyt.

On June 18th, 1886, The Oak Grove Park Association was organized under a charter, with a capital stock of \$10,000, "for the purpose of purchasing or leasing grounds to be fitted up as a park within the Town of Bloomsburg, or in any other portion of the county, to be used for holding celebrations, picnics and for any and all purposes for which similar places are used."

The incorporators were W. R. Tubbs, Harman and Hassert, J. R. Schuyler, Buckalew Bros. J. C. Brown, R. C. Neal, David Lowenberg, John F. Peacock, J. H. Mercer, J. W. Gibbs, I. W. McKelvy, Jas. McCloskey, Geo. E. Elwell, John L. Moyer, H. C. Grotz, C. W. Neal, G. W. Creveling, C. B. Robbins, E. Jacoby, L. T. Sharpless, F. P. Billmyer, L. E. Waller, C. M. Creveling, Isaac S. Kuhn, and C. W. Miller.

The Board of Directors consisted of Messrs. Lowenberg, Kuhn, P. S. Harman, Brown, Moyer, and Miller. A lease was obtained from Nesbit and the Hoyt heirs, for the grove, and it was named Oak Grove Park.

The company proceeded at once to beautify the grove, and to put it in condition for the purposes for which they proposed to use it. The grounds were cleaned up, walks made, and a high board fence built around it. A large rustic dancing pavilion was erected, a fountain put in, a kitchen and other buildings and booths put up, with all modern conveniences. A number of swings were purchased, and arrangements made with the owner of a merry-go-round, who set his machine up in the grounds. It was an ideal spot, and was very liberally patronized.

Many picnics were held there, and the pavilion was often used at night by dancing parties. For a couple of years there were large excursions run here over the Lackawanna road, and the grounds were free, the Park Company having an agreement with the Railroad Company that the latter would pay a certain sum per capita for each passenger they brought to the grounds.

Some of the excursions were run

by organizations from a distance, who brought their own refreshments with them. It soon became known that one of the buildings was being used by them for kegs of beer, and that the foamy beverage was being sold without regard to law, and of course without the knowledge or consent of the Park owners. When it was announced that arrests would follow the repetition of this, the excursions became few and far between, the Railroad Company saying that they were unable to induce excursion parties to come here, because there was no water near enough for boating and swimming.

And so it came to pass that the only returns the company received from the Park was an occasional five dollars from a Sunday School picnic, or an evening dance. Nearly \$2,000 had been expended in fitting up the Park, and yet except for the first few years the receipts were not sufficient to pay the rent.

In 1890 the Bloomsburg Land Improvement Company was organized, and bought the Hoyt farm, including the Grove. The lease of the grove was continued by them, but being unable to pay the rent, the Oak Grove Park Association finally settled with the Land Improvement Co., by giving up possession, and allowing the latter to take all the improvements and fixtures for the rent.

Then the Town of Bloomsburg bought the grove at a stipulated price of \$5500, and paid \$1000 on it. As changes occurred in council opposition to the purchase developed, and no more was paid on the purchase. The Land Improvement Co. brought suit to recover, and lost, because the court decided that the purchase of the grove was unlawful, as the council had no power to appropriate the public funds to such a purpose.

Meantime the Park was going to destruction. Some things were stolen by vandals, others went to decay. Nobody looked after it. Only a short time ago the pavilion was torn down, and thus disappeared the last vestige of what was once a beautiful and attractive spot, and what should still be a place for recreation and pleasure for the citizens of Bloomsburg. There is nothing left but the trees, and it will not be long before some one will plant a saw mill there, and these too will go down before the so-called March of Progress.

TOWNSEND

Adler's Gloves.

Cluett Shirts.

Arrow Collars.

Luzerne Underwear.

Stetson Hats.

Cooper Union Suits.

SNELLENBURG

Philadelphia Clothing

L. BLACK CO.

Rochester Clothing.

HERSCHBURG CO.

Rochester Clothing.

KINCAID & CO.

Utica Clothing.

International Tailoring Co.

Made to Measure Clothing.

All High Class

Merchandise.

TOWNSEND'S

CORNER

CLOTHING STORE,

BLOOMSBURG, PA.