

DAY'S DOINGS IN DUNMORE BOROUGH

LARGE CROWD SAW TEST OF NEW CHEMICAL ENGINE.

A Miniature House Partly Filled with Combustibles Was Ignited and the Apparatus Twice Did the Work of Extinguishing the Flames—Wind and Temperature Were Against the Engine But It Did Very Satisfactory Work—Watch Party Held. Other Items of News.

Notwithstanding the cold weather Saturday afternoon, several hundred persons collected at Wagner's to witness the test of the new chemical engine lately purchased by the borough for the use of the Neptune Fire company. So hot was the test fire that it was impossible to stand for more than a few seconds within a radius of fifty feet of the flames. Nevertheless, the engine proved as warranted, equal to the occasion, doing the work of subduing the flames in a remarkable short time, while the onlookers showed their appreciation by applauding.

A wooden structure, to represent a house, had been constructed during the day. It was sixteen feet high, twelve feet long and twelve feet wide. In the interior were piles of wood arranged around the sides to give it a good start. All was saturated with kerosene oil. At 4:45 o'clock, when Cornelius Weber, chairman of the fire committee, gave the signal to turn on the chemical compound, the wind was blowing almost a gale, causing the fire to start in a manner which threatened the destruction of the structure before it would be placed under control.

When the word was given, Mr. Rudy, agent of the Engine company, attacked the flames with a one-quarter inch stream, while the generator, only one being used, registered 180 pounds pressure. In thirty seconds after the stream had been turned on the flames were under control, while but five gallons of compound had been used. To further test the engine, another fire was started, Chief Hickey, of the Scranton fire department, giving the signal to commence work upon the burning building. If ever a fire raged and cracked, sending the flames up in a fierce sheet, it was this one; for when the word was given the heat at a distance of twenty-five yards was unbearable. Mr. Rudy as before manipulated the nozzle, but so hot was the fire that just as he had it well in hand he was compelled to withdraw, being almost overcome by the heat and his face badly blistered.

Chief Hickey, who had been standing in the crowd watching the proceedings, saw that Mr. Rudy was being badly scorched and pushed forward and caught the nozzle from the other's hand. He directed the stream upon the flames until they were subdued, which was within three minutes. Less than twenty-five gallons of chemicals were used. Like his predecessor, Chief Hickey received a blistering. His clothes were almost ruined. He was repaid for his act by a deafening applause, long and often repeated.

Following the successful test, the members of the fire department, Messrs. Medway, Weber, McAllister, McCollough and Jones, held a consultation in the fire rooms and formally accepted the engine, as it had done the work required in a satisfactory manner. Among the out-of-town firemen and visitors present were: Simon Thomas, chairman of Scranton's joint fire department committee, and Engineer James George, of the Phoenix Chemical company, of Scranton.

FIREMEN'S FAIR. A good time was enjoyed by those who attended the firemen's fair Saturday evening. The principal feature of the evening was dancing. The music was furnished by Misses Edith Miller, Anna Hammons and Nellie Derrig. Intermitted with the dancing were several selections rendered by the Arlington double quartet. This evening will be the closing night of the fair. The country dance will be the leading attraction. The following articles were exchanged off and won by the following persons Friday evening: Silver card basket, James Quick; silver card case, Miss Della Dulger; sofa pillow, M. J. Garvey; of Mossie; pair of vases, P. J. Jordan; of Beckville; clock, James Williams.

WATCH PARTY. Miss Sadie Warfel, of West Drinker street, entertained a number of people at the home of her sister, Mrs. Theo. Weber, at a watch party Saturday evening. The evening was passed very pleasantly until after the New Year had been ushered in. Those composing the party were Mr. and Mrs. William V. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. J. Warfel, Misses Carrie Matthews, Mary Powell, Ella Winterstein, Sadie Warfel, Sadie Swackhamer, Florence and Emma Weber, Belle Weber, Messrs. Harry Young, Ernest Watrous, Floyd Hand, Howard Derby and William Weber.

At the Elm Park church Saturday evening. Miss Clara E. Snyder, of Wilkes-Barre, who has been the guest of friends on East Drinker street, returned home Saturday.

The following officers were elected at the regular meeting of the Dunmore American Mechanics, which was held in their rooms Saturday evening: Consul, E. A. Stone; vice consul, Charles H. Smith; secretary, David Hand; assistant secretary, Ernest Watrous; financial secretary, A. C. Mitchell; treasurer, George Cummings; chaplain, Marvin Tuttle; warden, James B. Jones; conductor, Charles Slout; inside sentinel, Emory Black; outside sentinel, Leat Crab; trustees, David Hand, Charles Slout and William Powell.

Dayton Ellis, of Syracuse University, who has been spending the holidays with his parents on Church street, will return to college today. Mrs. Garvey, of North Blakely street, who has been confined to her home with illness, is able to be around again. Mrs. N. Zick, of Newark, N. J., who has been spending a few weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Webster, of South Blakely street, has returned home.

Edward Willis, of New York, is spending a few days with James Ellis, of Church street. A week of prayer, starting Tuesday evening, will be held in the Methodist church. George Paine has returned home to Elmhurst after a short visit with friends in town.

INDUSTRIAL JOTTINGS. Condition of Coal Trade at Close of Year—Some Changes in D. & H. Company's Force of Mine Foremen.

"The anthracite trade is closing the year in decidedly better shape than it was a year ago," says the Engineering and Mining Journal. The unexpectedly heavy demand from the west and the cold weather that has prevailed over much of the country since the November blizzard have in combination kept stocks from accumulating, though the various companies failed to keep faith this year regarding outputs, as in the past, and complete demoralization was in sight. In the west demand continues good, both at the lead of the mines and in Chicago territory, where prices are to be advanced 25 cents Jan. 1.

In the east there has been little change in the situation. Retail business is brisk, but retailers buy from hand to mouth, and though cold weather keeps stocks low, prices for the larger sizes are no better. The steam sizes are taking their annual advance and will be in short supply at higher figures until spring. There has been little talk of combinations or agreements this week, nor anything about an advance of 50 cents a ton or so Jan. 1. Production this month is reported to be somewhat lighter than last, but the month's output is likely to exceed 4,000,000 tons. So long as the weather is cold and the consumption active no attempt to control production is likely.

IMPORTANT CHANGES. Some important changes will take place in the mining department of the Delaware and Hudson company on the first of January," says the Archivist. Citizen. "James Nicol, of Archbald, who is the oldest mine foreman in the service of the company, will retire on that date, after a tried and faithful connection with the company for many years. Mr. Nicol served the company at Olyphant and Archbald, but for the past two years he had done little active work. He chiefly assisted Mine Foreman J. J. Kearney. Now feeling the effects of age he has been obliged to retire.

"Another change that will be regretted by those brought into contact with him, is the removal of Andrew Patton from the superintendency of mines between Carbondale and Olyphant. By an arrangement recently made Mr. Patton's division has been consolidated with the Olyphant division, and both will be under the supervision of Edward Shier. This abolishes Mr. Patton's duties for the present."

THIS AND THAT. The White Oak mine of the Delaware and Hudson company at Archbald on Thursday reached the high-water mark in its history, when ten hundred and twenty-three tons were cleaned and made ready for shipment. The change of time to take place today by eastern lines in shortening the mail train service from Washington, New York, Boston and all points east of Chicago and St. Paul, will be on the same date continued to Omaha and Denver by the change made in the schedule of the Great Northern railway, the time being decided to put on two limited trains on that day. Today the Big Four will discontinue its passenger line between Cincinnati and Toledo and Detroit. This will leave the field entirely to the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton road. The Big Four opened the line about two years ago last fall. The route was over the Big Four, Ohio Central and Lake Shore roads. It is likely that the road has been discontinued by mutual agreement.

The manager of the Pennsylvania's southwestern system has been informed that arrangements have been made for 1,000 more freight cars for those lines. 750 of the gondolas and 250 flat cars. Since Jan. 1 the Pennsylvania lines have received forty-five hundred new cars, and contracts now out are for three thousand more.

Engineers and firemen on the Chicago and Erie who hereafter desire to lay off on account of sickness will be required to produce a certificate from a physician stating they are unfit for duty.

CUSTOMS OF THE FILIPINOS. Fear of Witches at the Birth of Children—Native Devil Dance. From the New York Sun. An English physician now living in London has spent many years on the island of Luzon, in the Philippines, and relates these superstitions and customs which prevail among the less enlightened Filipinos:

"Many of those who conform outwardly to the rites of the Catholic church," he said, "still cherish a belief in witches and demons. They believe that witches congregate at the birth of children and watch an opportunity to snatch the soul of the newborn infant. When a birth takes place, the room is hermetically sealed, not so much as the crack of a door or window being left open, because that would be to allow the entrance of the malignant, or witch, who is supposed to be able to get through the smallest hole. If the attending mid-

wife has occasion to believe that witches are actually at work, a charge of gunpowder is blown off in the room to frighten them away. "When the child thus bewitched is born it is placed in a draught of air in an open door or window so that the witches may have a chance to escape, and the exorcism begins. Three witch candles are placed upon the little face, one on each cheek and another on the chin. These are lighted and allowed to burn until they are almost consumed. Though the child sometimes gets badly burned in the process, such an accident is considered of small account so long as the witch is expelled. "The Filipinos have some curious customs in regard to courtship and marriage. They believe that the odor imparted to the clothing by the body has power to excite love. Those who wish to attract some one of the opposite sex will scheme to bring that person in contact with some article of clothing which has been worn by themselves. When elicited lovers are obliged to separate for a time, they exchange garments with each other. They believe that by this means faithfulness is assured. So keen is the sense of smell among the Filipinos that they say they can tell to whom any article belongs by merely smelling of it. There is a peculiar manner of kissing in vogue among many of these tribes. Instead of touching lips they press the nose against the cheek of the person they wish to caress and draw a long deep breath.

"There are many modern Jacobs and Rachels among the Filipinos, for it is a custom for the prospective bridegroom to serve for a time in the household of the bride's father, if he has not money enough to make a cash payment for the bride. "One of their most interesting superstitions is the belief that the soul of a man leaves his body during sleep and goes forth on some mysterious errand or quest. This belief was doubtless borrowed from the Buddhists, and one can offer no greater insult to a Filipino than to step over him while he lies asleep, which, according to his idea, is getting between his body and his absent soul. "The islanders have many superstitions in regard to bats, animals and reptiles. The huge caymans which abound in the Philippine rivers fill them with a peculiar horror. They believe that the caymans are always on the lookout for those who have sworn falsely or broken their promises, and almost any native can tell wonderful stories about the terrible fate which has overtaken those who have fallen into the jaws of the cayman.

"The old belief, so common in Asia and elsewhere, that certain sounds have power over non-human presences is cherished by the natives of the Philippines, and certain of their most powerful incantations are said to be preserved in secret manuscripts but, though the Spanish clergy have tried every means to procure these books of the devil, as they call them, their efforts have been unrewarded, and the dread formulas still remain the secrets of the native priests. "One of their customs is the devil dance, for the exorcism of evil spirits. If an epidemic of smallpox, cholera or other disease occurs in the village, the mischief is at once attributed to some evil spirit which has taken its abode in a neighboring banyan tree. The particular tree inhabited by the devil is determined upon by the native priest, and on the night appointed for the exorcism the entire population of the village marches to the spot, bearing scapulars, medals and snuff. Presently a strange looking figure appears, clad in a long, flowing gown, and with a high, peaked red hat upon his head. Then the din begins and the ton-ton and other barbaric instruments make a night hideous. The priest takes his place in the center of the circle, occasionally brandishing his great, curved sacrificial knife, and now and then striking the strings of his drum, which adds its deep, booming sound to the noise of the ton-ton and drums. Swaying slowly to and fro, he gradually works himself into a state of frenzy, all the time crooning to himself strange melodies. As his movements become faster and more frenzied the noise of the ton-ton increases. Suddenly the priest leaps into the air and proclaims himself to be a god, and the wild devil dance begins. The assembled natives offer their sacrifices and pray aloud to be delivered from the evil spirit. The dancing priest becomes more and more excited and slashes his body with the

sacrificial knife. The sight of his own blood seems to madden him still further and he shrieks and dances on until nature calls a halt and he sinks to the ground in a swoon. After a few moments of utter prostration he rises from the ground, washes away the blood from his body and goes quietly on his way. The evil spirit has been driven out of the banyan tree and the dance ends."

An Intrusion. The Muchmonies living on upper Fifth avenue have a French maid, Mrs. Muchmoney, entering the room rather unexpectedly, discovered Lisette sitting on Muchmoney's knee. Was Lisette embarrassed? Not in the least, glancing with hauteur at the lady of the house, she said: "Madame, I for you have not ze bell ring."—New York World.

ECZEMA ON EAR

I suffered from Eczema on the right ear. I could hardly keep my hands off it, the itching was so severe. Small bubbles would open, emitting a watery-like substance, apparently poisonous. One of the leading doctors here treated me, and applied the usual physician's remedies without benefit. My brother recommended that I try CUTicura. The first application was soothing, and before the box was half gone the disease had disappeared. H. C. BARNETT, 613 Race St., Cincinnati, O.

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