

Our Neighbors Down the Valley.

WILKES-BARRE.

The Tribune has opened a branch office at No. 20 Lanning building, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, for the transaction of business. The publishers propose to extend the circulation of The Tribune throughout the surrounding towns, and to that end will present a very complete department of Luzerne county news. For success in this undertaking depends the welfare of so many of the friends of The Tribune, as a purveyor of all the news of the day—domestic, foreign, local, commercial and financial. The general interest of the people of Wyoming and the Wyoming valley will have in The Tribune an earnest advocate, editorially and otherwise. It is the purpose of the publishers to issue a newspaper valuable to the 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.

BASE BALL ENTHUSIASM.

The Wilkes-Barre Lovers of the Game Greatly Elated.

The Wilkes-Barre club has made a magnificent record up to this time. The winning of three straight games from the Scranton club was all that was necessary to raise Wilkes-Barre enthusiasm to the top-notch. Next to the rapid upward climbing of the local club nothing could have so much added to the pleasure of the base ball lovers of this town as has the toboggan slide of the Scranton club. As the Wilkes-Barre club ascended the Scranton club descended. The proverbial rivalry of the two towns will break out even in so trivial a matter as base ball. The local club is being exalted to the skies, and all manner of good-natured fun poked at Scranton. Later in the season, when the re-action sets in, and the Wilkes-Barre club goes tobogganing and the Scranton club goes a ballooning, what a howl there will be at this end of the line!

For the time being Wilkes-Barre is within sight of the head of the column. This condition of things is very much enjoyed here, but it is too good to continue. The season is young yet and even Scranton base ball clubs have sometimes shown the recuperating powers so characteristic of the Electric City.

RUN DOWN THE BURGLARS.

The Gang—Operating in This City Should Be Captured.

Almost every night one or more houses are entered by burglars, and there is no longer any doubt that there is a gang of reckless criminals located here. A determined effort should be made to capture them. There is some evidence that they are not professionals, and it is not improbable that the thieves reside here. But whatever their status as criminals, they are desperate and reckless, and if possible should be halted in their career. They are not merely burglars but incendiaries as well, as is shown by the numerous buildings that have been fired within the past week. The police of this city are probably of average vigilance, but up to this time they have not been able to accomplish anything. The incendiary fires have been discovered and extinguished by private citizens, and such burglaries as have been nipped in the bud and made abortive was also the work of others than the police. The officers should keep a sharp eye on the houses where criminals are likely to congregate. There are a number of such houses in Wilkes-Barre. If the police are unable to properly cover the ground then detectives should be employed. Burglars and incendiaries are two dangerous classes of criminals, and they are plying their trade to an alarming extent in Wilkes-Barre at this time.

COURT HOUSE BIDS.

They Closed Yesterday and Only Five Were Offered.

How little interest has been taken in the new court house since the county commissioners have been playing is shown by the fact that yesterday noon, when the bids were closed only five had been received. The bidders are Wilson J. Smith, of Wilkes-Barre; Allen Walton, of Hummelstown, Pa.; John F. Coots, of Omaha; Burnett Record company, of Minneapolis, and Henry Schenck & Son, of Pittsburg. Each of the bidders gave a certified check for 5 per cent of the amount of his bid.

The county commissioners were in session with their counsel during the afternoon, but finally announced that they would give no publicity to the bids before next Monday. Neither from the commissioners nor from the bidders could anything be learned as to the amount of any of the bids. No interest attaches to yesterday's proceeding. The commissioners are enjoined from accepting any of the bids and all they can do is to examine them and await the further action of the court. The whole business has dwindled to the proportions of a first-class farce.

The Mutilated Asphalt.

Every week new holes are chopped into the asphalt streets and none of the old ones are being repaired. It is shameful the way the handsome and expensively paved streets of this city are being mutilated. It is to be expected that in a city like this, where all manner of supply pipes are under the pave, it becomes necessary at times to break through to make repairs, but it may also be reasonably expected that when this is done all damage be repaired as speedily and as perfectly as possible. Nearly every asphalted street in Wilkes-Barre has been full of holes of all sizes for months, and they are not even filled with ashes or cinders to level them with the surrounding surface. Attention has again and again been called to this shameful negligence. At least two persons have been severely hurt by being thrown from their bicycles in riding into these holes at night. It is a wonder that the city has not been mulcted in damages.

Licenses were yesterday issued by the clerk of the court to the following: James Brogan and Mary Nelson, of Newport; Samuel F. Jones and Maggie Greenwell, of Hasleton; Alex Juvatius and Mary Madrik, of Pittston; Leo Marvenus and Maria Ossanna, of Derringer.

The annual convention of the German Catholic societies of Pennsylvania will be held in this city on the 17, 18 and 19 of the present month, and will be composed of delegates from a large number of societies. Honesdale, Ashland, Allentown, Scranton, Carbondale, Pittston, Nanticoke, Hasleton, Shenandoah, Girardville, Mahonay, Portville, Minersville, St. Clair, March Chunk, Lehighton, Catawissa, Bethlehem and Easton, Pittsburg, Beaver, John McKinney, William Kane and John Cuelley left yesterday morning on an extended fishing expedition.

PITTSTON.

other towns and cities. On the 18th the second day of the convention, the delegates will be banquetted, and the third day there will be a great picnic at Mountain Park. Elaborate preparations are being made by the local societies to make the convention as pleasant as possible for the visiting delegates.

POLITICAL POINTS.

A prominent Republican of Hazleton was in the city yesterday and in the course of a talk on county politics remarked that probably the lower end would not present any candidate for places on the Republican county ticket this year. At least he had not heard of any one in that section who aspired to such honors. He did think, however, that Hazleton would ask for one of the delegates to the next national convention and thought that section was entitled to the recognition, and could get it if the demand were made in the right spirit and with insistence.

There will not be less than a dozen candidates for the Republican nomination for sheriff this year, and nearly every section of the county will be represented. For the other county offices to be filled there will be an equally lively demand. Candidates are springing up in every direction. The Republican successes in recent years have cultivated a lively appetite for the good places in the court house.

Hon. John M. Garman, who represents the dominant faction of the Pennsylvania Democracy in Luzerne county, will not only be one of the delegates to the next Democratic national convention, but he will also designate who shall be his colleague from this district. In view of this fact a goodly number of prominent Democrats are cultivating the good graces of the district attorney and friend of National Chairman Harrity.

The most quiet Democratic politician in Luzerne county just now is ex-Congressman Hines. He is not saying a word, at least for publication, but it is believed he is doing a good deal of thinking and planning for the future.

PLYMOUTH.

Charles Frantz, of Wyoming, was the guest of Captain F. L. McKee yesterday.

Mrs. H. Gridley, of Waverly, N. Y., is the guest of her niece, Mrs. Fannie Groves, of Main street.

Wally Evans, of Lewis, is the guest of his cousin, R. D. Williams.

The seventeenth annual commencement exercises of the Plymouth high school were held in the opera house last evening. The following are the names of the graduates: Misses May V. Rickard, Maude V. McAlarney, Maude L. Kuske, Edith L. Phillips, Annie May Hitchcock, Dora McDonald, Louis H. Hitchcock, Joseph P. Martin.

T. W. Higgins, of the Tribune, is spending a few days with his parents at Summit Hill.

Professor and Mrs. F. E. Bush will spend the summer on Pocono mountain, near Gouldsboro, Mrs. Bush's former home.

Editor Tubbs, of the Mountain Echo, is frequently mentioned as a probable candidate for the legislature in his district next year. He would rather have gone to Harrisburg as the first Representative of Grove county, but since there is to be no Grove county, he might be prevailed upon to represent a piece of good old Luzerne.

PERSONAL.

William B. Ricketts returned to Lake Ganoga yesterday, after spending a few days in this city.

John B. Vaughan is home to spend a large part of the summer with his parents in Kingston.

Chester B. Derr, who has just returned from Europe, went back to Princeton yesterday to finish his college course.

Ex-County Commissioner Gershacker was in town yesterday. He was one of the commissioners of Luzerne before the division, and is now a citizen of Lackawanna.

BRIEF NOTES.

Professor J. Frank Siegel, of Scranton, closed his season's dancing class with a hop last evening.

Three of the most interesting baseball games of the season will be played by Wilkes-Barre against Springfield next week.

Fifty-two deaths were reported in Wilkes-Barre during the month of May. Twenty-two cases of contagious diseases were also reported.

The Hirsch-Wildner case, which has consumed so much of the time of the court, was yesterday settled. Hirsch receiving judgment for \$1,100.

The choirs from Nanticoke and Miners Mills divided the prize at the Nanticoke eisteddfod on Memorial Day. There were some excellent events during the sessions of the festival.

Mayor Nichols had only four cases before him yesterday. Sarah Jones was charged with stealing two boxes of cigars and was held for court. Grant Love and two young girls were arrested on the street and discharged.

The Young Men's Christian Association ball team of this city were served a shabby trick on Memorial Day at Bloomsburg. While the club were playing they had their street clothes locked up in a room. Some unknown person went through the pockets and took all the money they contained, about \$20, as nearly as can be ascertained.

The supreme court has reversed the lower court in the case of Holden vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Rev. Dr. Holden was struck by a Pennsylvania train at Cranberry, near Hazleton, and lost a leg. The case was twice tried. Dr. Holden getting \$8,000 the first time, and \$15,000 the second. The Pennsylvania made an effort to have a third trial, which was denied by the lower court, but was granted by the supreme court.

AVOCA.

Miss Carrie McKay, of Plains, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Newlin.

Thomas O. Garry, pitcher for the Carbondale base ball team, spent Decoration Day with friends in town.

Misses Annie Powers and B. Cawley, of Pittston, were the guests of Miss Ella Gibbons.

The Hose company attended the Mechanic Hose company's fair at Pittston last evening.

Miss Nettie Daffner is the guest of Mrs. C. Stegmaier, of Wilkes-Barre.

Rev. P. J. Golden, of Williamsport, visited friends in town on Thursday.

Mr. William Bell, of Jermyn, is spending a few days with his mother, Mrs. Shaeffer of Linton Hill.

Miss Kate Taylor, of Scranton, is visiting friends in town.

The Amity Base Ball club defeated the Second Young Men's Christian Association club of Scranton on Memorial Day. Score, 15 to 13. It is not usually considered in good taste to call down a visiting club, but the young men from the Electric City did not have on their best behavior. The Wayne Independent rather forcibly says "that such a con-

PITTSBURGH.

Some miscreants obstructed the track of the Traction company on Thursday just north of the stone bridge with the braced by telephone pole. The obstruction was drawn off by Motor man Hoyt, leaving Pittston at 10:40 p. m. with Conductors Harding, cleared the track and continued their trip. Conductor Ellsworth, whose car leaves Wilkes-Barre at 10:40 p. m., was warned, when passing Harding's car, that the track had been obstructed and to approach the place with care. This was done, and the obstruction was found replaced. The obstruction was placed on the grade, where the cars run at a very rapid rate.

The Pittston, Avoca, and Jenkins Township Street Railway company, lessees of the Scranton and Pittston Traction company, have filed with the borough secretary of Hughestown a certified acceptance of the right of way granted to them by an ordinance passed by the council May 17, 1895.

One new case of diphtheria was reported to Health Officer Tigue yesterday. There are now six cases in the city. The last one reported is on Chapel street.

The Tri-county Amateur League Ball team of Pittston is exciting a great amount of interest. The league managers will meet at the Sinclair House Sunday at 2:30 p. m.

Helen Potter Hibbs died Thursday night at 11:20 o'clock. The funeral will take place today, with services at the family home, 302 Montgomery street, at 2:30 p. m.

Miss J. Stemple, Miss Blanche Edgar and Messrs. Horace Bigart and Alex Bryden passed Memorial Day at Hartley's lake.

Charles Colebatch, fireman at the stationary engine at Farview, met with an accident Thursday morning while cleaning the engine. He accidentally slipped from a board, his right arm was caught in the machinery and crushed just below the elbow. Dr. Burns found it necessary to amputate the arm.

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