

THE MODERN HARDWARE STORE.

Beauty and Usefulness

Are combined in the new thermometers this year. Some have fancy flower borders, others are gold plated. You are quite sure to find anything you need in the thermometer line here.

Prices from 10c up.

Foot & Shear Co.

119 N. Washington Ave

STATEMENT OF THE THIRD NATIONAL BANK OF SCRANTON.

United States Depository. At the close of business Dec. 13, 1900.

Table with 2 columns: Resources and Liabilities. Resources include Loans and Investments, Banking House, Cash and Reserve. Liabilities include Capital, Surplus, Undivided Profits, Circulation, Individual Deposits, U. S. Deposits, Due to Banks.

WILLIAM CONNELL, President. HENRY BELIN, JR., Vice-President. WILLIAM H. PECK, Cashier.

Bonds and Guaranteed Stocks

I am placing a few choice securities consisting of 1/2 per cent. fully guaranteed stocks and 3/4 per cent. semi-annual interest Gold Bonds, in blocks of \$10, \$50 and \$100, accompanied by stock notes, affording a rare opportunity for large or small investment. At Office, 6 and 8, Locum avenue, Mondays and Saturdays. At other times, by special appointment.

Robert Van Schoick, Authorized District Manager of The North American Financing Company.



Lewis, Ruddy, Davies & Murphy. 330 Lacka. Avenue. 330

WEATHER YESTERDAY. Local data for February 18, 1901: Highest temperature 93 degrees, Lowest temperature 20 degrees, Humidity 74 per cent.

PERSONAL.

Harry Staples left yesterday on a business trip to Harrisburg. Dr. Murray has returned home after several weeks' absence. Captain John Delaney returned to Harrisburg yesterday afternoon. Isaac F. Haslam was registered at the Victoria in New York yesterday.

BOARD FAVORS PAID FIREMEN

PRESENT DEPARTMENT IS SUBJECTED TO CRITICISM.

After listening to allegations of inefficiency in our present partly volunteer and partly paid fire department, the Board of Trade goes on record for a full paid fire department and recommends the adoption of Chittenden ordinance—Threats to raise insurance rates raises Chairman Dickson's ire.

Most of the time of last night's regular meeting of the board of trade was devoted to a discussion of the need of reorganizing the fire department. It was the general opinion that the department was sorely in need of reorganizing and that the Chittenden ordinance, providing for a paid fire department, should be passed.

Notices were sent to all members of the board that the meeting would discuss the fire protection question, with a view of arriving at some recommendation to councils that would bear the cost of the city's fire department. Sixteen members attended. Colonel F. L. Hitchcock, who is a member of the Underwriters' association, opened the discussion by saying that the need of a reorganization of the fire department was evidenced by the recent disastrous conflagration on Lackawanna avenue and that he did not know but that the notorious manner in which this fire demonstrated the inefficiency of the fire department would result in the rates of insurance being raised.

Vice President A. W. Dickson, who was in the chair, warmed up very perceptibly at this suggestion of a raise in rates and assured the colonel that there would be a very vigorous contest on the part of the underwriters attempted any such thing. "What else can you expect?" queried Colonel Hitchcock. "There was a fire that caused them a quarter of a million dollars' loss and three-fourths of this loss was due to the inefficiency of the fire department."

Ebenezer Williams, of the firm of J. D. Williams & Bros., whose store was damaged by the fire, said he could not tell whether or not the fire was properly fought, but he was highly engaged in trying to save his own property, but he did not know the water pressure was not what it should have been.

WERE WITHOUT A HEAD.

It seemed from all he could gather concerning the work of the firemen that they were without a head. He encountered a squad of firemen working improperly, as he viewed it, in his building, and he was annoyed with them. He was told he would be thrown out if he didn't keep his mouth shut. The chief came along soon afterward and directed the work to be done according to the idea Mr. Williams had suggested.

Does this board favor a paid fire department? asked Chairman Dickson, somewhat testily. "That's the question before the house. Let us hear from you."

Secretary Atherton presented for the consideration of the board a report made by a special committee and adopted in December, 1895, in which it was set forth that the board of trade should favor a paid fire department, with a well-paid fire marshal and a monthly for the firemen after a reasonable term of service. In connection with this, the secretary read a communication from John M. Kemmerer, who said he favored a paid fire department and also favored the proposed bill.

Secretary Atherton volunteered the information that it had come to him from a reliable source that the mayor had been lobbying against a paid fire department. This he characterized as a sorry spectacle. The Chittenden ordinance, he said, was defeated by councilmen who are volunteer firemen and he believed no member of the fire department should be eligible to membership in the council. The business men of the community have some rights in this matter, he said, and the board should take decisive action to assert them.

Colonel Hitchcock was amazed, he declared, to learn that the mayor was lobbying against a paid fire department, as the mayor had repeatedly assured him he was heartily in favor of it. He was also surprised to learn that any firemen were opposing it, as he found the firemen enthusiastically approving it when he was agitating the matter in 1895. He continued:

OPEN INSUBORDINATION. I do not want to detract from the heroic work of our firemen. I appreciate as much as any one the good work that the workers of the department try to do. But, I am constrained to say that it is sadly in need of reorganization. I am told that during the progress of the recent big fire there were more fires in the adjacent houses than could be found working about the burning buildings. An officer of the fire department told me that his men were half drunk and that most of them had whiskey bottles in their pockets. When this officer gave an order to his men, so he tells me, he was repeatedly told to go to hell.

I am told that two companies from the adjacent street did not get water from a hydrant and supposed it to be out of order was about to detain them when some one came along and discovered that the men who were at the hydrant did not know how to work it. The hydrant was all right when it was properly opened. I have all this testimony from reliable men whose names I can give, if necessary.

This sort of thing should not be. It is not fair to the men. One brave volunteer whom I saw myself, could not remove his shoes until he threw them out. He spoiled a suit of clothes and was laid up in bed a week fighting off an attack of pneumonia.

It reflects on the city in every way. As a matter of pride as well as safety we ought not to delay one moment longer in forming a paid fire department. No other city would tolerate what we do. This room ought to be full of business men tonight to discuss this question. Instead, there is only a few men here.

LACK OF DISCIPLINE. Lack of discipline more than anything else, Mr. Keller said, was responsible for whatever inefficiency there is in the department. "It is impossible," he went on to say, "to have discipline in a partly paid and partly volunteer department."

Mr. Keller also declared there was too much politics in the fire department, and said that a chairman of common council can not be elected until he has agreed beforehand that this or that member shall be chairman of the fire department committee. After pointing out that six members of common council who voted to pigeon-hole the Chittenden ordinance were members of the fire department.

TRUMAN'S "OLIVER TWIST."

Very Clever Interpretation of Dickens' Story Given Last Evening.

One of the cleverest of monologue entertainments seen in this city was given at the auditorium of the St. Luke's parish house last evening, when Frederick W. Truman presented his version of Dickens' "Oliver Twist."

The entertainment was given for the benefit of the Men's guild, and there was a fair-sized attendance. Mr. Truman impersonates no less than twenty-one characters in the course of his presentation of Oliver Twist, and in every instance, excepting perhaps the female characters, the distinction between personages is marked by expression, the face and modification of the voice.

Mr. Truman's ability to change from the gruff, harsh tones of Bill Sykes to the timid, boyish voice of Oliver Twist, to the shrinking, cringing vocal expression of wicked old Fagin is certainly remarkable. Probably the feature of Mr. Truman's performance last night was his interpretation of the scenes in Fagin's den.

His characterization of the old villain was superb and is easily the impersonator's strongest point. Another strong part of last evening's performance was the impersonator's interpretation of humorous scenes, for instance, the trial scene when Oliver was charged with picking of Mr. Brownlow's pockets. The difference between Judge St. Thomas Colburn was reproduced with great realism and provoked no end of laughter.

Professor J. Willis Conant gave an organ selection. John Jones sang with great force the solo, "The Brigand," and was encored, and Miss Irene Kann rendered two solos with her accompaniment.

MOTHER JONES IN CITY.

SHE DELIVERED AN ADDRESS TO THE STRIKERS.

There is some talk of a compromise between the strikers and mill owners.

Mother Mary Jones arrived in this city yesterday noon, and last night addressed an audience which completely filled the St. Thomas Colburn hall. The female organizer of the United Mine Workers will this morning meet the silk mill strikers' committee, and formulate a plan of campaign with them. At 2 o'clock this afternoon she will address the striking girls at the meeting to a close with West Virginia to there assist in organizing the miners.

She came here from Armos, Toga county, where she was located for some time. Last night's meeting was called to order at 8 o'clock, by that time every seat in the auditorium was taken, and on the stage were seated a large number of young women, the strikers' executive committee.

President T. D. Nichols, of District No. 1, introduced Mother Jones, who was accorded a warm reception. She said this is the first industrial revolt on the American continent in the twentieth century. She is acquainted with the conditions about the silk mill and declared that the employees are always being robbed, and advised the strikers to employ one in their own number to do the measuring.

Mother Jones then paid her respects to the girls who have deserted the strikers' ranks and gone back to work. These she characterized as blacklegs, and advised the young women present to pledge themselves never to enter a matrimonial alliance with any such.

She then assured the girls of her unfaltering support, and declared that she would meet the executive committee this morning at the Mine Workers' headquarters. She also advised a public procession of all the strikers.

Benjamin James then made a short address, in which he spoke of the organizing of the miners during the last two years, and assured the silk mill girls of their support. President Nichols brought the meeting to a close with an address, in which he assured the strikers of the hearty support of the miners of District No. 1.

Efforts for a compromise are being made by the owners of various mills, at which the employees have struck, and at today's meeting of the strikers' executive committee some action will be taken regarding the proposals which have been made. The negotiations so far have been of a secret nature, but it is a known fact that overtures have been made by the mill owners.

The mill affected is not one of the city concerns. A conference was yesterday held by a representative of the mill with Mrs. Matthews, president of the striking girls. The strikers were, yesterday, incensed over the fact that eleven girls had returned to work at the Sauquoit mill. They are members of the weaving department and are said to have returned at an increased salary.

There will be a meeting of the Sauquoit soft silk workers at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, and this afternoon the Petersburg girls will convene. The employees of the Harvey mill will also meet today. The management of the striking silk mill at Pittston have returned a definite answer to the two hundred striking hands. They declare that the wage scale is preposterous, deny that they have received any raw silk to be woven, from the Sauquoit mill, and refuse to reinstate the hands already discharged.

Ask for Kelly's union crackers.

Great Fruit Sale. 250 box Oranges on sale this week.

California and Florida Oranges.

E. G. Coursen Headquarters.

Who Can Write the Best Short Story?

The Tribune Offers Cash Prizes to Local Writers of Local Fiction

\$25.00 FOR THE BEST STORY. \$10.00 FOR THE SECOND BEST. \$5.00 FOR THE THIRD BEST.

A LITERARY COMPETITION WHERE EXPERIENCE IS NOT NECESSARY IN ORDER TO WIN.

In view of the fact that considerable time has elapsed since there has been any public competition through the local press for the purpose of stimulating the literary ability latent among the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania, The Tribune has decided to offer a series of prizes as a stimulus in this direction.

It is desirous of securing for use in its columns a number of short stories treating of local themes. In order to furnish an incentive it proposes to pay \$25 for the best story of not to exceed 3,000 words in length; \$10 for the second best story, and \$5 for the third best story.

Manuscripts not successful in securing one of these prizes will be published and duly credited if the authors so desire. Stories tending to bring out the romance and legendary lore of the anthracite mining industry will have preference. In connection with every mine in the valley there is a mass of tradition, including hair-breadth escapes, narratives of spooky happenings and other details bordering on the weird or supernatural which has never been gathered together in literary form.

The task of passing upon the merits of the manuscripts submitted will be assigned to a disinterested judge, whose name will soon be announced, and who will read the manuscripts but have no knowledge of the identity of the authors. The envelopes containing the real names of the authors will be preserved unopened until after the awards have been made.

Should this initial competition prove encouraging, it may be followed by other prize offers of similar tenor.

CONDITIONS OF THE CONTEST.

All manuscripts must be submitted not later than March 30.

All manuscripts must be signed by a fictitious name and accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the fictitious name and also the writer's real name and post office address.

The scene of each story must be laid in Northeastern Pennsylvania, but the names of real persons must not be used.

One further condition must be understood. Contributions intended for this contest will be accepted only from present subscribers to The Tribune or from those who may, during the contest, become subscribers by payment of at least one month's subscription in advance.

WILL NOT ACCEPT IT.

What Secretary John H. Brooks Says of Amended Franchise Ordinance of His Trolley Company.

John H. Brooks, secretary and treasurer of the Central Rapid Transit Street Railway company, stated most emphatically to a Tribune man yesterday afternoon that unless at least two of the amendments to the franchise which were adopted at last night's meeting of the select council are reconsidered and stricken off, the company will not accept it.

"The company cannot and will not accept the franchise as it now stands," said he. "It would be utterly impossible. There are three amendments which practically kill it but one of these we might accept. The one I refer to is the amendment striking out that portion of the ordinance which gave us the right to operate a loop on Centre street, Millin avenue and Vine street. It might be possible for us to get to West Scranton by some different route than this, but as we see it now there is no other route.

"The other two amendments which kill the ordinance, as far as we are concerned, are the ones reserving the right to impose a tax of not more than five per cent. on our gross receipts, and providing that at the end of twenty years the franchise shall revert to the city."

HEARING IN HOWELL CASE.

Commissioner Pitcher Will Have Witnesses on Stand Today.

There will be another hearing this morning in the Howell lunacy proceedings before Commissioner in Lunacy C. H. Pitcher. It will be held in the arbitration room in the court house, and is to be begun promptly at 10 o'clock.

Miss Jennie Howell, it is said, will be one of the witnesses put on the stand, and a prominent Philadelphia medical expert will be another of the witnesses called. Several local physicians will also give important testimony.

SIGNED THE UNION SCALE.

Lackawanna Steam Bakery Is Now Unionized.

The Lackawanna Steam Bakery yesterday signed the union scale, and hereafter the wages of the employees will be governed thereby. Ex-County Treasurer M. J. Kelly is the head of the Lackawanna company. The bakers' union was only recently organized in this city.

THE SECOND ROESLER WILL.

It Will Be Offered for Probate on Wednesday.

On Wednesday the will of Charles W. Roesler, which it is alleged was made in 1899, will be offered for probate.

A caveat has already been filed against the probating of this will. The protest is entered in behalf of the granddaughter of the deceased.

College Soix Illows. Brand new designs. Just arrived. Cramer-Wells Co., 139 Wyoming avenue.

Ask for Kelly's union crackers.

Touching. Is the way of those who hold the upper hand. We hold the upper hand in the business, and our superior goods is all we need to show, and you will gladly part with the price.

CASEY BROTHERS, Wholesale Liquor Dealers, 216 Lackawanna Ave.

Funeral of Miss Biglin. Was Held Yesterday Morning from St. Peter's Cathedral.

Big Breaker Burned Down. Fire Destroys Pennsylvania Company's Property at Pittston.

Ask for Kelly's union crackers.

The Scranton Gas and Water Company and the Hyde Park Gas Company.

Immunized with the policy of these companies to reduce rates from time to time may be warranted by increased consumption, notice is hereby given that, on and after April 1 next, the price of gas will be one dollar per one thousand cubic feet consumed, subject to the following discounts: Five per cent. on all bills where the consumption for the month amounts to less than twenty-five dollars; ten per cent. on all bills where the consumption for the month amounts to twenty-five dollars and upwards.

Provided the bill is paid on or before the 10th day of the month in which the bill is rendered. By order of the board, G. B. HARR, Secretary.

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NEW SHIRTS

Bosom Shirts. From the newest spring styles of colored goods have just arrived. Call and see them, they are the richest effects of the season.

CONRAD, 305 Lacka. Ave.

SPRING STYLES

"187 Rogers Bros." Goods.

Knives, Forks, Spoons, etc.

No question about the quality; we have all the newest patterns at lowest prices.

Also the celebrated Sterling Inlaid Spoons and Forks. Warranted to wear twenty-five years.

Immense stock of Sterling Silver Spoons, Forks, Knives and Cased Goods for Wedding Presents.

Mercereau & Connell, 132 Wyoming Avenue.

A LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE

The greatest commercial economist in the world today. Compared to any necessary investment in business, the profit from a TELEPHONE is incalculable. Residence and Commercial rates at a moderate cost.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TELEPHONE AND SUPPLY CO. Manager's office, 117 Adams avenue.

WILLIAM MASON

Doctor of Music, the Dean of American Piano Teachers, and a musician whose knowledge of his chosen instrument is comprehensive, writes as follows regarding the Mason & Hamlin Pianoforte.

Lace Curtains.

A variety of different patterns—but only one and two pair of a kind. When we had more of them they sold for \$3. Now, per pair \$1.49.

L. B. POWELL & CO., 131-133 Washington Ave.

Pierce's Market, Penn Avenue. A dozen different patterns, bright colors, handsome effects, \$5. value. Trade Sale Price, per pair \$2.48.

W. H. Pierce, 19 Lackawanna Ave. 119, 117, 115 Penn Ave. Prompt delivery.

The Dickson Manufacturing Co. Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Manufacturers of LOCOMOTIVES, STATIONARY ENGINES, Boilers, Hoisting and Pumping Machinery.

CREDIT YOUR CERTAINLY! THE ECONOMY 221-223-225-227 Wyoming Ave

ON THE SQUARE. An unprecedented Hat Sale—will continue all this week—all desirable shapes and quality. This sale includes all our Roelof hats and second grade Knox hats—always sold at \$3. and \$3.50. Black and brown derby hats—pearl and black soft hats. Price for this week \$2.00.