

COMMUNICATION IS AGAIN OPENED UP

Trains Once More Running in and Out of Scranton—Aftermath of the Big Storm. The Floods on the South Side.

Only one railroad leading out of Scranton remained unopened at 12 o'clock last night. That was the Bloomsburg division of the Lackawanna. Water from the Susquehanna overflowed the tracks at Avondale to a depth of several feet and completely closed the road below Plymouth. The water was reported to be receding last night, and by daylight, Superintendent Kline said, the tracks ought to be unopened.

The Lackawanna road was also blocked at Vestal, but by using the parallel tracks of the Erie between Owego and Binghamton, delays were obviated.

The Jersey Central below Wilkes-Barre and the Lehigh Valley at various places were still blocked last night, but the Pennsylvania was opened through to Harrisburg and from that point almost all the state was accessible.

The Lackawanna people started no money or labor to open up traffic, and would have achieved its purpose of beating out all its competitors to New York and Philadelphia had it not been for the perverse conduct of the Delaware river.

TROUBLE AT THE GAP.

Shortly after midnight, yesterday morning, there was every prospect that the road would be opened at a byway. The work of repairing the damage at Elmhurst, Gouldsboro and Pocono had progressed so far that at 1 a. m. a train was sent to all the hotels to apprise the guests anxious to get away in a hurry that the Lackawanna would start a train south early in the morning, not later than 7:30 o'clock.

This message had hardly been sent when word came that the Delaware was rapidly rising. At midnight its waters were two feet below the level of the track. At daylight, through the whole length of the "gap," there was five feet of water on the tracks. This condition continued until noon yesterday, when the waters began to recede, as rapidly as they had risen, and at 3 p. m. the message to Superintendent Kline was that the tracks were clear, and that a party of officials on a hand-car had inspected them and found them unopened.

It was thereupon decided to start a train through for New York at 5:30 p. m. This was done, and it made the trip without incident.

A train from Buffalo that escaped the Vestal washout by taking to the Erie tracks, from Owego to Binghamton, reached here at 9:25 and shortly afterwards proceeded to New York. Four through Lackawanna trains from Buffalo were sent to New York by way of the Erie from Owego. The Erie was using the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western tracks west of Owego.

FIRST FROM NEW YORK.

Train No. 25, due here on the Lackawanna from New York at 8:55 p. m., got through in good time, reaching here at 9:40. It was sent on through to Buffalo, where the first train from New York since 11:30 p. m. Saturday.

Two local trains each way were run between here and Binghamton yesterday, the trouble up the line having been fixed up without much difficulty. Trains will resume their regular schedule this morning. Superintendent Kline said last night, except on the "Bloom," Trolley cars are running from Bennett and Kingston to Wilkes-Barre and will meet all Lackawanna trains today.

The first train to get started for New York yesterday was on the Delaware and Hudson. The 1:42 p. m. train made connections with the Pennsylvania at Wilkes-Barre and sent passengers through by way of Harrisburg and Philadelphia. At 2:25 the Erie and Wyoming sent a train to Lackawanna to connect with the Erie for New York. Both these trains carried American Federation of Labor delegates and other storm-bound visitors, but the most of the travelers waited for the opening up of the Lackawanna.

The Terry McGovern theatrical troupe took a sleeper at the Lackawanna station Saturday night, expecting to be in New York in the morning and Brooklyn the next night, when it was to open an engagement at one of the theaters. On Sunday morning and finding themselves still here with no prospects of getting away for a day or two, they prepared to make themselves at home at the expense of the Pullman company.

PORTER'S PROTESTED.

The porter protested that they would have to vacate the car, but the refusal to go, arguing that they had reserved the car with the understanding they were to have berth therein until Hoboken was reached. The Terry McGovern and his company kept possession of the car until yesterday afternoon, when word came that New York could be reached by way of the Delaware and Hudson and Pennsylvania. Passenger Agent M. L. Smith returned all the money the company had given up for transportation and sleepers and let them have the free use of the Lackawanna baggage car. In which their trunks and stage trappings were stored. The car and the company got on the Delaware and Hudson train, and at 1:42 were started for New York.

The Al Reeves company, which played at the Star the last three days of last week, could not get away until the Hurly-Burly company, which was to play there the first three days of this week, was unable to get up from Newark. Manager Herrington canceled the Hurly-Burly company and held the Al Reeves show for three more days.

The Perry, Odell & O'Dee company bound from Reading to Binghamton by way of the Jersey Central and Lackawanna, could not get out of Reading.

The "Itagged Hero" company, which is playing at the Academy of Music this week, was stalled at Utopia, but got through on the Lackawanna train, reaching here at 5:30 p. m., and opened its engagement on time last night.

The "Evil Eye" company which gave a performance at the Lyceum last night came from Binghamton over the Lackawanna Sunday.

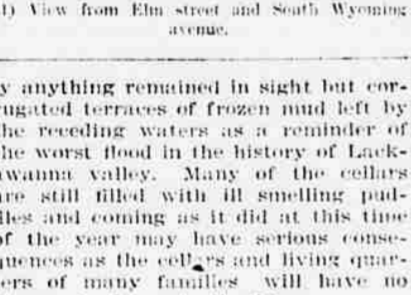
THE DAMAGE SHOWN.

The accompanying cuts vividly portray the volume of water that passed through and over the lower flats on Sunday, causing extensive damage to the homes of scores of poor families who could ill afford to lose the provisions they had stored for the winter. The pictures were taken by Edward Kaminogrosser, of Cedar avenue.

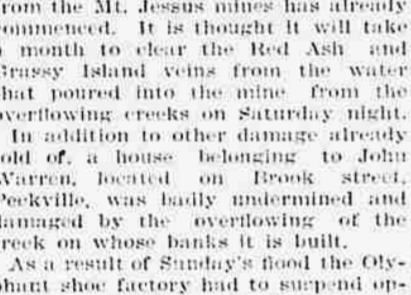
The water yesterday had practically disappeared from the main arteries of traffic, but in the lowest depressions and hills had frozen solid so that hand-



(1) View from Elm street and South Wyoming street.



(2) Looking north from the bridge crossing South Washington avenue near Central Park Garden.



(3) Scene where a cab was abandoned on Elm street, Greenberg's Ship Works on Elm street.

By anything remained in sight but corrugated terraces of frozen mud left by the receding waters as a reminder of the worst flood in the history of Lackawanna valley. Many of the cellars are still filled with ill-smelling puddles and coming as it did at this time of the year may have serious consequences as the cellars and living quarters of many families will have no chance to dry out all winter.

The work of pumping out the water from the Mt. Jessus mines has already commenced. It is thought it will take a month to clear the Red Ash and Grassy Island veins from the water that poured into the mine. From the overflowing rocks on Saturday night. In addition to other damage already told of, a house belonging to John Warren, located on Brook street, Poekville, was badly undermined and damaged by the overflowing of the creek on whose banks it is built.

As a result of Sunday's flood the city-plant shoe factory had to suspend operations yesterday. The Dickson silk mill was likewise effected, and it will be some days before work will be resumed. E. A. Fuller, the lumber dealer, lost a considerable quantity of lumber, the high water overflowing part of his lumber yard.

Postmaster Rippe received word yesterday afternoon from the superintendent of railway mail service for New York city that pouches containing the mail for this city, which had accumulated in the metropolitan since Saturday night, were being shipped at 2 p. m. by the Pennsylvania railroad to connect with the Lackawanna at Northampton. This mail will arrive in the city this morning at 9:42 o'clock and will be the first mail in from New York since Saturday night.

Some of the local mail destined for New York city has been sent by the Delaware and Hudson as far as Ninety and thence by the Erie to New York.

DELEGATES FINALLY LEAVE.

Most of Them Were Able to Start Yesterday and Last Night.

Most of the storm-bound delegates to the American Federation of Labor convention got away yesterday, and last night. Some started on an Erie and Wyoming train at 2:25 to catch the Erie at Lackawanna and thus reach New York. Others got out on the Delaware and Hudson at 1:42 p. m. to make connections with the Pennsylvania at Sunbury and Harrisburg and still others waited until the Lackawanna got opened up at midnight.

The executive council spent the day in session, attending to the many matters submitted to it by the convention.

President Gompers, President Mitchell, of the Mine Workers; President White, of the garment workers; President Keefe, of the houseworkmen; and President Thayer, of the glass-bottle blowers, who are members of the National Civic Federation, arranged to leave on the first morning train for New York, where the civic federation is scheduled to meet this week.

WANT INFORMATION.

Superintendent Robling Receives Two Telegrams.

Superintendent of Police Robling received two telegrams last night, asking him to seek out certain persons. The first one received was from the chief of police of Norwalk, Ohio, and set forth that Paul Kramer, aged 28 years, a resident of this city, was dangerously injured. The man is supposed to be a brother of "Gus" Kramer, of Cedar avenue. Further information has been wired for.

The second telegram set forth that Owen Mullig had died at Joliet, Ind., and requested the police to seek out his brother, John Mullig. There is no such name as Mullig to be found in the directory.

ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.

John Dowd Met with an Accident Last Night.

John Dowd, a young man living in Dunmore, and R. L. Edson, a merchant tailor, were showing each other revolvers last night on Lackawanna street, near Wyoming, when the latter's weapon was accidentally discharged, the bullet entering Dowd's right thigh.

He was taken to the Lackawanna hospital, where the bullet was extracted. The wound is a slight one. He maintains that the shooting was entirely accidental.

INSTALLATION TONIGHT.

New Officers of Lackawanna Chapter to Take Charge.

At the election of Lackawanna chapter, No. 185, the following officers were elected for the ensuing Masonic year: Frank M. Moyer, high priest; Walter L. Schlager, king; James F. Wardell, scribe; Fred J. Amos, treasurer; Clarence L. Van Huskirk, secretary; and the retiring high priest, Alfred H. Shoptand, representative to the grand chapter.

NEULS HAS NO CLAIM TO OFFICE OF ASSESSOR

Opinion of Judge Carpenter in the Case for Salary Brought Against the City of Scranton.

In an opinion handed down yesterday morning, Judge J. W. Carpenter decided against John A. Neuls, former city assessor, who was removed from office by Former Recorder James Blair, after the ripper bill went into effect.

FIREMEN DID GOOD WORK

AN EARLY MORNING BLAZE ON WYOMING AVENUE.

Originated in the Rear of the Basement of the Store in the Mayer Building Occupied by Berghauer and Staples—Damage to the Building Not Great but the Tenants Suffered Heavily from Fire and Water—Cause of the Fire not Yet Known.

Fire broke out at 12:45 o'clock this morning in the three-story brick building at 107-109 Wyoming avenue, but owing to splendid work on the part of the fire department the building was saved, though the stocks of Berghauer & Staples and Shimamura & Co., who occupied the ground floor, were almost completely destroyed.

It was the flames that got beyond control in the central part of the city since the fire department has been re-

loss is not ascertainable. They are a Japanese firm who rented the building temporarily and who have been conducting an auction sale of Japanese pottery.

The occupants of the two upper floors are as follows: Dr. George C. Knox, Dr. Hughes, dentist; A. E. Morse and T. H. Miles, instructors in music and Phoebe J. Schoener, dressmaker. The furnishings of their apartments are badly damaged by water and smoke.

SOME EXCITEMENT.

Some little excitement was caused when it was learned that Dr. Knox slept in the building and that he had not been seen after the alarm was turned in. Firemen with lanterns groped through the smoke in his apartments but could find no trace of him. He turned up safe and sound a few minutes later, not having returned home when the fire broke out.

The second alarm which was turned in by Chief Peber shortly after 12:50 was for the purpose of bringing more hose to the scene of the fire.

HIS SKULL FRACTURED.

Anthony Mullen Fell from the Millin Avenue Retaining Wall to the D. & H. Tracks.

Anthony Mullen, a young man residing at 17 Silex street, was found lying in a semi-conscious condition on the Delaware and Hudson railroad tracks, just south of the Linden street bridge, last night about 8:30 o'clock.

The railroad men who found him carried him to the Delaware and Hudson railroad station, from whence he was later removed to the Lackawanna hospital.

Here it was noticed that his skull was fractured. He was able to explain, in a disjointed way, that he had been lying along the retaining wall on Millin avenue and had fallen off. His condition is said to be serious.

WILL IGNORE THE RULING.

Decision Reached at the Meeting of Porto Rico Workmen.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec. 16.—Less than a hundred workmen answered the call of the local committee of the American Federation of Labor to attend a mass meeting here yesterday afternoon. The slowness of the attendance was evidently due to the order of the court declaring the organization illegal. The meeting was peaceful and only mild addresses were made.

Santiago Iglesias, president of the Federation of Workmen of Porto Rico, explained the object of his visit here, and it was resolved to petition Governor Hunt, when that official returns to San Juan, to use his influence to bring about the removal of the two native judges of the District court and appoint Americans in their places. It was also decided to ignore the ruling of the court, declaring the federation illegal. The meeting confirmed the resolution adopted some time ago to affiliate the local organization with the American Federation of Labor.

CASE WITHOUT PRECEDENT.

Power of the Governor to Sign His Name to Be Disputed.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Philadelphia, Dec. 16.—A case involving the power of Governor Stone to attach his signature to blank state papers, which in his absence from the state are afterward filled in by some one in the executive service, was dismissed by the state superior court for want of proper jurisdiction.

The case upon which the decision was based was that of Alfred A. Thatcher, alias Riley, who appealed to the court to prevent his extradition to Brooklyn, N. Y., where he is wanted for bigamy. The warrant for his extradition was dated December 12, and was signed by Governor Stone. Thatcher, through his attorneys, claimed that as Governor Stone was in Mexico, on a pleasure trip, at the time the extradition papers were signed, they were void, and that his transfer to the New York authorities would be illegal.

SUNDAY'S FLOOD ON LOWER FLATS.



(1) View from Elm street and South Wyoming street. (2) Looking north from the bridge crossing South Washington avenue near Central Park Garden. (3) Scene where a cab was abandoned on Elm street, Greenberg's Ship Works on Elm street.

Neuls had a year to serve when he was removed, and he used to recover the amount of salary due him at the time suit was begun, claiming that his removal was illegal. In deciding against Neuls, Judge Carpenter said:

"It is contended on the part of the plaintiff that the legislature has no power to enact a law authorizing the removal of a public officer before the end of a term for which he was elected under Article 2, section 12, and Article 6, section 4, of the constitution relied upon to support that contention.

"The fund provides, 'No law shall extend the term of any public officer or increase or diminish his salary or emoluments, after his election or appointment.' And the latter, that all officers elected by the people, except governor, lieutenant governor, members of the general assembly and judges of the courts of record learned in the law, shall be removed by the governor for reasonable cause, after due notice and full hearing, or an address of two-thirds of the senate.

"It is argued that city assessors are elected by the people and are within the class of public officers contemplated by the constitution, and cannot be removed except in the manner prescribed in the section quoted."

"The office of city assessor is not one of those which are usually denominated constitutional. It is not mentioned in the constitution, and no provision is made therein for the election of such an officer. As was said in Commonwealth vs. McCombs, 56 Pa. 426, by Strong, Jr., referring to the office of district attorney prior to the adoption of the constitution: 'Not having been mentioned by the constitution, the legislature was left with unrestricted powers to prescribe what the duties of the office should be, and what the length of its tenure.'"

Having the power to create, they have also the power to regulate, and even destroy. Undoubtedly the legislature may at any moment repeal the act of 1890 and abolish the office. They may provide a substitute for it. The compensation which was allowed at the beginning of an incumbent's term may be diminished or wholly taken away."

"It was said by Mitchell, J., in another case quoted: 'The right to an office is not the right of the incumbent to the place, but of the people to the office. An office, therefore, not constitutional, exists by the will of the legislature only and may be abolished at any time and the incumbent has no standing to complain.'"

"A city assessor, not being a constitutional officer, there can be no objection under the authorities cited that the legislature may provide for his removal from office."

"It is provided in the schedule to the Act of March 7, 1901, the second class city charter bill, that: 'The city assessor, so appointed by the governing body and their successors so appointed, shall have the right and power and are hereby authorized to remove from office members of the board of assessors.' As this is not in derogation of any right vested in the plaintiff by the constitution, it is clearly within the power of the legislature, and it follows that his removal was authorized by law and that he is not entitled to the salary which he claims."

WILL WRESTLE PERRY.

Andy Williams of Newark to Meet Him Tonight.

Andy Williams, a wrestler of wide repute, came up from Newark yesterday to meet Gideon Perry, the California wrestler, and they arranged for a catch-weights, catch-as-catch-can match at the Scranton Bicycle club house tonight, when there is to be a smoker and vaudeville entertainment for the members. The bout will take place at 9:30 o'clock.

Williams is about five feet eight and weighs over 200 pounds. Perry is six feet one and weighs 190 pounds.

HE CANNOT RECOVER.

Daniel McAuliffe Shot During a Riot Will Die.

It was said last night at the Lackawanna hospital that Daniel McAuliffe cannot possibly recover.

He was shot during a riot on Luzerne street, a week ago yesterday.

Conrad Bros.

1902 Columbia Models may be seen at our store, 243 Wyoming avenue.

CHIEF IN CHARGE.

Chief Peber ordered two lines of hose on the roof from Centre street, another into the front of the drapery store and a fourth into the basement from the southern side. It looked for a few minutes as if the fire would win out, but it was gradually got under control without an inch of steamer pressure and was practically extinguished at 1:30 o'clock.

Chief Peber says that the fire originated in the rear of the basement of Berghauer and Staples, but is at a loss to explain how. The two stores, both basement and first floor, were completely gutted, but the second and third floors were practically unharmed save by water and in the rear where the flames ate their way up at the outset.

The damage to the building, which is owned by the Mayer estate and which was recently remodelled, can be placed at about \$1,500. The loss which Berghauer and Staples will sustain is about \$5,000, while Shimamura and company's

Xmas Suggestions.

- Safety Razor Sets
- Shot Guns, Rifles and Ammunition.
- RAZOR SETS. 50 Styles.
- AIR RIFLES. 75c to \$1.50.
- RAZOR STROPS. 15c to \$3.00.
- REVOLVERS. \$1.25 to \$15.00.
- MUGS AND BRUSHES.
- FISHING TACKLE
- POCKET KNIVES. 10c to \$3.50.
- ICE SKATES. 20 Styles.
- SCISSORS AND SHEARS.
- ROLLER SKATES. 10 Styles.
- MANICURE SETS
- INGERSOLL WATCHES
- SHAVING SETS.

George Felton, 119 Penn Avenue, Scranton, Pa.

Here Are a Few Suggestions for Christmas Shopping.

- You will find the articles in our Store.
- Exquisite Suits of Muslin Underwear. Trimmed in Embroidery and Lace.
- Ladies' fancy and plain Aprons.
- Maid's Aprons.
- Ladies' Hosiery, lace, lisle and silk.
- Kid Gloves in staple and fancy shades.
- Silk and Woolen Golf Gloves.
- Gents' Kid and Mocha Gloves.
- Fancy Hose Supporters.

Would Advise Early Buying Before the Selection Is Gone.

PRICE & JENKINS, 119 Wyoming Avenue, Ladies' Furnishers.

H. D. Crane

CLOAKS, SUITS, SKIRTS AND CAPES.

Our line is of too great an assortment to enumerate, but prospective buyers will be fully repaid by looking us over.

324 LACKAWANNA AVE.

TAKE ELEVATOR.

Our Thumb Mark

On any article is a sign that there is full value for its cost. Every year that has rolled around has brought us added knowledge and experience, and you get the benefit. Ask to see our "Free Brand" Pocket Cutlery, scissors and razors. Fully warranted.

Green Trading Stamps with Cash Sales.

Foot & Fuller Co
Mears Building

PROCRASTINATION

IS THE thief of time You will realize this about nine o'clock on the evening of December 24th, when you are pushed to the right and jostled to the left, by an eager, anxious crowd of late Xmas shoppers. Just a few helps toward filling out the vacant places in that long shopping list. It will pay you to purchase today. Save your time and money.

- Handkerchiefs, plain and lace 10c to \$8.00
- Fans, Silk, Lace, etc 50c to \$4.00
- Umbrellas in the very newest designs, with the Initial Engraved Free.

\$1.00 to \$15.00 Each

Women's Neckwear, Laces, Belts, Waist Patterns, in fact everything a woman needs. Dressing Jackets and Komons in beautiful colors and cloths.

98c to \$10 Each

Neckwear, Handkerchiefs, Gloves, Umbrellas, etc., in Men's Furnishing Department. Prices as low as dependable goods are sold for.

New shipment of silver purses and Xmas Handkerchiefs.

Note Window Display.

Meldrum, Scott & Co., 126 Wyoming Avenue.

Store Will Be Open Evenings Until Christmas.