



THE CENTRE REPORTER

FRED KURTZ, -- EDITOR

New Postmaster.

Our neighbor, D. P. Brisbin, is the lucky one, and has been appointed post master.

Rain! Rain!!

Rain set in Thursday afternoon, 30 and kept up moderately all night; next day, Friday, it poured down in torrents nearly all day and continued all night until Saturday morning. The ground of course is full of water.

Last fall having been wet all through with rains during the winter and this spring, led weather prophets to predict we would have a dry summer. But no one is weather wise two days ahead. Will the 18th of June be "wet"?

Wisely Spoken.

The standard of a country community can usually be gauged, both in an intellectual and business sense, by its local newspaper. The merchant in a progressive town who advertises by means of a sixteenth-sheet "dodger" tacked to a telegraph pole is usually the man who has drifted to the outskirts of the business centre and who has a constantly increasing stock of shop-worn goods to dispose of at slightly reduced rates. The man who patronizes the local newspapers with a column advertisement on the front page, next to reading matter, is the merchant in the big building on the main street, with a row of electric lights in his show windows and a squad of busy clerks behind his counters. The most successful business men, both in the country and city, are the ones who appreciate the benefits of newspaper advertising. —Philadelphia Press.

If the 18th of June goes "wet" the liquor men may petition to have it made a legal holiday, which would be about as sensible as some of the other legal holiday nonsense that is occasionally proposed.

There won't be any tariff literature put in the dinner buckets of the workmen at Riddlesburg and Saxton this year. And, alas! there won't be any dinner in the buckets, either. —Bedford Gazette.

By the next apportionment for members of Congress, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, Massachusetts is likely to lose one member, New York four, Pennsylvania three, Ohio one; whereas Illinois and Indiana may escape without the loss of a man.

The Manufacturers Record publishes extracts from an article by J. T. Smith, the president of the British Iron Trade Association of England, discussing the iron ore requirements of the world and the conditions of their supply, as affecting the British iron industry, in which he calls the attention of English iron makers to the great developments now in progress in the south, and says that he learns on the authority of his friend, Mr. Abram S. Hewitt, who has recently been there, that iron can be produced in Alabama for about 30s (\$7 50) per ton.

The supreme court of the United States has just rendered a very important decision, says the Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette, reaffirming the doctrine that "combinations among those engaged in business impressed with a public or quasi-public character, which are manifestly prejudicial to the public interest, cannot be upheld." The case originated in a suit brought by a man named Gibbs against the Consolidated Gas company of Baltimore, to recover \$100,000 for "services in negotiating and consummating an arrangement and settlement of differences" between the Consolidated and Equitable Gas companies of Baltimore. The "arrangement" for which this enormous fee was charged was simply a combine by which the two companies agreed to run the price of gas up to a dollar and seventy-five cents a thousand. The differences were settled by agreeing to swindle the consumers of gas by stifling competition. The expert who did the work sent in a bill for services to each company for \$50,000, which the consolidated concern refused to pay because it had made no agreement to pay. The supreme court held that the suit could not be maintained for the reason that the combine was illegal. Chief Justice Fuller, who delivered the opinion, says: "The law cannot recognize as valid any undertaking to do what fundamental doctrine or legal rule directly forbids. Nor can it give effect to any agreement the making whereof was an act violating law." Again: "It is also too well settled to admit of doubt that a corporation cannot disable itself by contract from performing public duties which it has undertaken, and by agreement compel itself to make public convenience or accommodation subservient to its private interests." These are direct blows against combines that ought to put corporations on their guard.

JOHNSTOWN SWEPT.

From Ten to Fifteen Thousand Lives Lost.

THE VIADUCT BURSTS, AND SWEETS EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH.—\$25,000,000 DAMAGE DONE.

On Saturday morning the city reservoir at Johnstown burst, and the wave came like a wall from 30 to 80 feet in height. When it reached the city it picked up buildings and crushed them into a thousand fragments. At times they were thrown into the air and then submerged. Men, women and children were picked up as they rushed for their lives and were thrown about in the foaming waters. The advance waves were filled with buildings, debris and people. When it reached the round house where over a hundred locomotives were stored the immense structure was crushed as though it were but an egg shell. Locomotives were picked up and hurled in the air; the iron monsters were seen to roll along crashing over one another reeling and toppling and were mere toys in the arms of the destructive element. The flood traveled at the rate of a mile a minute and before the people could realize the situation were hurled into eternity. The two sections of the "Day Express" which stood on an embankment about thirty feet in height had an opportunity to see the advancing waters, which in another instant were upon them. Of all the people in the two long trains but sixty were able to escape. The water swept the coaches and engines from the track and down they went, with several hundred lives not one of which reached the shore alive. As they went over and over human forms could be seen hanging from the windows, clinging to the rails and steps, engines, human bodies and then a detached coach would rise and topple over and sink in the waters.

One of the worst features in relation to the disaster at Johnstown is the robbing of the bodies of the dead. On Sunday two Hungarians were hung for robbing the dead, and were still suspended by the wire noose on Monday morning. On the body of one was found thirteen fingers with rings on, the fingers having been chopped off with a hatchet. Four more were shot. On their persons were found fingers with rings, pieces of ears with earrings, also, collar buttons, watch-cases and cuff buttons. A Chinaman who was shot had in his possession fingers that had been cut off; also earrings. A colored man was shot while attempting to amputate a finger that wore a ring. The finger was only partly severed. A large force of men were working among the debris when word was brought to them that men were robbing the dead bodies. They captured three and found fingers with jewels of different kinds. This so enraged the men that they actually drowned the three men, throwing them in the water and piling stone and brush on them. A couple of negroes were driven off while breaking open trunks and scattering goods around. The Johnstown military company and many citizens are sworn in and are doing duty.

To pretend to picture the situation is an undertaking far beyond the power of man or pen. Picture in your mind Johnstown and surrounding towns as they were. Compare them with a sandy desert and it will give you a faint idea of the scene. The thriving little town of Conemaugh is swept away, with the exception of the houses on the hill side. Fifteen engines, some weighing 80 tons, that were here are now lying below Johnstown, two miles from Conemaugh. A number of the cars wrecked near South Fork near Johnstown, were loaded with flour, syrup, and other merchandise. The railroad officials gave the citizens in the vicinity permission to help themselves to the provisions. Of course, many of the needy got a good share, but a goodly number living a distance away, who had lost nothing, helped themselves one man alone getting away with one hundred and twenty four sacks of flour.

An eyewitness on a train at Johnstown, says when the great reservoir broke, the wave came down the gap like a mountain, and persons caught by it were hurled 20 feet in the air. Many passengers on the train seeing the wave coming jumped off, the others with the train were swept away.

At the Logan Iron works near Lewis town, the boilers were neglected in the excitement and they went up with a terrible explosion destroying the building and resulting in the death of several people. Mann's Axe Factory above Lewis town was badly damaged, one of the buildings was entirely swept away and the others were badly damaged.

Johnstown's Horror.

The people who have survived are not in need. The hand of charity, or rather of brotherly aid, has been widely opened, and contributions of everything they need have been profusely given. The Pennsylvania Railroad has freely carried supplies from Pittsburg, Ebensburg and other places, and everyone who goes takes something along.

Here have been seven or eight more summary executions of persons who have been found in the ghastly work of robbing the dead bodies. The city is under martial law. Those who commit the crime of robbery are principally the ignorant and vicious foreign residents—the Hungarians and Italians—of whom there are many in Johnstown. Four more have been hanged and two or three shot. To more perfectly maintain order and prevent crime everyone is compelled to retire from the scene by eight o'clock at night, and all found out after that hour who cannot account for themselves or their business are arrested.

The scene presented in the town is described as a wild desert waste. All the buildings are carried away, even where were a few days ago the crowded thoroughfares are obliterated and cannot be found.

The volume of water that came down upon the people can be faintly imagined when we tell them that the viaduct which broke was two miles wide, three long and fifty feet deep.

Johnstown is composed of half dozen boros, independent of each other, but built together like a compact city. These boros never would unite under one municipality, on account of local jealousies. Each maintained its own separate hero organization. The aggregate population is about 30,000.

The loss at Johnstown and vicinity is estimated at over 25 million dollars. The scenes of horror and havoc are indescribable. Relief is being sent from all parts and from England.

Among the 10,000 lives lost at Johnstown are all the lawyers, business men and officers of the iron company. The flood from the reservoir, 9 miles away, struck Johnstown at 4 on Friday afternoon and not on Saturday: There was then already 2 feet of water on the streets. Two men started from the reservoir on horseback to give the alarm, but the people of the town having often before heard such reports, did not believe it; only few fled and the thousands who remained in their houses were overwhelmed by the mountain high wave in an instant.

Flood Notes.

The Pennsylvania yard at Tyrone is in a terrible condition. Cars are standing in the shape of the letter V over the washout. The yard is a wreck. The Bald Eagle Valley has suffered much. From Port Matilda eastward the farm land is flooded and washed away. It is all the same as far as Julian.

In the Narrows near Lewistown the enormous axe works owned for many years by Mr. Mann and which are the largest in the United States, are partially destroyed.

Great damage reported at Alexandria, Huntingdon county, and over 100 lives said to be lost.

Renovo is reported washed away. The water came up so swiftly in Lock Haven as to carry saw logs crashing through the windows of stores and houses.

Millions of dollars worth of damage done at Williamsport its bridges and the Milton bridge took off the Lewisburg bridge.

The lower part of Lewistown is destroyed by water. Williamsport is reported fearfully flooded and 20 lives lost.

Lewistown, Sunbury and other river towns, everywhere, along the rivers, have had terrible visitations. All important railroad and other bridges over the state, are swept away. There never was such a horror in this state.

Trains will now be able to get through from Bellefonte to Tyrone, thence to Altoona.

At Salona as far as it was possible to learn the following is the death record: Alexander Whiting and wife were drowned, their four children being miraculously saved. William Emhizer and wife were also drowned. The remains of this couple were afterwards found at Mill Hall. The list ends with the name of Henry Snyder.

In Clearfield 6 feet of water covered the first floors of the houses.

We have authentic from Lock Haven: All houses were flooded, but no lives lost, people moved to 2nd stories.

The news from every part of the state is about the same—awful destruction of property and loss of lives.

Ed. Kreamer and family, late of Boalsburg, now at Johnstown are saved. The tramway into the Bear meadows was washed away.

Losses.

ESTIMATE OF LOSS ALONG ELK CREEK AND AT COBURN.

Joseph Moyer, Centre Mills, \$2,000
Narrows sawmill plant, 4,000
Narrows pike, 2,000
Campbell's mill and dam, 1,200
D. Musser est., foundry, dam, etc., 4,000
50 stables, lost and damaged, 12,000
Six small dwellings lost, 3,000
Damage to 20 houses, 2,000
Damage furniture, in 30 houses, 2,500
Provisions in 50 cellars, 3,000
Coburn pike and 3 bridges, 5,000
50 gardens and fences, 3,000
Ten horses, 25 cows, pigs, 2,100
Bridge and pike in Millheim, 2,500
100 acres good farm land ruined, 5,000
Farm fences, 2,000
Evert's barn, stock, etc., 1,500
Henry Swartz barn, stock, etc., 2,000
Benj. Kerstetter, sawmill, 1,000
Other individual losses, 2,700

Total, \$64,500
Damage along Pine creek and east end of Miles tp., \$5,000
Damage in the mountains south of Coburn, \$10,000

A total of \$79,500, which we take to be a liberal estimate, based mainly upon our own observation. The damages to the railroad and bridges are not included in our estimate.

BELOW MILLHEIM.

Michael Ulrich, wagons and implements and barn, \$1200, also butcher shop \$300.

Lambert Noll's fields and meadow washed out.

Henry Swartz, large barn, stock and implements, \$4000.

Wm. Smith's meadow and fields destroyed.

Reed Alexander, pig pen, with 8 pigs, 6000 shingles, and meadow damaged, Has 20 Brushvalley pigs in place of his own.

Acres of drift opposite Emanuel Kerstetter's.

ON PINE CREEK.

J. C. Motz, dam broken, residence of miller carried away with all household goods, two cows, and other live stock.

Dennis Lose, pig pen with hogs, six head of cattle, colt.

All outbuildings of Jacob Stover carried off.

Cyrus and Philip Moyer, dam broken, outbuildings and wagon shed carried off with farm implements, cattle, hogs, and crop of corn.

Daniel Kister, tenant of Samuel Ard, 28 hogs, wagons, buggy, farm implements and outbuildings, loss, \$1000.

ABOVE MILLHEIM.

Jacob and Philip Gephart, sawmill, house, dam, stable, cider press, hogs and lumber, \$4000.

Campbell's mill wrecked, \$1200.
D. A. Musser estate, mill dam, meadow destroyed, and foundry, \$4000.
Dennis Lose, tools and stock in foundry, \$2500.

MILLHEIM.

Willis Bollinger, house and furniture, \$1500.
Jacob Alters, goods damaged, \$450.
Wm. Adams, goods damaged, \$50.
Eisenhuth, drug store, \$600.
Joe Moyer at Centre Mills estimates his loss at \$2,000.

AT COBURN.

The damage done at Coburn was mostly on store goods. The heaviest losses are, J. J. Howell, merchant, \$1200; G. W. Swingle, merchant, \$1000; T. W. Hosterman, p. m., \$1000; R. G. Vonada, property, \$800; Monroe Kreamer, on personal property, \$800; J. Bowersox, \$200; Sam. Ulrich, \$300; M. J. Decker, grain house, \$500; W. H. Kreamer, \$300; R. W. Shaffer, \$800; Benj. Kerstetter, on saw mill and other property, \$2000; Hotel, \$500; Vonada planing mill, \$1800; A. J. Campbell, \$700; A. Bickard, \$600; Whitmer & Son, lumber lost, \$500; Penn. Railroad 5000 ties.

Dreams.

A man by the name of F. Parker says he had a dream on Saturday night that he found the body of a woman at a certain place along Penns Creek. He went there in the morning and his dream was verified; there she was in a pile of drift-wood. He found the body but whether the dream is true we do not know.

A Mr. Eisenhuth, who found the baby, says that the night before he dreamed that he heard a child crying down in the meadow, along the creek, the next day Sunday, he went down and found the child.

HOW TO PICTURE IT.

We mean the Johnstown flood: Imagine a large city at Pleasant Gap, and it already in two feet of water from the swollen streams. Then imagine at Peter Hoffer's at the head of the gap a reservoir 3 miles long, 1 1/2 wide and 50 feet deep; this suddenly gives way and pours down the steep and narrow gorge upon the city right below!—and you have it.

It is thought that it will take one week to repair the damage on the railroad through the mountains, and that there can be no trains sooner.

INCIDENTS.

At Coburn a colt was caught up and carried along by the torrent and against the door of a dwelling house; the door gave way under the blow and the colt went in, and that was what saved it. Andy Campbell saved his horse by taking it from the stable into his house.

A sawlog floated against the back door of Recorder Harter, at Millheim, burst the door in and passed out through the front door.

Two pigs lodged upon the roof of a floating pen with only standing room, to which they stuck for life; the pen was caught and held by a rubbish pile, and the pigs for over a day held their position on the roof, with the waters raging about them.

A new Conklin wagon under a shed near Coburn station was carried a short distance by the flood and shed and wagon lodged on the banks of the creek shed remaining over the wagon.

Michael Evert's fine, large new barn, was lifted from its foundation, and lodged square across the pike, all his stock was drowned.

Several large piles of railroad ties were floated down Penns creek and settled on the road side the bridge not in the least disturbed by the trip.

In Texas Harvey Swartz has \$100 damage on his lot and on the old Swartz lot adjoining, \$200.

Neut. Amman, grocer, thinks his damage is several hundred dollars. Will Tobias had his lots badly washed.

Reuben Hartman, foundry, damage about \$400.

Sam Weiser sustained several hundred dollars damage on lot and buildings.

Adolph Miller had the back part of his buildings badly damaged—the water rose above the coal stove on first floor.

The lots on both sides of the Mingle property are destroyed by washouts.

In fact about all the yards and gardens below Jacob Eisenhuth's are destroyed. Three great washouts in the street and three large streams cross it.

From down in the Paddy mountain section we learn that the house and other buildings occupied by David Raymon was entirely swept away, Raymon losing all he had. The house occupied by Jacob Derr, close to Raymon's, was also carried off.

Smith & Wolf lose saw mill, dwelling, small buildings and 5 horses and some cows.

No. 2 mill at Poemills is gone, belonging to a Shamokin lumber co. All railroad bridges in the mountains are gone.

At Smith & Wolf's mill Archibald Mullen kept a boarding house. The flood washed a bed against a lamp on a stand, upsetting the lamp, setting the bed on fire and the house was burned. \$450 in cash were burned.

All over the county bridges are swept away, and the county will have a big bridge bill to pay.

Bridges on railroad from Bellefonte to Spring Mills were not damaged. First bridge below Spring Mills was moved and made unsafe. Beaver dam bridge had a section torn away. Bridges farther on in the mountains were all damaged.

No trains running were left short of paper; and there having been no mails except local, we print only half sheet this week, hoping to find the situation so much improved in a few days that the Rarorox will be on hand next week in its usual form.

All the news is wet news. Parties had an idea they dare not search for drowned bodies at Coburn unless authorized by the square.

Trains pass here regularly between Bellefonte and Spring Mills.

Hundreds were along Elk creek Sunday to view the work of the flood.

They have an aerial ferry to cross from Millheim to Aaronsburg.

Among the wires down all over the county we find our wire clothes line.

Two horses washed from their stables were rescued while floating down Elk creek still tied to their manglers.

All soaked, Biz choked.

The barn at Swartz's saw mill was swept away with all the live stock.

Wm. Eisenhuth, at Coburn, was awakened from a sound sleep by the barking of his dog; he raised the window thinking he would command the dog to be quiet, and found the animal floating in the water with only the top of his nose out. This was the first indication Eisenhuth had of the flood, and he thinks if it had not been for his dog he would have drowned.

People of Brush Valley who desire to get to Pennsvalley, must for the present, take the old road to Aaronsburg, the entire pike through the Millheim narrows being utterly washed out. The same fate with the pike from Millheim to Coburn and its several bridges some three or four in number.

From Lewistown.

Charles Derstine writes to the REPORTER:

Over 1000 people were driven from their homes on Saturday by the flood at Lewistown, and about 700 of them must be cared for. Some of the houses were entirely covered with water, others were carried down the river, including two large bank barns, which reminded one of the description of Noah's ark. A great many houses and outbuildings are now standing on a neighbor lot or in the street. Very little personal property was saved; the people having put most of their furniture in up stairs rooms, not expecting so much of a rise, but then hopes vanished when they were compelled to escape with their lives in boats, leaving their personal property to the mercy of the flood.

The water rose to a depth of about 35 feet.

The most remarkable occurrence of the day was that of a Holstein Bull owned by J. B. Shannon, living a mile and a half above Lewistown, valued at \$500, getting into a floating barn as it passed, and when the barn reached the railroad bridge, it was mashed instantly, and his majesty gracefully peered through the roof, landing on all fours on the driftwood, where he remained a few hours, until the bridge gave way, which was loaded with coal cars, and sank out of sight, leaving the bull standing in a safe place about 150 feet below the bridge.

The water then gradually rose about his legs, when he plunged head foremost out of sight, causing the thousands of spectators to sigh, but he made the best of the situation, soon appearing at the surface among the driftwood, and by keeping up courage landed safely on a cinder dump in the middle of the mill-river, where he remained until rescued on Monday morning at 11 o'clock.

I made a photograph of him on the cinder dump when the water was at its highest, and also after his rescue.

Another miracle was the floating of a house from Jacks creek, a mile below Lewistown, all the way to Millintown, with Mr. and Mrs. Rider perched upon the roof; they were rescued at the latter place.

There are four or five railroad bridges destroyed, on the main line, between here and Huntingdon, and on the M. & C. road. The iron bridge across the Juniata is entirely gone, together with many other county and township bridges, and no estimate can be made of the expense.

Monday, 4:30 p. m. a train arrived from Philadelphia, bringing about 300 employees, who have gone to work. No lives reported lost in this vicinity.

How the Paint Swindle is Worked.

A new swindle now being worked upon the farming community is a compound used for painting roofs. The farmer is induced to take a few gallons of the stuff free of charge, if he will become an agent for its sale, or purchase a certain amount for himself. The contract order is printed on postal cards and looks straight enough on cursory examination. A critical analysis of the instrument, however, shows that the dealer is at liberty to send any amount that may suit them, or any contract or order, probably proportional to the victim's wealth, and that they can enforce payment by its provisions, or at least cause great trouble and expense to the dupe who signs it.

Married.

On the 28th ult. by Rev. J. Dotterer, Mr. L. E. Wolf, of Madisonburg, to Miss Alice Small, of Rebersburg.

Died.

In Lewistown, May 10, Mrs. Jane Anne Banks, relict of the late Hon. Ephraim Banks, aged 79 years.

On the 30th ult. at Madisonburg, Margaret, wife of Benjamin Roush, aged 60 years, 6 months and 10 days.

Get a Picture.

Lewistown's photographer, C. W. Derstine, has made ten different views of the flood there, including the two mentioned in communication; and these can be had at 25 cents each, and the ten for \$1.80. A large percentage received for these pictures will be given the sufferers.

Announcements.

PROTHONOTARY. We are authorized to announce that M. I. Gardner, of Howardboro, will be a candidate for Prothonotary, subject to Democratic caucus.

In spite of all competition Lewins continues to take the lead in ready-made clothing, low prices as well as quality of goods. He gets ahead of all, sells more than all, pleases all, and fits and suits all.

Get your boy a nice suit at Lewins and save a couple of dollars thereby. The largest and best assortment of spring suits, latest styles ever brought to Bellefonte. Lewins leads in ready-made clothing for men and boys.