

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BLOOMSBURG, PA. THE OLDEST AND STRONGEST.

Capital \$100,000

Surplus \$150,000.

With the Largest Capital and Surplus in the County, a Strong Directorate, Competent Officers and Every Modern Facility, we solicit Accounts, Large or Small, and Collections on the Most Liberal Terms Consistent with Sound Banking, and Invite YOU to inspect our NEW QUARTERS.

3 Per Cent. Interest Paid on Time Deposits

OFFICERS:

E. W. M. Low, President. Myron I. Low, Vice President.
James M. Staver, Vice President. Frank Ikeler, Cashier.

DIRECTORS:

E. W. M. Low. James M. Staver. Myron I. Low.
F. G. Yorks. Fred Ikeler. H. V. Hower.
Louis Gross. S. C. Cressy. Frank Ikeler.
M. E. Stackhouse. Clinton Jerring.

THE COLUMBIAN. ESTABLISHED 1866. THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

ESTABLISHED 1837. CONSOLIDATED 1866.
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

At Bloomsburg, the County Seat of
Columbia County, Pennsylvania.

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

TERMS:—Inside the county \$1.00 a year
in advance; \$1.50 if not paid in advance.
Outside the county, \$1.25 a year, strictly in
advance.

All communications should be addressed
THE COLUMBIAN, Bloomsburg, Pa.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1909

COOK'S BUBBLE PUNCTURED.

Those who have withheld their judgment of Dr. Frederick A. Cook, until a competent body should examine his "proofs" of North Pole discovery, will now accept the decision of the University of Copenhagen, and unite in bestowing all praise upon Commander Robert E. Peary. Cook has been entirely discredited, and branded as the most stupendous faker of the century. His data were found to lack all scientific details, and to furnish no grounds for belief that he had ever reached the North Pole. Coupled with his inaccuracies in Antarctic reports, and his questionable ascent of Mount McKinley, it is safe to say that this man, who sought the honor which belongs to Peary, is a humbug.

Now the world will turn to Peary. He has been much criticised; not that there has been any shadow of doubt as to the authenticity of his report, but his hot tempered denunciation of Cook was deemed unwise. Take into consideration, however, the fact that he knew from the beginning that of which the world has this week been informed by the University of Copenhagen. What man would not be inclined to lose his head, when, after striving toward a goal for twenty-eight years, enduring suffering and fatigue and risking life, he finds that an impostor has snatched away the laurels? It is not difficult to excuse Commander Peary when one realizes that he knew he was right, and knew that the world was giving to Cook unmerited honors.

The Danish scientists, who were Cook's best friends have, branded him as a monumental liar. This should settle the matter. The controversy should be forgotten; the criticisms of Commander Peary should be withdrawn; and this American nation should unite in honoring the man who discovered the ultimate north, and planted thereupon the Stars and Stripes.

Democratic Club Banquet.

The officers of the Young Men's Democratic Club of Williamsport, are arranging for the annual Jackson day banquet, which will be held on the evening of January 10. The anniversary is January 8, but as that day falls on Saturday the club decided to hold the banquet on the Monday evening following. The list of speakers for the occasion is not complete, but among them will be C. LaRue Munson and Congressman William B. Wilson.

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.

WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20, 1909

The Revolution in Central America is a subject of much interest in Washington diplomatic circles, as it doubtless is in the chancelleries of all countries, but it especially concerns the United States and Mexico. The approaching completion of the Panama Canal makes it of great moment to this country that the governments of the countries contiguous to the canal shall be stable and responsible. These countries have to us a relation similar to that of Cuba. It is vital that they shall be peaceable. We cannot afford to have a group of political volcanoes on the Canal route. Mexico is also interested in the stability of these countries, perhaps because she realizes that in a state of chronic revolution there will follow a suzerainty of the United States as in Cuba. Mexico does not care to be more surrounded with the stars and stripes than she is at present; hence she has sent Senor Creel, the recent Ambassador to the United States from Mexico on a special mission to Washington and he only last week presented his credentials to Secretary Knox and asked for an interview with the President. Mexico is in favor of the Zelayan regime in Nicaragua. It is understood in official circles here that while Ambassador Creel will be treated with "diplomatic politeness, he will at the same time be courteously informed that the United States government does not need the assistance of any other country in settling its disputes or grievances with the Zelayan government. In past times the United States has been ready to join with Mexico for the maintenance of peace in Central America. It has consulted with President Diaz and has gone so far as to advise him of such action as this country contemplated. But the situation in Nicaragua at present is regarded as a matter of concern solely to this country, inasmuch as American citizens have been killed and an attitude belligerent to America has developed under Zelayan influence and practice. Mexico doubtless fears that if the United States effectes Zelayan government and substitutes a stable government in that country, it may pursue the same policy with respect to Guatemala. There are thirty thousand Mexican citizens in Guatemala and this is another reason for the anxiety of the Mexican authorities.

THIS IS HEAVEN.

Hooray, hooray! At last we have information concerning the real character of the heavenly abodes; at least, so comes the word from Boston.

General Augustus B. Martin was once police commissioner and Mayor of that centre of wisdom, but he died, so he gave up the job. He must have been a pious mayor, for if we may credit the assurances of his erstwhile stenographer, he has been gathered up aloft and is living in a brownstone front on one of the golden boulevards.

Now this stenographer is a Christian Scientist, and she claims to have had little spiritual chats with the General since his elevation, and has published them. This, in part is what Augustus had to say:

"I felt as though the air was filled with perfume and I was soaring, rising, rising above my body until I passed behind a veil.

"And then I was surrounded by friends, by my intimate friends whom I knew, members of my family and all, surrounded by them welcoming me.

"And then I was taken to an actual mansion, a palace, and they said: 'Here is your home. Occupy it, live in it, have what friends you choose with you, what relatives you choose with you, and as those whom you have left behind follow you, you may welcome them to this home as you may see fit.'

"I went in and looked about me, and they said: 'This is heaven. This is the spiritual world, and we greet you.'

Fancy a week-end house party in the hereafter! The idea is one which we have not hitherto heard advanced.

Can't Walk On Tracks.

In the future all trespassers on the Pennsylvania Railroad Co.'s tracks will be arrested. This is an order that was received by local railroad men on Saturday.

In view of the high death rate among trespassers on the railroad property, officials of the Pennsylvania company deem that it has a moral responsibility in preventing and breaking up the practice. It does not wear out its ties for persons to walk over them and it suffers no pecuniary damage, but the road does come in for adverse criticism whenever an accident occurs. The company is bound to break up the practice and its lines are thoroughly policed by men who have instructions to take seemingly harsh measures if necessary.

Game Law Unpopular.

That the present game law is in bad odor in some parts of the State was evidenced in Sunbury last week, when every case involving a violation of the game laws was ignored and the costs put upon the game wardens. The sum of the costs just equalled the amount of fees allowed the wardens, so that, while they lost nothing, yet they did not make anything for all their work. It made the three wardens so angry that they sent in their official badges to the State Game Commission with their commissions, across the face of the latter being written the one word, "Resigned."

MOVE FOR OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Pennsylvania Member Introduces Bill
With Novel Features.

An old age pension plan for the United States was proposed to Congress in a bill introduced by Representative Wilson of Pennsylvania, last week. The bill establishes the old age home guard of the army. The Secretary of War is directed to enlist into this guard every person in the United States who has reached the age of 65, and is not possessed of property without income valued at \$1,500 or of an income of at least \$240 a year.

Pensions to be eligible for the guard must have been residents of the United States for 25 consecutive years and citizens of the United States 15 consecutive years. Husbands and wives are to be enrolled as one member.

Reading Will Lay 100 Pound Rails.

The Reading railroad company is receiving a large consignment of rails. They are intended for the main line between Pottsville and Philadelphia, a distance of about 93 miles. A portion of the road has already been equipped with them. They take the place of the 90 pound rails.

It is announced semi-officially that the entire road between Philadelphia and Pottsville will be equipped with heavier rails. These improvements are made necessary by the rapidly increasing traffic on the road occasioned by the additional business brought to Newberry Junction by the new freight routes to the west, both by way of Corn ing and Clearfield.

While little work will be done during the winter, the material will all be ready by spring. The Reading has never done a heavier business than it is doing now and a further increase, especially in freight trade, is looked for.

The company is no longer dependent entirely upon its coal traffic. While this is an important item, the freight business has more than doubled within the past few years. The new route to and from the west via Newberry will open up another channel that is promising of profitable results.

Judging from the plans now being mapped out by the Reading officials, the year 1910 will be a banner one. Great improvements are to be made in the shape of third and fourth tracks, Hall signals, modern yards and switch towers. No money will be spared in placing all the lines in the very best shape.

Tuesday the Shortest Day.

The winter solstice occurred last Tuesday. On that day the sun reached the point furthest south on the ecliptic, being about twenty-three and one half degrees below the celestial equator. It will now travel north until next June twenty-first, when it will be twenty-three and one half degrees north of the equator.

It may not be a well known fact that we are now much nearer the sun than we were in the summer. In the northern hemisphere this is always true. Owing to the slant of the earth's axis, the rays of the sun fall upon us diagonally at this time of year, and we receive less heat. In the southern hemisphere the sun is shining almost vertically overhead, and they are having summer there. This, combined with the fact that the earth is near perihelion, or nearest distance to the sun, makes the summer in the southern hemisphere hotter than ours, and for the same reasons the winter is colder.

Useful Folding Bed.

Mrs. De Flat—Can you show me anything new in folding beds?

Dealer—Only this, madam, and it really is quite a success. On arising in the morning you touch a spring and it turns into a washstand and bath tub. After your bath you touch another spring, and it becomes a dressing case with a French plate mirror. If you breakfast in your room, a slight pressure will transform it into an extension table. After breakfast, you press these buttons once, and you will have an upright piano. That's all it will do, except that when you die it can be exchanged for a rosewood coffin.—Tit-Bits.

Nearly 15,000,000 Fighters.

There are 14,974,448 men in this country who are available for military duty but "not organized," according to a report transmitted to the House by the War Department. The report shows that the aggregate strength of the militia in all the States is 120,658.

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA

CHRISTMAS Shopping is Under Way!

Foresighted people are doing their Christmas shopping NOW—before the rush begins and when the best selections are to be had. You will benefit by following their example. Make out your list TODAY—bring it here, and later on you'll be thankful that you acted on this suggestion.

We are ready to solve each of your gift-problems with rare satisfaction and economy. This store has become a veritable wonderland of toys, dolls and beautiful gift things for folk of all ages. Our Christmas displays this year surpass anything ever attempted in this city before.

F. P. PURSEL, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

An Irresistible Bargain.

\$1.75 Value for Only \$1.15.

ALL FOR
ONLY
\$1.15

One Year's Subscription for
McCall's Magazine
Any 15-Cent McCall Pattern
you may select
One Year's Subscription for
The Columbian.

MCCALL'S MAGAZINE

Is a large, artistic, handsomely illustrated hundred-page monthly magazine. It contains sixty new Fashion Designs in each issue. Every woman needs it for its up-to-date fashions, entertaining stories and complete information on all home and personal topics. Over one million subscribers. Acknowledged the best Home and Fashion Magazine. Regular price, 5 cents a copy. Worth double.

McCall Patterns The Columbian

So simple you cannot misunderstand them. Absolutely accurate. In style, irrefragable. You may select, free, any McCall Pattern you desire from the first number of the magazine which reaches you. Regular price, 15 cents. is the oldest newspaper in the county. It is not sensational, and what it prints is reliable, and fit to be read by anybody. Regular price \$1.00 per year.

DON'T MISS

THIS EXTRAORDINARY OFFER

Call at our office or address your order to

The Columbian, Bloomsburg, Pa