

POST-OFFICE DOES A GREAT BUSINESS

Holiday Work is no Snap For Uncle Sam's Employees.

IMMENSE MASS OF MAIL MATTER.

Two Stamp Windows Doing Business and the Interior of the Office Looking Like a Santa Claus Storehouse.

"The merry whistle of the postman" and all that sort of thing at Christmas time is a very pretty sentiment—if you aren't the postman.

"Merry Christmas? Oh, yes, it's merry enough, we're not a cinch making other people happy, but this job of acting the pack horse, making a thousand miles a day and freezing every exposed part of your body, isn't what it's cracked up to be.

Some reason for the pessimistic sentiment of the postman was found during the visit of a Tribune reporter to the post-office yesterday, when the vast quantity of mail matter handled was about the same as on Wednesday and Thursday.

RUSH FOR STAMPS.

An extra window for stamp sales has been open since Wednesday, but from early in the morning until the windows close in the evening, the experience and alacrity of the stamp clerks have been taxed to the utmost.

Several large cracker barrels have been sitting alongside the stamp clerks and every few minutes one of the barrels has to be emptied.

The only joy to the postman was the satisfaction of knowing that no earthly power could force him to work more than eight hours a day.

TO THE LIMIT.

While the carrier was working, he was doing it to the limit. They managed to make all their scheduled trips, but this wouldn't have been possible had they not possessed the peculiar knack of arranging about like hosts of burden and had the ability to tie countless bundles of all sorts and sizes with an abandon that puts the most expert woman shopper and baby carrier to shame.

At all hours from 3 to 7 o'clock yesterday the cancelling and distributing of stamps was in progress.

The cancelling of stamps was facilitated as required by the letters by the recently acquired double cancelling machine, which runs by electricity and puts black smudges of ink and postmarks on two letters at a time, faster than a person can count them.

Today there will be only one delivery. It will be the usual one of the city morning. It is on the ground that the gray-uniformed carrier gets some return for his labors, something useful from the women, substantial from the men and dainty from the young miss.

CIVIL SERVICE APPLICANTS.

Ought to be Posted on the New Application Rules.

Persons intending to try for government positions through civil service examinations will not, in future, be treated as leniently as in the past, if their applications are late.

The United States civil service commission has ordered that the usual dates for the regular semi-annual postoffice, custom house and internal revenue examinations for 1898 be so changed as to allow the widest possible use of the First, Second and Third grade series of examination questions in all examinations of corresponding grades.

All postoffice, custom house and internal revenue examinations for the spring will be held between March 15 and April 25. No application will be accepted for these examinations unless filed by March 1, and no exception will be made to this rule.

A rule has been made that whenever a date is set for the close of the receipt of applications for a certain examination, no application will be accepted thereafter for that examination without the special authority of the United States commission.

Local examining boards, like that in this city, have been notified by President Porter,

of the United States commission, not to ask for the special authority mentioned in the foregoing unless there was ample and good excuse for the delay in receiving any given application.

SCRANTON'S CURIOUS ALLEY.

In the Heart of the City, But Little is Known of It.

A public passageway 150 feet long, 4 feet wide and running from avenue to alley through one of the most valuable blocks in the business section of the city is one of Scranton's curiosities.

The passageway runs from Washington avenue to Lee court and skirts the rear of the board of trade building. The whole of it has disappeared during the last few days in the excavating for J. W. Guernsey's new four-story building opposite the Tribune building.

PRETTY CHRISTMAS SENTIMENT.

Public School Pupils Bid Adieu to the Closing Year.

There was a pretty sentiment yesterday in connection with the closing of the public schools at 12 o'clock, Jan. 2. All over the city while the bells were ringing at noon the following verses from Tennyson's "In Memoriam" were recited by the pupils in concert:

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky; The flying clouds, the frosty light; The year is dying in the night; Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Copies of the stanzas were furnished to the teachers two weeks ago, and they were committed to memory by the scholars.

DISPUTE OVER COAL ROYALTIES.

Two Dunmoreans Sue the A. D. and F. M. Spencer Coal Company.

Declarations in two coal royalty suits against A. D. and F. M. Spencer were filed yesterday in the prothonotary's office by Warren & Knapp.

John H. Koch and Robert P. Savage, Dunmore, are the plaintiffs. Koch brings suit for unpaid royalties on coal taken from under "his property on Chestnut street."

Mr. Savage's suit is similar in character. He claims an unpaid balance of \$29,538. His property is situated on the corner of Chestnut street and Shoemaker avenue.

CLAIMS SOME VALUABLE LAND.

Mrs. Margaret A. Mahon Brings an Ejectment Suit Against the D. & H. Attorney James Mahon, for his wife, Margaret A. Mahon, yesterday instituted a suit in ejectment against the Delaware and Hudson Canal company to secure possession of a tract of land back of the "air line" on lower Lackawanna avenue, which the company, it is alleged, holds.

The land is an irregular shaped plot, one acre and 8/10 perches in extent, being bounded by a street, starting at a point near the Lackawanna avenue bridge, and being contained between the railroad tracks and the rear line of the buildings on Lackawanna avenue.

LIVING PICTURES PROHIBITED.

Police Say That There Will Be No Further "Mermaid" Sensations.

The living picture part of the numerous mushroom shows now going on in several empty store buildings in this city were prohibited by the police yesterday. Chief Rolling yesterday visited the places and ordered that no semblance to a mermaid should be given, under penalty of arrest and imprisonment.

The action of the police was taken at the suggestion contained in the Tribune's recent story of a West Scranton father finding his daughter doing the mermaid act in a show on Lackawanna avenue.

WILL COST \$27,000.

Contract For the Construction of the New Milk Mill is Executed.

The contract for the erection of the building, David & Schuch's milk mill, in Little England, was yesterday executed with Contractor Peter Stupp.

By the terms of the contract the main mill and boiler and engine houses are to be completed before May 1, 1898. The offices and other buildings are not provided for in the specifications. The contract price is \$27,000. C. R. Makepeace & Co., of Providence, R. I., are the architects.

REEVES WILL RECOVER.

Tramp Who Was Injured By His Companions Much Improved.

Two of the five tramps who assaulted a pal, Edward Reeves, near the South mill Wednesday, are now in the county jail and the three remaining are in the central police station, awaiting a hearing on the charge of assault and battery.

IT IS ALMOST AN IDEAL CHRISTMAS

With a Little More Snow There Would Be Nothing to Be Desired.

BIG BUSINESS AT THE STORES.

Extra Help Required at all the Prominent Business Places to Take Care of the Holiday Trade—Biggest Business on Record at the Post Office—Charitable Societies See to it That None Want a "Christmas Pot."

With about half a foot more of snow nothing would be lacking to make this the most really lively Christmas Scranton has experienced in many years.

That the business men anticipated this is evidenced by the unusual preparations made for the holiday trade and that they did not so much as anticipate the amount of the central city streets during the past few days and particularly yesterday.

Every person met with was a Santa Claus and when forty or fifty of these Santa Clauses crowded themselves and their burdens into a street car it was only the spirit of the occasion that prevented ill nature.

CHARITABLE WORK.

The board of associated charities and the charitable societies connected with the various churches were out the best busy of bodies yesterday. They had diligently hunted up deserving poor people, that none might be without a "Christmas pot" and if any were wanting this very essential adjunct of the day it was not the fault of charitable societies.

Elevator boys, janitors, messengers and office boys are always generously remembered in this city at Christmas time, and this year was no exception to the rule.

The pathos of Christmas, as well as the joy, is nowhere more marked than in the trivial scenes and incidents of the street. A thin, old girl of about 42 years of age, and whose poverty and friendlessness was no less displayed in her wan face than by her attire, was noticed hurrying along with the crowd up Wyoming avenue early last evening.

BOUGH OF EVERGREEN.

Under her arm she trailed a bough of evergreen. It was too small to be termed a "tree" and too large for a twig, but it might, by a little ingenuity, be dressed into some semblance of the former; it was too large to be carried for amusement—that was certain. Maybe there was a wealth of story in an apparently commonplace evergreen bough in the clutch of a poor, pinched-faced girl, and maybe there were any other, few noticed the girl or her burden. It is possible that today the insignificant bough is arranged into some fantastic likeness to a real "tree" and there maybe a little gladness in the heart of a poor household, overlooked by churches and benefactors.

ISAAC SEYMOUR INJURED.

He Thought the Charge Was Dead But It Was Not.

Isaac Seymour, a miner in the Cayuga, was painfully injured yesterday. He had prepared a blast and touched it off, but fearing it had died out he decided to go to the "face" to investigate.

He had almost reached that point when the charge exploded, scattering coal in every direction. Seymour was knocked down and painfully cut about the head and breast. He was taken to his home on the West side.

INSTALLATION AT CLARK'S SUMMIT.

Officers of Juniata Council Inducted Into Office Thursday Night.

Thursday evening the officers of Juniata Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, of Clark's Summit, were installed into office with impressive ceremonies.

The installing officers were: Grand Worthy Patron A. B. Holmes and Mrs. W. L. Linsing, worthy matron of Martha Washington Chapter, of this city. The officers installed were: Worthy matron, Isabel C. Williams; worthy patron, W. P. Little; associate matron, Mrs. A. A. Nichols; associate conductor, Mrs. E. Ackery; and Mrs. W. P. Little; both, Mrs. John Knapp; Mrs. Shilpa; Martha, Mrs. I. H. Isly; Electa, Mrs.

COURSEN'S

Standard Tomatoes, 5c can, 90c dozen. Red Kidney Beans, 10c can, 3 for 25c. Lima Beans, 10c, 3 for 25c. California Fruits, 1 lb. cans, (extra standards), 13c can, \$1.50 doz., worth 25c. can. Sifted Early June Peas, 10c, \$1.00 dozen. Coursen's Fancy Sugar Peas, 19c, \$2.25 dozen. French Peas and Mushrooms, 15c, \$1.75 dozen. Triple Blend Coffee, 32c, 5 lbs. \$1.50. Blend A1, 15c, 4 lbs. 49c.

E. G. Coursen

B. Ackery; organist, Mrs. Jesse Polhamus; warden, Mrs. John Austin; sentinel, W. C. Williams.

After the installation a supper was served and a social followed. The chapter was organized in May of this year. The officers installed Thursday evening were re-elected recently.

KNAPP GIVEN A HEARING.

Asked to Furnish \$800 Bail For His Appearance at Court.

Herbert L. Knapp, the young man who shot and severely wounded Patrolman James Saul Thursday afternoon while the latter was attempting to arrest him, was given a hearing in police court yesterday morning before Alderman Davies. No new phases of the shooting were brought out. The facts being substantially the same as stated in yesterday's issue of The Tribune.

The young man's father, mother and Patrolmen Saul and Evans gave evidence, as did the young man himself. The bail was fixed at \$800 and was furnished by a friend of the boy's father. The charge was felonious wounding.

MR. PHELPS' QUICK RECOVERY.

Stroke of Paralysis Followed by Marked Improvement.

Druggist John H. Phelps, who was stricken with paralysis Thursday morning but quickly recovered during that day, showed a continued improvement yesterday.

Phelps' recovery has been more rapid and pronounced than is usual, and such a malady, and it is a matter of only a few days before he is at his place of business.

A Card of Thanks.

I wish to give my sincere thanks to all those who were so kind to me in my great bereavement, the death of my beloved husband, George Kirby. I wish to especially thank the Scranton Lodge of Elks, Heptasoph Lodge, Conclave 259, Rev. Joseph K. Dixon, Mr. Hayden Evans, Mr. George N. Gunster, Mr. Justin Siegrist, His railroad friends and John P. Watkins for his sweet singing at the Forest-Hill cemetery.

Mrs. George Kirby, No. 94 Lee court, Scranton, Pa.

Scranton Man in Trouble.

John McKeown, of Scranton, made some trouble in a South Main street hotel on Thursday, and when the bartender, O. Millhauser, remonstrated the Scranton man attempted to draw a revolver. He was arrested and given a hearing before Mayor Nichols, who fined him \$20 and costs and confiscated the revolver.—Wilkes-Barre Record.

BEECHAM'S PILLS will dispel the "blues."

Best Sets of Teeth, \$3. Including the painless extracting of teeth by an entirely new process.

S. C. SNYDER, D. D. S., 221 Spruce St., Opp. Hotel Jersey.

BI DUNN'S GLOVES.

POPULAR PRICES.

Useful Presents for Christmas.

This store never contained a more selected stock of goods suitable for Holiday Presents. You will find them on every floor. Here are a few of them:

Baby Carriage Robes, all kinds, all prices.

Newspaper Wall Racks, 60c to \$1.00 each.

Scrap Baskets.

Work Baskets, Blacking Boxes, Carpets Sweepers, Esels and Screens, Table Covers, Etc.

Fur Rugs. Plain white, black and grey combination Rugs in all colors. Rockers. Fine Mahogany frame Rockers, inlaid back, upholstered in Silk Damask, all colors at \$10.00. They are positively worth \$13.00. Also Mahogany Frame Rockers, upholstered in Tapestry and Leather, \$7.00, \$8.00 and \$9.00.

SIEBECKER & WATKINS 406 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

HENRY J. COLLINS.

A Most Suitable Christmas Gift.

Is a good warm Ulster or Overcoat. Christmas weather means cold weather, and a warm outer coat is essential. We have Ulsters in the best Irish Frieze or Beaver, and our stock of Men's and Boys' Overcoats is varied in cut, style and material to suit the most correct and fastidious taste.

Henry J. Collins, Lt., Lacka. Ave. 222

MALONEY OIL AND MANUFACTURING CO.

141 to 149 Meridian Street, Scranton, Pa. Telephone 3085.

BURNING, LUBRICATING AND CYLINDER OILS.

PAINT DEPARTMENT—Lined Oil, Turpentine, White Lead, Coal Tar, Pitch, Varnish, Driers, Japan and Shellac Stain.

One car load of Choicest extra fancy New York State

TURKEYS, 15c Per Pound.

SPRING CHICKENS 11c Per Pound at

Clarke Bros Today

Ladies' Umbrellas, Men's Canes, Bath Robes, at BRONSON & TALLMAN'S Hatters and Furnishers. 412 Spruce Street

BEST SETS OF TEETH, \$3.

Including the painless extracting of teeth by an entirely new process.

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MATTHEWS BROS. DRUGGISTS.

320 Lackawanna Ave., So. Third Pl. Wholesale and Retail

ATLANTIC WHITE LEAD, FRENCH ZINC.

Ready Mixed Tinted Paints, Convenient, Economical, Durable. Varnish Stains, Producing Perfect Imitation of Expensive Woods.

Raynolds' Wood Finish, Especially Designed for Inside Work. Marble Floor Finish, Durable and Prices Quotable.

Paint Varnish and Kalsomine Brushes.

PURE LINSEED OIL AND TURPENTINE.

SPECIAL TODAY

50c ASCOTS, All Colors, PUFFS.

Ways Mufflets

We Have Them. You Want Them.

Hand & Payne

203 Washington Ave. ROOKERY BUILDING.

What Shall I Give?

Don't worry a minute longer. Come to our store and you will find something for one and all. Whether you want to spend 50 cents or a thousand dollars, or any sum between, you'll find something rich and useful and ornamental.

Watches, Diamonds, Silverware, Silver Novelties, Clocks, Jewelry.

Best of goods at lowest prices.

WEICHEL, JEWELER

408 SPRUCE STREET. Open evenings until after the holidays.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS

Silverware, Cut Glass, Jardinieres, Flower Vases, Beer Steins, Fern Dishes

LAMPS, LAMPS, LAMPS

METROPOLITAN CHINA HALL, WEICHEL BROS., 110-112 Washington Ave., Mears Building, Come in and Look Around.

USEFUL XMAS GIFTS

Canes, Gloves, Umbrellas, Suit Cases, Neck Ties, Bath Robes, etc. Full Line Now Ready.

BELL & SKINNER,

Hotel Jersey Hatters, Open Evenings.

NORTON'S will be open today until noon. Deep Cut in prices of the balance of our Christmas Goods.

Have a Cigar? Popular Punch. Gann, Boyd & Co.

Norman & Moore FIRE INSURANCE, 120 Wyoming Ave.

LACKAWANNA THE LAUNDRY 308 Penn Ave. A. B. WARMAN.

DR. W. B. HENWOOD, DENTIST 33 LACKAWANNA AVE.

CHAS. McMULLEN & CO. Have opened a General Insurance Office in The Traders' National Bank Bldg.

UNION LABEL ANOTHER CHANGE SPOKEN OF.

Lehigh Valley Road is to Be Divided Into Three Divisions.

The latest Lehigh Valley rumor is that on Jan. 1, or very shortly afterwards, the Lehigh Valley railroad is to be divided into three divisions, one from Jersey City to Mauch Chunk, to be known as the Jersey division, one from Mauch Chunk to Sayre, to be known as the Wyoming division, and the other from Sayre to Buffalo, to be known as the Buffalo division.

The story goes that James Donnelly is to continue as superintendent of the Jersey division and George B. Harlessman, trainmaster, with headquarters at Easton; that Alex. Mitchell is to continue as superintendent of the Wyoming division and Clinton A. Barbo, trainmaster, with headquarters at Wilkes-Barre, and that O. O. Esser is to be superintendent of the Buffalo division, and Andrew Ross, Jr., his trainmaster, with headquarters at Sayre.

Mr. Ross is the train-dispatcher at the Mauch Chunk station, and the new appointment will mean a very substantial promotion for him. W. A. Stevenson is at present trainmaster for Mr. Esser, but owing to ill health he has tendered his resignation and it is to take effect on Jan. 1.—Hazleton Standard.

NEW LINE NEARLY COMPLETE.

Sport Hill Extension Will Soon Be in Operation.

In the course of a week or ten days the Scranton Railway company expects to have its new Sport Hill extension in operation. It is to be a through line with cars running from the central city to the terminals at Giblett hotel and not a branch road as some supposed.

There has been talk about Dunmore of late to the effect that the company would extend the line to Elmhurst and Moscow and eventually to Lake Ariel. General Manager Stillman said yesterday he knew of nothing that would give grounds for such a rumor.

Roller Skating Rink.

Grand opening of the Scranton Roller Skating rink this evening at the armory on Adams avenue. The evening will terminate with dancing. Music by Lawrence orchestra.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies' Busy Shoe Store.

will be open evenings during December.

1/4 OFF Regular prices on all Holiday Goods. Mufflers, Full Dress Shirts, Night Robes, pajamas, silk Umbrellas, Cases, Underwear, Suit Cases.

Waters, the Hatter 203 Lacka. Ave.