

Our Neighbors Down the Valley.

WILKES-BARRE.

The Tribune has opened a branch office at No. 29, Lanning building, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, for the transaction of business. The newspaper propose to extend the circulation of The Tribune in Wilkes-Barre and the surrounding towns, and to that end will present a very comprehensive digest of local news. For success in this undertaking dependence is placed solely upon the superiority of The Tribune as purveyor of all the news of the day, domestic, foreign, and commercial and financial. The general interests of the people of Wilkes-Barre and the Wyoming valley will have in The Tribune an earnest advocate editorially and otherwise. It is the desire of the publishers to issue a newspaper as valuable to the general public as the metropolitan dailies, and deliver it to the people throughout northeastern Pennsylvania from three to five hours earlier than the Philadelphia and New York papers can reach them.

MAYOR NICHOLS' METHOD.

He Will Tolerate No Nonsense with Keepers of Bawdy Houses.

Among the disreputable houses which Mayor Nichols has waged war on is one on Canal street, kept by a woman named Alice Phillips. The mayor notified her to appear at his office to answer charges against her house by the police. The Phillips woman ignored the notice and the mayor imposed a fine and costs amounting to \$25, as provided by the city ordinance. She failed to appear to pay the fine, and then the mayor dispatched an officer to close up the house and an attachment on the property was also issued. Then Miss Phillips hastened around to the mayor's office and paid the fine and costs. With tears in her eyes she upbraided the mayor for "ruining her business." The mayor informed her that his purpose was to ruin the kind of business she was engaged in all over the city, and expressed gratification that he had been so successful in her case. Miss Phillips added that as soon as she could find a purchaser for her property she would shake the dust of Wilkes-Barre off her shoes and never again set foot in the town where she lived. The mayor remarked that in this determination she had good dashes and hoped she would speedily find a purchaser for her property. If Mayor Nichols succeeds in permanently closing up the infamous den so long known as "66 Canal street," he will deserve the hearty endorsement of the community. All but the criminal classes are genuinely glad that F. M. Nichols was re-elected mayor last February. He has the grit to do a great reform work for this city, and he is applying himself to the task.

THAT MARKS BUILDING.

Some More Trouble by the City Councils That Will Delay Operations.

M. Marks is the owner of the triangle lot at the corner of public square and South Main street. He has torn down the old building and proposed to erect a handsome new one on the site. The old structure projected, as is claimed, beyond the now established line, and councils proposed to compel Mr. Marks to place the new building on line to conform to the Laning building. Mr. Marks appealed to the court, the injunction was dismissed and Mr. Marks was getting ready to commence the construction of his building on the old line. Councils has now confronted Mr. Marks with an old ordinance requiring him to make the cellar wall twenty-two inches thick, the first story wall sixteen inches, and the other stones twelve inches. Mr. Marks' contracts with the builders call for building of iron and steel, filled in with brick and fire-proof, the walls to be eight inches in thickness. Councils has interposed, and Marks cannot go on with his building operations unless he makes new contracts, and, naturally, the structure will cost a great deal more.

It is claimed that council has not heretofore enforced the ordinance referred to against any one, and that there is no such ordinance active in the war against Mr. Marks. If it can be shown that the building Marks proposes to erect will not be a safe one, then of course he should not be permitted to erect it. On the other hand, it can be shown by competent architects that the structure will be safe, then the annoyance should cease. City councils cannot afford to annoy and harass citizens who desire to improve the town and modernize it by the erection of fine buildings.

S. S. CHAN'S DEFALCATION.

First Reports Were Greatly Exaggerated.

The Sun reported Not Large. Later developments indicate that the defalcation of S. S. Chan is not nearly so serious an affair as was at first intimated. His accounts with the Lehigh Valley Railroad company and the several steamship lines he represented as ticket agent are found to be all straight. Chan acted for a large number of foreigners in sending money to their friends in Europe. The allegation is that he has applied to his own use a sum something less than \$3,000 of money intrusted to him to be forwarded to the old country. About two months ago Chan went to Europe, as is now believed, for the purpose of raising money among his friends there, or from a family estate in which he has an interest, for the purpose of making good his shortage. It is known to some of his friends that he had speculated and lost about \$10,000 and it was in these transactions he used the money belonging to his clients.

Few people here are ready to believe that S. S. Chan is a dishonest man. During the past year he had opportunities to embezzle much larger amounts had he been so inclined. His many friends here are not prepared to desert him just yet, and it is believed he will in some way recover himself and emerge from his present predicament without serious dishonor.

SAYS IT WAS MURDER.

Investigating the Death of John Ballantine, the Old Plymouth Soldier.

County Detective Eckert has been investigating the death of John Ballantine, who was found dead with a crushed skull at the foot of the stairs in his house at Plymouth one morning about a week ago. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict that Ballantine came to his death from the effects of a blow struck by some person unknown to the jury. There is as yet no clue to the perpetrator of this crime. Robbery was undoubtedly the motive of the murderer, as Ballantine was known to have his quarterly pension check cashed a few days before, and the money could not be found. He also had some other money, at least so it is alleged by some who were his friends. This is another of those mysterious murders that occur so frequently in Luzerne county. De-

tective skill might unravel the mystery, as it did the murder of Barney Reick, and it is hoped the county commissioners will have the courage to place the case into the hands of the same detective agency that did such effective work, after a lapse of fifteen months, in the Reick case. Sensible people do not complain when money is judiciously expended in the hunting down of murderers. The average county detective has none of the skill and resources of the professional. Mr. Eckert is an excellent man, but being known to everybody it cannot be expected that he will be successful in unraveling mysterious murders.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL.

A Successful Enterprise at the Home for Homeless Women.

A most successful strawberry and ice cream festival was held yesterday from 2 to 10 p.m. at the Home for the Homeless Women, to assist in paying off the debt on the building. The affair was all that the most sanguine had hoped for, both socially and financially. The rooms were beautifully decorated with banks of snow balls and jars of roses, making the always attractive home even more beautiful. Strawberries, ice cream and cake were served in the dining room; and at 4 in the afternoon and 8 in the evening delightful musical programmes were rendered in the double parlors. Several hundred people attended during the hours the home was opened to the public and a fresh interest has been awakened in this most deserving and successful institution.

Those who rendered services, musical, and so forth, were Misses Annette Reynolds, of Scranton, Grace Fogel, Eva Patterson and Bertha Mitchell, Mrs. R. B. Brundage, Mrs. H. H. Harvey, Clark W. Evans, Fred Smith, Glee club, of Kingston. The entertainment was in charge of Mrs. H. H. Harvey. The committee in charge of the festival consisted of Mrs. J. E. Patterson, chairman, Mrs. L. J. Fogel, Mrs. Murray Alexander, Mrs. B. F. Reynolds, Mrs. Charles Bixby, Mrs. H. H. Harvey, Mrs. J. R. Coolbaugh and Miss Ella Sturdevant.

Those who received were Mesdames G. K. Powell, H. H. Derr, J. D. Laciar, N. P. Jordan, I. H. Moore, V. C. Coolbaugh, B. F. Reynolds, M. H. Pease, W. H. McCartney, Conrad Lee, Dr. Dielefelder, M. S. Hard, W. V. Ingaham, Edwin Shortz, Miss Mary Slosson, Miss Anna Hunt. The refreshment committee was Mrs. L. J. Fogel, chairman; C. W. Bixby, Murray Alexander, Mary Straw, J. R. Coolbaugh, O. H. Harvey, A. A. Bennett, Josephine Hillman, George Lazarus, Miss Harvey, the Young Men's Christian association, returned from the international convention at Springfield, and says it was a glorious gathering of earnest men.

State Senator Kline is critically ill at his home, in Hazleton, and his friends are apprehensive of the result. Senator Kline has been a busy and hard-working man for years, and his physical collapse has resulted in a fever.

Dr. Webb, of the Central church, will preach to the Grand Army of the Republic men and old soldiers generally on the Sunday morning before Memorial Day.

S. M. Bard, state secretary of the Young Men's Christian association, returned from the international convention at Springfield, and says it was a glorious gathering of earnest men.

John McLaughlin, of Pleasant Valley, was in town yesterday on business.

Miss Nellie Sanders was calling on Dunmore friends on Thursday.

Wall paper from 7 cents a roll up, at W. F. Moyer & Sons, 98 South Main street.

dation for all the children of school age, and there is no evidence that any considerable number of parents do not voluntarily and gladly avail themselves of the facilities for educating their children. In the outlying wards there may be a few foreigners who permit their children to remain away from school, but the number is exceedingly limited, Wilkes-Barre is noted for the number and excellence of its public school buildings. Added to these are numerous private and parochial schools that take high rank and are well supported. The enactment of the Farr bill will make no perceptible difference in this city.

The Ivorite Convention.

The miscarriage of the report of the final session of the Ivorite convention accounts for its non-appearance in yesterday's issue of The Tribune. The election of officers resulted as follows:

President, William Hughes, of Vermont; vice president, Rhys Morgans, of Wilkes-Barre; secretary, Daniel Bevan, of Plains; treasurer, D. L. Lloyd, of Pittsburg. Oliphant was selected as the place for the next convention. The convention just closed contained representations from Pennsylvania, Vermont, New York, Colorado, Illinois, Ohio and Maryland. The Ivorites is a purely Welsh organization, and is growing in strength in the United States.

PERSONALS.

Attorney Thomas Darling has returned from his tour in the western states.

The wife of Mayor Nichols is improving and is in a fair way to recover her health.

William P. Ryan has been in New York the past week on business connected with enterprises in which he is interested.

Daniel L. Hart is in Detroit, in conference with Stuart Robson, who has taken Mr. Hart's play, O'Neill, Washington, D. C."

Samuel L. Laciar is receiving hearty congratulations on his musical composition produced at the Concordia's concert on Thursday evening.

John McLaughlin, of Pleasant Valley, was in town yesterday on business.

Miss Nellie Sanders was calling on Dunmore friends on Thursday.

Wall paper from 7 cents a roll up, at W. F. Moyer & Sons, 98 South Main street.

Refrigerator in Six Hours.

Distressing Kidney and Bladder disease relieved in six hours by "New Gold" Salve. Price, 50 cents.

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