The Somerset Herald.

GEORGE R. SCULL, Editor.

WEDNESDAY.....December 16, 1891.

The shortest day is near.

1892 will have 53 Sundays.

1891 will not linger long now.

Fox hunters are ready for sport.

Watch cases are now made of iron.

Our buckwheat goes abroad largely.

For holiday toys and candies go to Mahlon Stinck's.

Eye glasses for old and young at Snyder's drug store.

Of the 1,900 policemen in Chicago 1,555 are Irishmen.

The State Board of Health says that membranous croup is contagious.

Corn cuts and barly chop at Mahlon Schrock's feed store.

A gold coin depreciates 5 per cent of value in sixteen years of constant use.

A full line of Umbrellas at Mrs. K. B. Coffroth's from 50 cts to $5.00.

Mahlon Stinck's is headquarter for choice family groceries, tobacco and fine cigars.

Beaver county's Grand Jury has indicted the Beaver *Star* for criminal libel of Senator Quay.

For a good stove, and warranted, go to J. B. Holderbaum's Hardware Store, Somerset, Pa.

The State Board of Agriculture has arranged for fifty farmers' institutes between December 9 and February 22.

Dolls, dolls, dolls, in endless variety, and all kinds of toys at Pritts & Kantner's Book Store.

Each day grows three minutes shorter till December 21 when a turn is made and the days grow longer until the 21st of June.

Go to Mrs. A. E. Uhl's special Handkerchief sale on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week.

There are in America 119,000,000 of the big old copper pennies lying unused some where. Few pennies get back to the Mint.

Go to Mrs. A. E. Uhl's special Handkerchief sale on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week.

Recent statistics show that notwithstanding the number used for culinary purposes there are still 5,000 missionaries left in Africa.

Some of the store windows are this year models of beauty and attract large attention. It takes an artist to make a Christmas window.

Ear and shelled corn and clean white western oats always on hand a Mahlon Stinck's Grocery, Flour, Feed and Grain Store.

Does advertising pay? A Philadelphia merchant recently advertised for a boy, and the next day his wife presented him with twins of the male persuasion.

A single piece of paper or linen moistened in turpentine and put into the wardrobe or drawers for a single day, two or three times a year, is a preventative against moths.

If you are suffering from weak eyes or defective vision, call at J. N. Snyder's drug store and be fitted with glasses to suit your eyes. You cannot afford to neglect your eyesight.

Left alone Thursday morning, George Ammerman's two children, aged 4 and 1 years respectively, burned themselves to death by firing the house at Port Matilda, Centre county.

The largest revenue that any half acre in Pennsylvania has yielded in vegetables for a single season was received by J. M. Palmer, of Kennett Square, for 407 bushels of onions grown within that space this year.

Dr. Granger, who has charge of Edward Field in the insane asylum, expresses the belief that Field has secreted immense sums of money belonging to the defunct firm, and that it is all safe somewhere.

Rich families, poor families or any other kind of families should have a family bible. We have them in style and price to suit any kind of a family. Pritts & Kantner the low priced book sellers, Somerset, Pa.

A pension has been granted Mrs. Thomas of Clarksburg, W. Va., whose first husband was a Confederate soldier. He died in the war and she subsequently married a Union veteran. This is said to be the first pension of the kind on record.

Readers of the HERALD should not forget that J. N. Snyder, the druggist, can fit their eyes with glasses as well as any optician. He has had five or six years experience in handling Dr. Kings glasses.

Did you ever buy a horse and not have some misgiving as to his points till they were fully tested? Not so with Ayer's Sarsaparilla; you may be sure of it at the start. It never disappoints those who give it a fair and persistent trial.

Mrs K. B. Coffroth has received and is now prepared to display her Xmas goods, among them, dolls of all sizes and descriptions, fancy goods, pin cushions, cologne, furs, muffs, hoods, jewelry, etc. Call and see, you are always welcome.

J. Gray, a New York crook, arrested a few days ago for playing the game of "dim tam" in Johnstown merchants and in whose possession was found papers which proved him to be a burglar, settled his case by paying about $250 out of the $300 he had in his possession, and was released.

Feeble and capricious appetites are best regulated by the use of Ayer's Cathartic Pills. They do not debilitate, by excessive stimulation; but cause the stomach, liver, and bowels to perform their functions properly. Aman after-dinner pill, they are unequaled.

At this season of the year it is cruel and barbarous to leave horses hitched on the street without blankets. It is a common thing to see teams standing shivering in the wind and sleet while perhaps the driver is toasting his fingers around some store stove. It's economy to protect the horses.

A late swindle being practiced in the northern part of Westmoreland county is the selling of a small box of soap for two dollars giving as a premium a splendid rubber door mat with the name of the purchaser on it. The soap is delivered, and money collected but the door mat never comes.

Citizens, when not otherwise engaged during the long winter evening might devote their time to studying the new ballot law, which goes into effect on March 1 next. Political clubs and debating societies could profitably hold meetings once a week for the practice of voting under the provisions of that measure.

A Remarkable alliance between two families is reported from the vicinity of Quebec. Two farmers named Rheume and Morin had each eight children, four sons and four daughters. Rheume's four sons married Morin's four daughters and Morin's four sons married Rheume's four daughters. A sort of a farmers' alliance.

Captain Parker, under whom Speaker Crisp served, in Company K, North Virginia Infantry, during the war, says that Mr. Crisp then a stripling of scarcely more than 100 pounds in weight, saved his life at the battle of McDowell, in the valley of Virginia, in 1862. Captain Parker was wounded and unable to leave the field, and Crisp, finding himself unable to carry him off, threw his own body in front of the Captain's as a cover from the flying bullets and shells.

The value of half a minute in railroad affairs was illustrated on the Pennsylvania Railroad at Irwin Monday morning. The Western Express jumped the track on the east end of Irwin, while running at a high rate, and four of the cars were thrown from the south track and dragged at least three hundred yards. The New York Limited had passed the Express just thirty seconds before the accident, occurred at the rate of fifty-five miles an hour. The thirty seconds were enough to save a score of lives. The accident was caused by the pulling out of a drawhead in one of the express cars. No one was hurt

The attendance at court this week is unusually light for December term.

A strong argument in favor of a system of sewerage for this town will be found in our report of Court proceedings.

The J. O. U. A. M., of Friedens, propose holding a festival during the holidays in their new hall, now almost completed.

Applicants for retail liquor dealers' licenses, are busily engaged circulating petitions to present to the Court at January term.

Messrs Bart and Robert Shaffer, of Somerset township, returned Saturday from Harvey, Cook county, Ill., where they spent the summer.

The Meyersdale *Register* says it is alleged that Judge Baer will become a permanent citizen of the "Metropolis." Well, we guess not. Why should he?

A call has been issued by the President of the Somerset County Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union for a convention, to be held in the G. A. R. hall, in this place, on Thursday, December 24th.

Henry Barnett, of Somerset township, brought a 16-months-old porker to Kreger's meat market Tuesday morning, which weighed exactly 400 pounds. He wants to hear of a heavier one for the age.

Mr. John Fisher, of Jenner township, who had been visiting at Dixon, Ill., for some time, returned home Thursday. He and Miss Ada Ream, of Jenner township, will be united in marriage this week.

U. M. Phillippi has removed his machinery for manufacturing spokes to this place, and at present is located in the Mechanical Works shops, near the railroad station, where operations have been commenced.

The residents of Shamokin Northumberland county, have offered to build public buildings at their own expense, providing they can have that county divided and their town made a county seat. What's the matter with Meyersdale?

President Judge-elect, Jacob H. Longenecker, arrived in town Monday morning, and is stopping at the Somerset House. Judge Longenecker will spend the greater part of the week in re-newing his acquaintance with our people.

Miss Darl E. Brubaker has received notice of her appointment as a representative on the Pennsylvania World's Fair Auxiliary for Somerset County. The notice, which was accompanied by a certificate of membership, was a great surprise to Miss Brubaker.

Readers of the HERALD will spend a good many hundreds of dollars for Christmas presents. They will buy from merchants who advertise in the HERALD. You cannot reach the HERALD readers by advertising in any other newspaper, and an advertisement in the HERALD is read by everybody.

The members of the Somerset bar have received an invitation from Bedford to attend a banquet at that place, on New Year's eve, to be given by the Bedford bar in honor of the outgoing and incoming judge. While the members of this bar will not attend the banquet as a body, it is probable that a number of them will be present.

Daniel Zimmerman, of near Stoystown, shipped over nine hundred bushels of choice winter apples to Johnstown this season. Besides this he made nearly one thousand gallons of cider. It is estimated that there were over two thousand bushels of apples taken from his orchard, which is one of the finest in the county.

The establishing of a foundling hospital and the employment of a wet nurse to attend the sessions of the Quarter Sessions Court are two things that will have to be taken into consideration in the near future, unless the existing state of affairs speedily undergo a change. At the present term of Court, of the thirty-five cases down for trial, nineteen of them, over one-half, are cases of *fornix et cet.*

Invitations are out for the wedding of Lieut. Charles Edgar Tayman, of the United States Army, only son of David Tayman, of Lavansville, and Miss Mary Eves Williamson, of Media, Pa., on Wednesday evening, Dec. 23d. Lieut. Tayman's sister, Miss Mary, will be one of the bridesmaids and Ensign Chester Knepper, of the U. S. N., will be best man.

A new candidate for public favor, *The Somerset County Star*, appeared Friday. The *Star* is published at Salisbury, this county, and is edited by P. L. Livengood, assisted by his wife. Mr. Livengood is a native of Elklick, and for a number of years past has published a paper in Nebraska. The *Star* is an eight page six column sheet and the HERALD extends it a cordial welcome and wishes it abundant success.

Mr. Andrew Lohr, of Somerset, has been in this city some time under treatment by Dr. J. S. Taylor, of Locust street, for a cancer growth, which had assumed a very large growth and implicated almost the entire left side of his head and face. The cancer has been removed by the treatment of the doctor without the use of a knife, and the old gentleman will return to his home in a few days—*Johnstown Democrat.*

The Farmers' Annual Institute will be held in the Court House, on January 5th and 6th. The committee having the program in charge are using every effort to make the program of '92 more profitable and interesting than any of its predecessors. Farmers everywhere are urged to arrange their business so as to enable them to be present, and make it the success it ought to be.

In view of the fact that nearly all of the public schools in the county will be closed during the holidays and all will necessarily be closed the first two days of the new year, many of the teachers have united in making arrangements for an institute to be held at Meyersdale, Friday and Saturday, January 1st and 2d. Dr. T. B. Noss, of the California State Normal School, and Prof. M. E. Bennett, of the Johnstown College of Art and Commerce, will be present. Dr. James Hedley will lecture on "The Knightly No," on New Year's night, and Prof. Byron W. King, of Pittsburgh, will give an elocutionary entertainment Saturday night.

Thursday morning at 4:30 o'clock, George H. Coleman, of Coleman Station, the B. & O. agent at that place who lives near the station, saw in a blaze the roof of the building, which is used as a post-office, express office, store room and passenger station. An alarm was at once given, but it was too late to save anything. One registered letter, the amount in which is not known, together with all the letters in the post-office, some express goods, the groceries, and some freight, were all consumed. The origin of the fire is not known. The building was a two-story frame structure, twenty two by twenty-four feet, and was owned by George H. Coleman. The groceries were insured for $400, but that was all. The loss is over $4,000.

A Cambria county jury came into court at Ebensburg, Friday morning, with a verdict of murder in the first degree against Elmer Bruner, for the murder of old man Reese. Charles Bruner, his brother, who was with Elmer when he shot Reese, was called upon to plead to the indictment against him. He admitted his guilt, and the Judge declared him guilty of murder in the second degree. When Annie Bruner was brought before the Court, she pleaded not guilty. A jury was sworn, and the Court directed it to render a verdict in accordance with her plea, which was done, and she was discharged. Elmer Bruner was ably defended by Thos. M. Marshall, *Jr.*, of Pittsburgh who undertook the case "without reward, gain, or hope thereof." The fact is that Elmer Bruner's mother nursed Tom Marshall, *Jr.*, when he was a baby, and when her son got into this trouble, she appealed to him to do what he could for him. He responded to her appeal and fought the case with a determination and spirit worthy of a better cause.

It is rumored that the parties who have recently been buying up coal lands near Hooversville, are connected with the Beech Creek Railroad, and that that company propose extending their line through Cambria and Somerset counties

The Bedford *Gazette* is authority for the statement that the Pennsylvania and West Virginia Railroad company have in contemplation the building of a branch railroad from the neighborhood of Schellsburg or New Paris to Johnstown, through Daily, Mock and Reitz, by Foust's Mill, on the mouth of Shade Creek, in this County. The Company's engineers have experimented on the east side of the Allegheny Mountains for an available route, and their mining expert has examined the coal fields in the vicinity of Daily and Reitz.

A serious cutting affray, the outcome of an old quarrel, occurred at the residence of Jonathan Boyer, in Quemahoning township, last Thursday morning. A sale was being held at Boyer's that day and quite a crowd of people had assembled, among them William Naugle, who it is reported was slightly intoxicated when he arrived and at once began re-opening a quarrel with a boy much younger and smaller than himself, named Boyer. The lad refused to fight, but told his big brother John, who took up the quarrel and followed Naugle into the public road in front of the house where he struck at him but failed to hit him. Naugle struck back with better success, landing a stunning blow on Boyers' nose, knocked him down. As soon as Boyer could regain his feet he let drive a second time at Naugle, this time knocking him down and jumping on him. Naugle was on his feet again in a jiffy, and taking a jack-knife from his pocket made an angry lunge at Boyer, sinking the full blade into his flesh immediately above the heart. Withdrawing the knife he made a desperate attempt to cut Boyer across the stomach, and was only prevented from doing so by one of the witnesses of the fight catching his arm as it was about to descend. Boyer was able to walk to the house. A physician was summoned from Hooversville, and upon investigation found that the knife blade had passed through the wall of Boyers left lung and that he was in a very serious condition. Naugle has not yet been arrested, and it is said that Boyer will not prosecute him.

Water Works for Somerset.

A list of the voters of Somerset, who have expressed themselves on the water works question, is posted in Fisher's Book Store. This list shows 166 for water works and 66 against. This is a clear majority of 100 provided the list is reliable and no one weakens. But whether the list is reliable or not, one thing is certain, and that is that the handsomest and largest line of holiday goods to be found in the county can be seen at

FISHER'S BOOK STORE.

Books in sets, single volumes, toy books, books for presents, books for sunday school prizes, nice books for the teachers, handsome bibles and hymnals, albums, toilet sets, bric-a-brac, novelties, toys, Christmas cards and New Years presents at Fisher's Book Store Go see.

Plucky Miss Lee.

Miss Hannah Lee, a farmer's daughter, who lives six miles from Niantic, Conn., heard a woman scream Tuesday evening of last week, as she was returning home from a neighbor's house. She ran around a bend in the road, and found a burly umbrella-mender beating his wife with a bundle of umbrella rods. Miss Lee seized the man's arm, and asked him if he wasn't ashamed of himself. He said he wasn't, and continued to beat the woman. Then Miss Lee snatched the rods and threw them over the fence. The man recovered them, and made an attack on Miss Lee.

Just then the girl's brother, a small boy, came along with a fowling gun. Miss Lee took the weapon, and pointing it at the umbrella-mender, said she would shoot him if he came nearer. The man threw a stone, which struck Miss Lee's left wrist, and dislocated it. At the same moment the gun was discharged and one of the man's legs was peppered with bird-shot. The umbrella man danced and swore, and then fled. Miss Lee fainted.

A Pointer

To those who are studying what to buy for Christmas gifts we would suggest a few things for your mother, wife, daughter, sister or sweet-heart, a family bible, hand bible, photograph album, some good books or set of books, toilet case, manicure set, work-box or basket, Christmas card or art novelte purse, mirror, music roll or stand, ink stand, easel or a nice steel engraving, etching, pastels, water color, oil painting or chromo, as nothing makes a room look more cheerful than a nice picture. For the gentlemen a shaving set, smoking set, traveling case, cuff and collar box, pens, or a fountain pen. For the children, toy books, games, drums, trumpets, sleds, doll's doll carriages, toy dishes, magic lanterns, steam engines, guns, safes, music boxes, pianos, tool chests or something in this line. All of the above and countless other articles can be had at Pritts & Kantner's Book Store.

Supervisors Cannot Act Alone.

One township Supervisor cannot act alone in making contracts, so Judge Swartz, of Montgomery county, has just decided in the suit of William Little against the township of Lower Merion, brought to compel the payment of $724.56 for crushed stone sold to Supervisor Duncan for the township without the consent or knowledge of A. J. Cassatt, the other Supervisor.

The decision of the court is based upon the proposition that while one Supervisor may provide for ordinary highway repairs, he cannot under the law enter into any such deliberative contract as the purchase of material to macadamize a road, since "the united wisdom of supervisors, legislators and conventions" has not been able to designate what roads, if any in the country, should be macadamized. Judgment for the defense.

Do You Need a Watch or Clock?

If so call and examine our stock before making your selections, as we have them in all grades, watches from $4.00 to $75.00 and clocks from 90 cents to $12.50. We also have a full line of jewelry, such as finger rings, ear rings, watch charms and chains cuff buttons, bracelets, etc., in fact everything usually kept in a first class jewelry store. We are headquarters for silver ware, as we carry the largest stock in town and our prices are the lowest. All articles of this kind purchased from us will be suitably engraved free of charge.

Repairing of watches, clocks and jewelry, a specialty.

NEFF & CASSEER,
Jewelers and Opticians.

The Christmas Spirit.

The first duty of a woman, when the merry Christmastide draws near, is to get herself just as full of the Christmas spirit as she possibly can; to feel her heart beating a little quicker, to find an intense fascination in the shops, and to want to put out her hands full to overflowing with good gifts.

We cannot in this world give too much. To be sure, we must give in the right way, in the right spirit and with the real Christmas love—the love that has in it not one particle of envy, hatred, malice, or all uncharitableness. We men want to cultivate this spirit of giving more than ever before because, just now, the world is just so full of cultivating "isms" that it requires all the strength and wit of a woman to keep up the good old customs.—*N. Y. World.*

See Where You Can Do the Best.

See where you can get the best and purest candy for the most reasonable price, then buy. We have ordered barrels and boxes of candy for the holiday trade and can sell as cheap as any for the quality of these goods. Our candy is not made of glucose, but is pure sugar candy. Special prices to Sunday-school and other treats. All sizes of oranges at a low price, nuts, dates, figs and anything kept in a first-class grocery store. Market prices paid for butter and eggs, in exchange for goods. Prompt attention, courteous treatment. Give us a call. No trouble to show goods.

KANTNER & PLATT,
No. 2, Baer Block. Somerset, Pa.

Quarter Sessions Court.

The regular December term of criminal court convened at 10 o'clock Monday morning. Twenty-three grand jurors answered to their names and the court appointed A. J. Boose forman of that body. There are thirty-five cases on the calendar, but a majority of them were settled or continued. With one or two exceptions the entire list is made up of cases of a trivial character, that should never have been brought or at least should have been settled without coming to court. Following is a list of cases disposed of up to noon Tuesday:

Commonwealth vs. George Lockett, A. & B. with intent to kill, on information of J. D. Sweitzer. Sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution.

Same vs. Mary Amanda Fosler, fornication; constable's return; verdict, not guilty and the county to pay the costs.

Same vs. Samuel McNair, Eli Bender and Wm. Hardin, supervisors of Addison township, neglecting to keep public roads in good order and repair; constable's return. Nol pros. entered on payment of costs by the defendants.

Same vs. Susan Pletcher, fornication; constable's return. Defendant sentence to pay the cost of prosecution.

Same vs. Joseph Cluse, furnishing liquor to persons of intemperate habits; constable's return. Nol pros. entered on payment of cost by the defendant.

Same vs. Daniel Bowman, Peter Yowler and William Yowler, malicious mischief on information of W. H. Barron. Grand Jury return not a true bill and the prosecutor to pay the costs.

Same vs. Wm. Wentworth, larceny; on information of Joseph W. Seese. Verdict, not guilty.

MAINTAINING A NUISANCE.

To the return made by the constable of Somerset borough the following, containing the names of twenty-two citizens, was attached:

To the Honorable, the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Somerset Co., Pa.:

The undersigned residents and citizens of Somerset Borough, do hereby complain and set forth that the Burgess and Council of said Borough of Somerset do kepe and maintain a public nuisance on Main street of said Borough, from the residence of Charles A. Kimmell, along said street to near the residence of Daniel E. Davis. They do represent that a drain commencing at or about the property of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and running westward and opening in the drain on the North side of said Main street, near the residence of Charles A. Kimmell, deposits along said street urine, human excrement, slops and water from kitchens, drainage from stables and manure piles, from which arise offensive and poisonous oders, which renders life uncomfortable, and greatly endangers the health of said residents.

Mrs. A. E. Uhl.

I have made special large reduction in all kinds of Dress Goods for Holiday Trade. A big cut made in prices of Ladie's and Misses Coats and Wraps and Shawls. You need not wait until after the Holidays to get bargains, you can get them now and have the pick of the stock.

A large variety of Dolls, Toys, and Fancy Articles, Gloves, Mittens, Table Linens, Towels, Fancy Tidies, Throws, Head Rests and Silk and Chenile Table Covers, Combs, Brushes, Umbrellas, Pocketbooks, Card Cases, Down Cushions, Stick-pins, Breast-pins, Rings, Bracelets, Watch-chains, etc.

An immense stock of Handkerchiefs and Mufflers at popular prices.

MRS. A. E. UHL.

Onions too Strong for the School Marm.

Miss M. D. Merrill, a teacher in Oakley school, Chicago, sends home the boys and girls who come to school laden with the odor of onions to change their breath. One of the patrons took issue with Miss Merrill on receiving the following note with his boys who had indulged in the festive vegetable:

"It is too cool in my room most of the time to have the windows open, and the breath of your children after eating onions makes the air very offensive."

Superintendent Love, however, decided that the onion has rights that even a school teacher must respect and reproved Miss Merrill for sending it home.

Now For Chrismas Novelties.

M. E. Schrock opened December 7th, the most extensive line of Queensware, China, Japanese, Glassware and Silverware ever brought to Somerset. The line of novelties for holiday trade is large and unique Call early and make your selections. Goods can be selected and laid away until wanted. Don't buy elsewhere until you see our line.

Presents Through the Mails.

An Ohio postmaster has prepared instructions for those who contemplate sending holiday gifts through the mails They are so pat and pertinent that we give them entire, with the remark that followed out they will save the postoffice people a great deal of vexation, annoyance and possibly, loss: "The season is approaching when the mails will be filled with holiday presents, and a great many are unnecessarily lost, delayed or damaged each year because of the indifferent manner in which they are prepared for mailing. Newspaper or other thin paper should not be used for wrapping and packages ar ordinarily wrapped where purchased are not sufficiently secure for forwarding in the mails. Use strong paper, make a solid package that will not crush easily; tie well with good twine; address legibly and correctly with ink on the lower right-hand corner and very few packages will fail to reach their destination in good condition. It is always advisable to place the name and address of the sender on the upper left hand corner of all packages, etc., sent in the mails, so they may be returned in case the address cannot be found. Postal statistics show that more delays result from incorrect addresses than from errors in distribution by postal employes. In case of loss or delay report the same to your postmaster with all the information that can be given.

Opera House!

Don't forget to see Uncle Tom's Cabin and Alabama Jubilee Singers, at Somerset Opera House, Tuesday, Dec. 22d. It will be the finest production ever presented here, fine brass band and superb orchestra. Don't miss the street parade at 12:45, and see Eva and the pony, Marks and donkey and the blood hounds. A Connemaut, O., paper says:

Marney & McGowen's company produced Uncle Tom to a crowded house last night, and we must confess that we never saw the piece rendered in such fine shape before. The rainbow Quartette was the finest ever heard here, in fact each performer is an artist in his role. The orchestra came in for their share of applause. They are great! Don't fail to hear them.

Reserved seats, 50 cents, will be put on sale at P. L. Casebeer's Gents Furnishing Store, Friday evening, December 18th.

A Progressive Newspaper.

People who want to get the most and best reading for the least money should buy the Pittsburg *Times*. It is the only Pittsburg morning paper sold for one cent, yet it gives all the news and in more attractive shape than its contemporaries. It pays special attention to political movements, finance and trade, the individual progress of Western Pennsylvania and the interests of workingmen. It gets the news of the world concisely by telegraph and covers the local field carefully and accurately. Its editorial columns are bright with timely comments and conducted on a fair, broad basis. If you want to keep posted upon the developments of 1892, subscribe for the *Times*.

Christmas and New Year Excursion on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

In pursuance of the custom long since established, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets between all stations on its lines for the Christmas and New Year holidays at a rate of two cents per mile. The tickets will be sold December 23d, 1891, to January 1892, inclusive, valid for return until January 4th, 1892, inclusive.

WET OR DRY?

Everybody at Sea as to the Outcome of Saturday's Election.

The voters of this town can always be relied upon to take an active interest in an election, no matter what manner of men or principles are involved. The mere fact of voting, of discharging the highest right and privilege of free men, is incentive enough to draw them to the polls. The election to be held next Saturday, for the purpose of deciding whether or not the borough shall be bonded to establish a system of water works has probably created more discussion than any election ever held in Somerset.

This is proper, however, inasmuch as the question is one directly affecting the interests of every property owner, and in the consideration of which the voter should carefully weigh his own and his town's interests before casting his ballot. Advocates on both sides continue to claim a majority, while conservative voters, who have refrained from expressing their sentiments, agree that the majority is likely to be from 25 to 50 either way.

"Come in," said the good-natured shopkeeper to our reporter one evening during the week. "The water works question is in full blast, and I think I can find a seat for you on an empty fish barrel."

The invitation was accepted, but the reporter was too late to have a voice in the vote that had just been taken, and which resulted in 18 to 2 against water works, but climbed into the seat designated, and following are a few of the remarks he overheard as they fell from the lips of the gentlemen surrounding the store stove.

"For pure, unadulterated ignorance," said the man with the high tenor voice, "the sanitary improvement it is claimed water works will effect in the town, takes the cake. Look at the gutters and drains as they are at present, and think of the complaint that has been going up to the town council for years about their foul condition, and then stop to consider what their condition will be if all these people up street have all the water they can use. A mere statement of facts ought to satisfy any reasonable person that the health of the town will be in far greater peril after the introduction of water than it is at present, unless sewers are put in at the same time water is."

"I can't for the life of me understand," said the boom town man, "why certain parties in this town are opposed to water works, and I have no respect for their opinions. They are so confounded raiserly that they can't think of having their taxes increased, and are so ignorant that they cannot appreciate the benefit water works would be to Somerset. The town authorities have expended a considerable sum of money in having a survey of Kimberly run made, and estimates furnished as to the probable cost of the water works, and I think they should be sustained by the voters of the borough, at the election next Saturday. If the question carries, there will at least be an effort made to introduce water into our town. That will be a great step forward, and will lift us out of the rut we have been in for the last hundred years. There can be no question but that the citizens of the town will vote for water, by a large majority."

The cracker-barrel man nervously exchanged a great chew of "Climax" from one side of his mouth to the other, and after the enthusiastic young speaker quoted above had found a seat on top of an applebutter-keg, said: "I hardly suppose your remarks were intended for me, because I own very little property, but many of you fellows who are bellowing for water works own none at all. Now, there are two sides to every question, and it isn't right that the motives of men who don't think as you do, should be impugned and the characters of the men themselves be assailed by irresponsible parties who own no property, and who have nothing at stake. It is the future property owners we have to look after, and when it comes to assuming a debt of $27,000, or more, they have a right to know how that money is to be expended, or whether it is to be squandered."

"This is a very grave question," put in the man with a drawl, "and one that I think many of our people have failed to properly consider. At least one-half of the people living in Somerset doubt whether it is practicable to get a supply from that swamp-drained, black-water stream even though the water should prove to be fit for domestic use. Now, it is reported that the town authorities will not investigate any other method of introducing water, and the question that we taxpayers have to solve is, are we going to empower the town authorities to expend a large sum of money in attempting to do something that will in all probability prove a failure? It is indeed a very serious question, gentlemen, and one that we should all carefully consider before we vote for it."

"You are wrong-shipped, entirely, old fellow," said the freckle-nosed man. "The Kimberly run scheme is the only one under consideration by the town authorities, simply because no others have been offered, and until some one offers them a better system than the one they'll adopt."

"Well, I should like to know," screamed bow-legs, from the far end of the store, where he was admiring an assortment of candy hearts—the favorite Christmas present of his boyhood—"whether the borough authorities didn't expend $130 to have the Kimberly run territory surveyed, and for having an estimate made as to the probable cost of piping that muddy water into town? Do they expect every man who chooses to differ with the engineer who made the survey, to offer something better, and at his own expense? Why, it is simply preposterous in them to insinuate such a thing, if, indeed they have. Haven't they got the same authority to inquire into the feasibility of supplying the town with water from drilled wells pumped on to Tayman's hill—which, by the way, many of the best men in town think to be the only proper and practicable way of ever securing a water supply—that they had to employ an engineer to make a survey of Kimberly run? The borough authorities have the power to investigate all measures in this regard that appear practicable, and it is hardly fair, as I look at it, in them to ask the voters to authorize the issue of bonds until after they have examined every possible method of introducing water into town, and then have adopted the best and cheapest system. I have due respect for the opinions of the burgess and town council, and they should have the same consideration for the opinions of those who differ from them. I'm opposed to every question until I know what the question is, and that's the reason why I am opposed to voting for the issue of borough bonds for water; no one knows where the water is to come from."

"If the town daddies had the authority to employ an engineer to survey Kimberly run," said ragged whiskers, "why haven't they got the authority to make a canvas of the town and ascertain how many persons will take water at a fixed price? Why shan't we know what revenue can be derived from water works, and how nearly they can be made self-sustaining? This whole business reminds me of a child trying to walk before it can creep."

"Why, as a matter of course, the works will be self-sustaining, and the saving the town will make in insurance rates will be clear gain," said the boom town man, "and next year we will have electric lights, with the wires underground, and don't you forget it."

"The saving on insurance is the most absurd claim about all this water works question," said the man on the coal box, elevating his "two-for" until the fire singed his eyebrows. "Advocates of water do not claim that the Kimberly run system will furnish any fire protection worth talking about, and even if it does the expense of keeping up fire companies will more than off-set the saving on insurance."

"Well, gentlemen, I am honestly for water works," said the man with the crooked neck, "and it doesn't make much difference where the water comes from, if the supply is sufficient, and it is not too expensive. I do not propose, however, to increase my taxes, and the taxes of my neighbors, by voting for a measure that I know nothing about, and concerning which I have so far been unable to learn anything. It does seem to me that those persons who are urging this matter have not made the proper investigation of all matters to be considered before submitting it to the people. There are many other expenses that must follow the introduction of water, and we should certainly know where the water is to come from, and what it is going to cost, before we consider these other matters. Now, if the same interest was taken in electric lights that there has been in water works, this town would have been lighted by electricity long ago. We have one of the prettiest little towns in the State, and there is nothing too good for us, but remember, we must pay for everything we get. I have always found it a very good custom to inquire the price of an article before buying it, and I should like to know something about this water works question before I vote for it."

"There has been a great deal of talk about certain parties wanting to supply the town with water and rob the consumers," said Whiskers. "All I've got to say is that the men so accused have done more for our town than those who make the accusation, and I know that the thought of putting in water works never entered their minds. But suppose what these blatherskites say is true, you can rest assured that the people of the town will not be asked for a cent until the water is conducted to their doors, and will be supplied as cheaply as the borough can do it. This statement is absurd, too, because when private capital has made no effort to build works the borough is asked to spend $27,000 at the instance of a few fellows who have nothing to lose and no taxes to pay. That's decidedly the better way to look at the matter."

"I have heard the wildest statements as to the way the vote will be on this question I have ever heard in my life," said a prominent young county, officia who has had a fair share of political experience. "I made a poll of the borough myself this afternoon, and unless I am badly rattled, the water works question will be defeated by at least fifty votes. Some of you fellows may consider this a bluff but I haven't asked a man to vote against water and I don't intend to, but that's the way it is going to stand."

"It may be possible to get water from Kimberly run," said the man with one gum boot, "but we can never get it for any such amount of money as it it claimed we can. Look at Bedford as an illustration. Their water supply cost them between $40,000 and $50,000, and if you can judge of the complaints one reads in the Bedford papers the works are always out of repair and there is a scarcity of water. The great mistake Bedford made was in putting in four, six and eight-inch mains that are constantly choking up with sand, mud and rust, and consequently have to be taken up frequently. It seems to me we can learn a good lesson from Bedford's mistakes, and if we must put in water works, why let us raise enough money to have everything done right and not put in pipes that will be sure to prove inadequate and a constant source of annoyance and expense."

"Well, the greatest objection I have to the borough putting in water works," said the man with one pant-leg in his boot, "is that what is everybody's business is nobody's business. If our town council were salaried officers, and if the burgess received a salary worth having, they might be expected to devote some time to seeing that all improvements they undertake for the public good are conducted as economically as possible. Of course the water works will be left to contract, but who is to watch the contractor?"

"Water works will be very burdensome to the people who can't afford to use the water," said the nail-keg man, "and as I am one of that class I am going to vote against water."

"Over in Uniontown," said the cracker-barrel man, "the water company have served notice on the people that on and after April 1st they will look to the owners of property for the payment of water rates, and not to the parties occupying the same as tenants, which is only another argument why only owners of real estate should be permitted to vote next Saturday."

"Well, brethren," said the secret-society man, "I can't help but think that if we vote for water and the question carries, it will be a step that we will have reason to regret as long as we live. I am not opposed to the borough putting in a plant, but I am opposed to our expending the last cent the law will permit us to, unless it is absolutely certain that the supply will prove sufficient, that the pressure will furnish fire protection, and that the cost will not be more than we can afford. Now, you all know that a thorough investigation of the different means of supplying the town with water has not been made, and until it has been I shall not be satisfied."

"Yes, but the health of the town is imperiled," said the boomtown man, "and water is the only thing that will save us from an awful pestilence."

"In my judgment," said the cracker-barrel man, "the best means of preventing epidemics of disease in our town will be for the people to bring several more actions against the borough authorities similar to the one about to be returned to the court by the borough constable."

"Good night "said the jolly shop keeper as he opened the door for the reporter to pass out. "I hope this discussion will stop after the holidays, but I'm afraid if it does, the "gang" will at once take up the question of building a new school house and putting in electric light. I'm in for it till warm weather comes when an army of flies is due and when these gentlemen will find it more pleasant out under the awning."

Just arrived a car of low grade flour in 140 pound sacks. Reduction made for ton lots.

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A Dollar Saved—A Dollar Made.

Never before has a fine decorated lamp and shade, bisque finish, been sold at the low price of $1.50, and a bisque finished vase lamp at $250 with a movable solid brass oil font. W are selling our lamps $1.00 below the prices elsewhere. We bought our stock direct from the factory and that is why we can do it, as we save you the jobbers profit. We also have a fine decorated lamp and shade with the Central Draft or Round Burner for $4.25, and Brass Banquet Lamps with Pittsburgh Burner for $4.75. All lamps sold by us are fitted complete with chimney, wick, etc. Call and see our stock and get prices before purchasing elsewhere.

KANTNER & PLATT.

HOLIDAYS!

Now that the festive season is approaching, we are again preparing to meet the wants of the trade, as usual, for such occasions. Our stock of Candies, Nuts, Bananas, Oranges, Lemons, Raisins, Grapes, Figs, Dates, Cranberries, Olives, and many other delicacies, will be the best the market affords; therefore your interests will be well subserved by patronizing the old stand, which has weathered the storm for twenty years. And now, then, to say that our trade has been entirely satisfactory during the past year, is but voicing the sentiment of the old adage, "An honest confession is good for the soul." And furthermore, as the year 1891 draws to a close, may we not again, with sincerity, return thanks for the liberal patronage of our friends in the years gone by, with the hope that it may be merited in the future. May we add, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year (1892) to all.

Respectfully,
COOK & BEERITS.

Shall the Town be Bonded for Water-works?

In considering this question, all must bear in mind that the town can only be bonded by a majority vote of its citizens, and the majority vote, even though the same be but one, will bind the minority. Let us consider first where the water is to be procured. As far as the writer's information goes, "Kimberly's Run" has been decided upon as the fountain head for the supply. Is there enough water their for the purpose? The writer has seen that run, not once but many times, when the spout of a quart coffee-pot would yield a bigger stream than was flowing in the run, for none was flowing, the water, what little there was, stood in puddles among the stones. Had this occurred but once and in a very dry time, the unfitness of "Kimberly's run" as a source of our water supply would be demonstrated, for in a very dry time is when the supply is specially needed.

Is the water of "Kimberly's run" pure and suited for domestic use? Is a question that ordinarily should be considered, but if there is a deficiency of water for the purpose, or even if there be uncertainty as to the sufficiency, then "Kimberly's run" is not the place, and under the circumstances the town should not be bonded.

Wherever water-works exist, to the writer's knowledge, the water is unfit to drink without quantities of ice, and is not nearly so good as the water from wells. Besides this the water is very frequently contaminated, impure and unfit for drinking purposes until boiled. The only uses, and the principal reasons for urging the issue of bonds, are the necessity of water for the extinguishing of fires, for sprinkling the streets, and about certain industrial establishments in the town. Should the people be taxed because water-works would add to the convenience of the few, or because insurance companies are said to have threatened an increase of rates? Shall A, B, C, D, and others pay water rates in shape of taxes simply to keep down the insurance rate on the property of E, F, and others? What will be the effect on rents? To the writer there seems to be no doubt that rents will be doubled in case the measure of bonding the town shall carry, perhaps more than doubled; and the reason for my position is the fact that property holders will have to pay more tax than at present, and also where water is piped through the houses, there must be a direct outlay of a considerable amount of money for the purpose, because the mains will merely pass along the street and the pipes through which the water passes into the houses and all other connections must be laid and made at the expense of the property owner, who, as a matter of course, expects to be reimbursed—perhaps several times—for his outlay. Who is to reimburse him? Clearly the man that rents the property. In addition to all that I have said, there must be considered the contingency of failure of the works to supply the town. If at some day, early or remote as may be, such a failure should occur, what then? Will the people vote another issue of bonds in order to try another experiment? There is no such probability.

Some say, "v