The Somerset Herald.

GEORGE R. SCULL, Editor.

WEDNESDAY, August 7, 1895.

A South Dakota farmer this season planted 100 acres of Russian sunflowers. These flowers are grown for the oil of their seeds, which is the nearest approach to olive oil, and commands a high price.

Do you want to buy a first-class musical instrument at a moderate price? Go to Snyder's drug store

A charter has been granted to the Hyndman Door and Trim company; capital, $5,000; directors, James J. Hoblitzel, Meyersdale; Martin L. Dicken, Dicken; William C. Sliger, Nathan A. Blair, Hyndman; John S. Weller, Bedford.

The law of self-defense, as just defined by the supreme court of the United States to this effect: If a man is assailed on his own ground by one whom he has reason to believe intends to do him bodily harm, he is not under obligation to retreat but may defend himself where he stands, and it is within his right if in that defense he kills his assailant.

Skin and blood diseases, causing all sorts of dire disasters to human happiness are easily and quickly cured by Burdock Blood Bitters.

It is said that there are in the state of Kansas 20 well-built towns without a single inhabitant. Saratoga, in that state, has a $30,000 opera house, a large brick hotel, a $50,000 school house and yet there is not a single person to claim that city as his home. At Fargo, a herder and his family constitute the sole population of what was once an incorporated city.

Violins, Mandolins, Guitars, Banjos and other stringed instruments at Snyder' drug store.

A new variety of watermelon, containing a pint of whisky, has been discovered in a prohibition town in Kansas. It is strange now often the wind is tempered to the shorn lamb. Now if in districts that have not gone "dry" there could be found a watermelon loaded with a two-ounce vial of Jamaica ginger, then the eternal fitness of things would have a complete manifestation.

Theodore Gerrish, president of the Pennsylvania Midland Railroad company, has recently returned from England with good news for those who are anxious to see the new road completed. London capitalists are interested in the project. Their first installment of $50,000 will be ready for payment August 15. The line will be extended to the Alleghany mountains.

The Ebensburg *Mountaineer* states that it is reported that construction on the Conemaugh and Western railroad, which will be a continuation of the Beech Creek road from Belsano Mills, Clearfield county, to Pittsburg, running through Patton, Ebensburg and Johnstown, will be commenced at once, the contract for that part between the starting point and Patton having been let the other day in Philadelphia.

Mrs. William F. Whipkey, of Normanville, Fayette county, near the Somerset county line, gave birth to triplets Friday evening. Two of the little ones are girls and the other a boy. One girl weighed three pounds and the other two were half a pound heavier. The latest reports state that the mother and three infants are all doing well, though one of the girls is very weak. The mother weighs 140 pounds, while the father of the trio tips the beam at 135. The triplets are their first children.

Amos Goughenour, who was recently admitted to the county almshouse from Johnstown, and who had his feet amputated after having them frozen in Somerset county last winter created considerable excitement a few days ago by jumping around on the floor and barking like a dog and attempting to bite the other inmates, says the Ebensburg *Herald*. It is said that Goughenour was bitten by a dog last fall, and it is believed he has hydrophobia. He attempts to bite any one who goes near his cell and barks like a dog.

Type-writing now has a legal status in Pennsylvania, the last legislature having enacted a law declaring that all type-writing heretofore executed or done for any purpose whatever, shall have the same legal force and effect as ordinary writing, and the word "writing" occurring in our laws shall be held to include type-writing. For instance, our statutes provide that all wills shall be in writing. The question as to whether a type-written will is a statutory will, and all other possible controversies of this nature, are avoided by this legislation.

Secretary of Agriculture Edge will issue a bulletin this Fall devoted entirely to commercial fertilizers, their use, compositions, value and practical results. Circulars have been sent out by the agricultural department to many of the leading and most practical farmers in the state asking them to furnish the result of their experience with fertilizers upon crops produced on their farms. The bulletin will be used for reference and as it will not be for advertising purposes no special brand or make of fertilizers will be mentioned. Each one who contributes to the bulletin will receive a copy gratuitously. Secretary Edge is also preparing a bulletin showing the average price of farm products in the several legislative districts of the state.

Major Levi Wells, dairy and food commissioner, has issued a circular letter to all manufacturers and dealers in articles of food in the state directing their attention to the act of March 13, 1895, creating the department of agriculture, which makes it the duty of the dairy and food commissioner to enforce all laws relating to the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine and imitation dairy products and adulterated articles of food. The acts relating to the adulteration of food products vinegar and apple products being of but recent enactment, it is thought by Major Wells but fair and just that some time should elapse before action is taken under their provisions. He gives notice, therefore, that after October 1, next, samples to be used as a basis for prosecution may be with drawn.

The suicide at Autrim, Tioga County, Pa., several days ago, of John Renstrom reveals a strange story. He killed himself because he discovered that his father was a murderer. Two months ago the elder Renstrom died. Before his death he wrote a letter and sealed it in an envelope with instructions that it be opened at his death. The letter was a confession of murder. While on the way to New York two years before, Renstrom said he enticed August Peterson into a forest and there killed him with a club. He took the $300 Peterson had in his pocket and buried his body in a thicket. The father's confession so preyed upon young Renstrom's mind that he hanged himself in a garret with a clothes-line.

More than 20 years ago Lewis D. Putnam, a prosperous hotel keeper in Cloversville, N. Y., had an apparently insatiable appetite for drink and dissipation and was rapidly wasting his property. Relatives took him in hand and Putnam gave his property in trust to one of them for a period of 20 years, with the understanding that the necessary amount be applied to repairs and the balance to be put into accumulation; the property to be restored to Putnam at the end of the period, if he reformed. Putnam took his family to Kalamazoo and began life over again humbly. He became a trusted hard worker and has reared his family with credit. During all these years Putnam kept his secret. Monday he received notice that the 20 years were up and that the property turned over to him is worth more than $25,000. Mr. Putnam will go to Cloversville to claim possession, but will continue to live in Kalamazoo. He is 45 years of age.

Readers of the HERALD should not forget that J. N. Snyder, the druggist, can fit their eyes with glasses.

Berlin has gone base ball mad.

Mrs. A. J. Endsley is visiting at the home of her son Harry, in Johnstown.

Jacob P. Weimer has resigned the position of borough police officer.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Dibert, of Johnstown, are registered at the Hotel Vannear.

Mrs. Lizzie Pearson Kimball is spending a few days with Somerset friends and relatives.

Miss Duncan Williams, of Lynchburg, Va., is the guest of her school friend, Miss Edna Baer.

A picnic will be held in the grove adjoining the "Horner" Church in Jenner township, on Saturday, August 24th.

Miss Flossie Knepper gave a delightful party Monday evening in honor of her friend—Miss Dennison—of Washington, D. C.

Dr. and Mrs. Reidt, of New Baltimore, mourn the loss of their five-year-old daughter, who last week fell a victim to scarlet fever.

After spending ten days with Somerset friends, Miss Ida Borland returned to her home in Monongahela City, Monday morning.

The usual services will be held in the Presbyterian Church next Sabbath morning and evening, conducted by the pastor, Rev. T. J. Bristow.

The surveyor who lost his "Jacob's-staff" on the public road near the Academy building on Saturday last can recover the same by calling at this office and paying charges.

Prof. J. Stewart Schell, of Chicago, who was recently elected to the chair of Greek in the Disciple College at Bethany, W. Va., is visiting at the home of his father in this place.

A prominent Monday arrival at Farmer Tayman's cottage was Mr. James Verner Long, of Pittsburg, Consul at Florence, Italy, under the Harrison administration.

Mrs. Rosa Rhoads, of Somerset township, left last evening for Eckmanville, Ohio, where she will spend several weeks visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. M. Caston.

The many friends of genial "Mike" Kenny, who presided over the B. & O. office at Rockwood for the past ten years, will regret to learn that he has severed his connection with that company.

Mr. and Mrs. Schell Stutzman, of Washington, D. C., are guests at the home of the former's father—Prof. J. J. Stutzman. Mr. Stutzman is connected with the postal service at the National Capital.

Mr. Jonas F. Sipe, superintendent of the Sunday school at Mostoller's Station, requests us to recall the announcement that a picnic will be held by the Sunday school at that place on Saturday, August 10th.

Mrs. Catherine Kroft, aged seventy-nine years, died at her home in Berlin, on Sunday, July 28th, from dropsy of the heart. The deceased had been bedfast for seven months prior to her death.

Dr. J. M. Barnett, of the Markleton Sanatorium was in Somerset yesterday. He reports that institution in a flourishing condition. About seventy guests are being entertained there at this time.

The Sunday School of the Church of God will hold a reunion and basket picnic in the grove near the church, in Milford township, on Saturday, August 31. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Mr. E. E. Patton, City Passenger Agent of the B. & O. R. R., at Washington, D. C., spent Saturday and Sunday with his mother and sister in Somerset. Mr. Patton's wife is spending the summer at Mackinac Islands, one of the leading lake resorts.

Messrs. "Bob" Beerits, Hermanns Baer, George Harrison and C. F. Uhl, Jr., drove over the mountain to Bedford Saturday, where they will linger several days at the Sulpher Springs before returning home.

The Bedford County Telephone Company will extend its line from New Buena Vista, Bedford county, to New Baltimore, this county, the town council of the latter borough having recently granted the company permission to erect poles and wires in that place.

Rev. W. H. McBride, pastor of the Methodist Church, left Monday morning for a brief visit to relatives in the east. During his absence he will visit in New York, Brooklyn, and Newark, where he has relatives. He will also visit in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington on the return trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Abner McKinley, accompanied by their daughter Mabel, and Mr. Fred Cone, who is connected with the business department of the New York *Ledger*, left Monday noon for an overland trip to Bedford. The party will spend a week at the Springs before returning to Somerset.

Yesterday morning's storm wrought considerable damage in and about this place, such as tearing up fruit and shade trees by the roots, blowing off window shutters and breaking panes of glass. The down pour of rain during the hour the storm lasted was the heaviest ever witnessed in these parts.

Elsewhere in this paper the County Commissioners advertise for sealed proposals for the erection of a brick addition to the county jail. The bids will be opened on Monday, August 12th. The proposed new addition to the jail will furnish a badly needed kitchen and other apartments for that building.

Sergeant Ira P. Shoemaker, 18th Reg. N. G. P., of Pittsburg, who had been a guest at the home of Mrs. A. E. Sampsell for a few days left on Friday for Glencairn, Allegheny county, where his regiment is now in camp. Sergeant Shoemaker is a nephew of "Nellie Bly," the prominent newspaper correspondent.

Mr. Charles Saylor, son of the late "Aleck" Saylor, of Somerset township, one of the youngest conductors in the service of the Pennsylvania railroad company, after spending two or three days with his friends in this place, left last week for Atlantic City, where he will rest for ten days or two weeks. He was accompanied to the seashore by his mother.

The Stockholders of the Hazen Tanning Company, of Allegany county, Md., held their annual meeting Friday at Hazen, when a board of directors was elected to manage the affairs of the company for the ensuing year. M. H. Hartzell, of Rockwood, was elected president of the company at a subsequent meeting of the board of directors. The company is reported to be in a flourishing condition.

Jacob Sterner, one of the best known residents of the south of the county, died at his home in Confluence, on Friday, July 23, from paralysis, aged 75 years. The deceased had been in delicate health for about a year, but his friends were not apprehensive of a fatal termination of his disease until a short time prior to his death. He was the father of Mr. Scott Sterner, the Confluence hotelman.

William Speicher, a prominent citizen of Stonycreek township, died on Sunday last from consumption, aged 41 years. The deceased was an unusually vigorous man up until last winter. On one of the coldest days in January he hauled a load of lumber from Shanksville to Somerset and as a result of exposure contracted pneumonia which speedily developed the disease from which he died. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Fire Crackers Failed to Arouse the Man with a "Jag."

The small boys that congregate around Cook & Beerits grocery had "a pile of fun" yesterday morning with a citizen from one of the southern townships, who was trying to sleep off a "jag" in the stairway leading to the second floor of that building. A number of giant fire crackers were exploded in close proximity to the "snoozer's" head, but the reports failed to disturb him in the slightest degree. The arrival of a police officer had a better effect, since his presence resulted in the arrest of the man with the "jag" and put an end to the boys' sport.

No Bicycle Race Friday.

The bicycle race scheduled to take place on the Somerset track Friday afternoon between Young, of Meyersdale, and Johnson, of Berlin, did not materialize, the last named gentleman failing to appear. It is reported that Young will claim the bet—$50. Johnson's friends say that he was disappointed in regard to his wheel, which had been returned to the shops for repairs, otherwise the race would have come off according to agreement. It is not likely that he will forfeit the money without a contest.

Afraid to Come "Out in the Open."

From the remarks heard on the streets during the past few days it is manifest that some members of the borough school board had more paper out than they were willing to lift when it came to the election of teachers for the ensuing term. At least two persons claim that they had four votes—or enough to elect—pledged, but when the vote was counted that number failed to materialize. Four of the six directors voted by ballot while the remaining two voted *viva voce*, at the election. The disappointed ones should not have much difficulty in placing the blame where it properly belongs.

First Case Under the New Law.

The first case under the new act of assembly, which permits burgesses to commit persons charged with disturbing the public peace to the county jail for a period not exceeding thirty days, was heard by Burgess Wellfley, Monday afternoon, when three well-known young men about town were called upon to answer a charge of disorderly conduct. After listening to the evidence Burgess Wellfley sentenced two of the prisoners to twenty days and one to fifteen days in the county jail. A few more sentences of this character will tend to break up rowdyism on the streets.

Charged With False Pretense.

Charles Elvin, of Holsopple, was arrested Friday afternoon in Johnstown on a charge of false pretense. The information against him was made before Esquire Swank, of Davidsville, by J. M. Sutter, of the firm of Brown, Sutter & Co., the shingle makers at Quemahoning. Elvin was employed by the above mentioned firm to load bark from wagons into box cars at Holsopple, and the prosecution alleges that he collected about $160 last month from parties the bark was shipped to. He was taken to Davidsville, where he was given a hearing before Squire Swank, when in default of bail he was committed to the county jail to await the action of the court.

Will Work for the Collegiate Institute.

All citizens interested in securing the Lutheran Collegiate Institute for this place, are requested to meet at the Lutheran Church at 6:30 o'clock this, Wednesday, evening. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance and that measures will be adopted to raise the necessary funds—$10,000—which is required in order to have Somerset selected by the committee having the erection of the college in charge as a suitable site. The establishment of an educational institution of this character in our midst means much for the future welfare of Somerset, and those who contribute to the cause will not have to wait long until they have been repaid many times for the outlay required at this time.

Daniel Trent's Artistic Handiwork.

In these days of machine worked building materials it is somewhat of a rarity to see an elaborate piece of wood work entirely the result of hand labor. Persons who desire to view a handsome veranda, the work of a single pair of hands, can not do better than inspect the one recently erected by our fellow townsman, Daniel Trent, in front of his Main street residence. Mr. Trent is now well advanced in years, but learned the carpenter trade at an early day when it was expected of the mechanic that he could perform all kinds of handiwork, such as carving, scroll work, turning and fashioning artistic designs for the embellishment of buildings, and the piece of work referred to goes to show that his hand has not lost its cunning, although his eyes are fast becoming dim with age.

The Department Doesn't Know Him.

Frank Stutzman, of Somerset and Johnstown, went to Pittsburg Friday from Somerset, to be examined under civil service rules as a candidate for a job in the internal revenue department. Under the law Mr. Stutzman is not supposed to know anything about how the business of this department is conducted, though after an intelligently rendered service of 30 years he practically knows it all. But the department doesn't know him, and as he wants to get back into the service he had to go before the examiner and prove that he knew how to spell cat and Kamschatka and could give the bounds of Terra del Fuego a good bit better than the examiners. Then his name goes on the list and he takes his turn to get into a service that he is fully conversant with, if anybody.—*Johnstown Democrat*.

Stole 345 Hills of Potatoes.

On Saturday John W. Ringler, of Elk Lick township, had nineteen half-grown boys arrested for stealing his potatoes. It is alleged that they stole the tubers from 345 hills, or about a quarter of an acre. Mr. Ringler's potato patch lies convenient to a swimming hole in the Casselman river that has always been liberally patronized by the boys of that region. After indulging in an invigorating bath the lads would dig up a peck or two of Mr. Ringler's potatoes and roast them for lunch. A corn field adjoins the potato patch and a few days ago Mr. Ringler overheard the boys planning a raid on it, to be made as soon as the ears were large enough to roast, and he concluded to have them arrested before that time arrived. The lads were given a hearing before Esquire Lowry Monday, the result of which we have not learned

A Novice in That Line.

E. E. Pugh, treasurer of Somerset county, has been in Pittsburg for the past two days on business, says Saturday's *Times*. He refused to divulge his mission until last evening, when he appeared at the Central hotel with a baby about 2 years old, handling it in a way which betrayed him a novice in that line. By way of explanation, he said that he and his wife wished to adopt a child, and he had been directed to a foundling asylum near Washington, Pa. He visited the place yesterday, selected the most promising specimen and assumed responsibility at once by purchasing it an entire new outfit. Things were running smoothly until Mr. Pugh arrived at the Central hotel, and here the baby began to cry. He made a canvass of all the servants in an attempt to find one willing to take care of the baby over night, but none wanted the job. Things began to get serious, and it looked as if he would have to sit up and watch his charge, when, after some skirmishing, the hotel clerks found a nurse. Pugh heaved a sigh of relief as he transferred the youngster, and said he would not feel well or safe until he got it home safely.

Wanted!

A practical farmer to take charge of a large farm or farm it on shares. Address 211, Bissell Block, Pittsburg, Pa.

Improvements at the Court House and Jail.

At the invitation of the County Commissioners a number of business and professional men met with them in the court room Monday morning, when the plans and specifications for heating the court house and county jail by either hot water or steam were submitted for their inspection. There appears to be a great diversity of opinion as to the respective merits of the two systems of heating, and the commissioners were anxious to secure an expression from those who have had experience with both. The consensus of opinion was in favor of hot water heat, but we understand that the commissioners have solicited proposals for both systems and will decide upon which they will accept after all of the propositions have been received and scrutinized. With the introduction of artificial heat the county buildings with their valuable records will be fire proof, both buildings having already been provided with electric light.

The Commissioners also have under consideration the advisability of providing the court house with a number of water closets and it is probable that they will utilize the vault connected with the County Superintendent's office for this purpose, since it is the only available space on the first floor of the building. As is well known to all citizens of the county who have business to transact at at the court house the present closet is a menace to the public health and must be abandoned.

When all of the contemplated improvements have been made the county buildings will be models of comfort and convenience.

Death of Mrs. John D. Roddy.

Agnes M. Roddy, wife of the late John D. Roddy, formerly a leading member of the local bar, died at her residence in Allegheny City, on Saturday last, after a long illness. Mrs. Roddy was the second daughter of Isaac Ankeny, deceased, and was in the seventieth year of her age. In her youth she confessed her faith in Christ and united with the Disciple Church in this place. She lived a life worthy of her profession and died in the hope of a blessed immortality. She is survived by two brothers, J. J. and A. T. Ankeny, of Minneapolis, Minn., and by four sisters, Mrs. Rose B. Schell, Miss Valeria V., of Somerset, Mrs. Minerva J. Brown, of Wheeling, W. Va., and Mrs. Martha A. Matthews, of Kansas City, Mo. She leaves four sons, viz: Ankeny, Russell, Joseph, William P., and Edwin, and three daughters, Ellen, Mrs. Etta Nellis and Mrs. Agnes Robb, all of Allegheny, excepting Ankeny, a shoe merchant in Philadelphia. J. J. S.

An Important Act.

Among the most important acts passed by the recent legislature, none is of more vital interest to the people of the Commonwealth than the following, relating to the duties of school directors:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, etc., That the boards of school directors and controllers of each school district of this Commonwealth, be and they are hereby required at least once during each full school term and prior to the first of January of each year, and within thirty days after the close of each annual school term, to have taken out, removed and hauled away all excrement and waste matter from every outhouse or water closet connected with or standing upon the premises of every public school house in the Commonwealth, or have the same properly disinfected and they are required to have every out-house or water closet properly scrubbed, washed out and cleaned, the inside walls white washed, and the vaults or receptacles covered with a layer of fresh dirt or slacked lime within ten days of the opening of each annual school term.

SEC. 2. That the president of each board of school directors or controllers is required each year to certify, in the regular form provided for that purpose, that the requirements of this Act have been fully carried out before the district can draw its annual appropriation from the State.

D. H. HASTINGS.
Approved June 24, 1895.

Teachers Elected.

PAINT TOWNSHIP.

The members of the School Board of Paint Township, Somerset County, met Friday afternoon at the Berkey schoolhouse and elected and fixed salaries for the following-named persons to instruct the young during the ensuing term, which will begin October 7th, for six months: Berkey—L. G. Shaffer, salary, $39; Border—W. A. Weaver, $30; Ashtola—Minnie E. Lehman, $27; Weaver—C. L. Spencer, $30; Cross Roads—Levi Hoffman, $25; Morningland—N. W. Hoffman, $25; Hoffman—G. H. Hammers, $30; Flat Rock—Guy Holsopple, $30; Custer—Francis O. Holsopple, $30; Clear Spring—Melda Saylor, $25.

The Board unanimously decided to erect another schoolhouse near Scalp Level, to be known as the Cross-Roads school. The contract was let Friday to Moses John, the cost of the building to be $444. Work on the new structure will begin at once, and be completed before the term opens. The name of the teacher for this building is mentioned above.

BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP.

The following is a list of the teachers elected in the Fairview school building Saturday last to teach in Brothersvalley township during the six months term, beginning September 9th, with the salary for each teacher:

Sugar Grove—Nora Critchfield, salary, $30; Walker—C. M. Hartge, $33; Hay's Mill—Joseph Miller; Pinehill—A. B. Cober, $35; Cross Roads—W. H. Cober, $30.25; Fairview—E. M. Knepper, $28.50; Factory—W. W. Blough, $29.75; Plank Road—B. F. Raymon, $30.25; Mill—Gretta Krissinger, $26.25; Sandy Hollow, S. S. Forney, $26.75; Sanner—Harry Muhlenberg, $29.50; Flickinger—P. U. Miller, $33; Pleasant Valley—Bessie B. Fischer, $28.75.

STONYCREEK TOWNSHIP.

The school board of Stonycreek township met on July 27th and employed teachers for a term of six months commencing Sept. 9th. The following are the names of the schools, with the names of the teachers assigned: Chestnut Ridge—D. W. Miller; Lambertsville—Milton Lambert; Mostoller—Miss Maud Lambert; Shanksville—No. 1, Prof. I. G. Carver; Shanksville—No. 2, Miss Ida Speicher; Dupstadt—Prof. S. M. Fox; Zerfoss—R. J. Brant; Scalp—H. M. Stull; David Schrock—H. Glessner; Downey—Geo. Smucker; Glessner—A. P. Kimmel; Nick Flam—Homer Knepper; Glade—Merl Schrock; Mt. Moses—Jesse Schrock.

SOMERSET BOROUGH.

At a meeting of the board of school directors of Somerset Borough, held last Tuesday evening, the following corps of instructors was elected to teach the ensuing term. The room assignements and salaries are also given:

Principal, E. E. Pritts, $70; V. R. Saylor, Assistant Principal, Room No. 1, $50.50; Ella K. Vogle, No. 2, $42; Emma J. Huston, No. 3, $35; Eve J. Bristow, No. 4, $35; H. S. Rhoads, No. 5, $42.50; Kate Snyder, No. 6, $35; Josie Shafer, No. 7, $35; Daisie Fleck, No. 8, $35; Mrs. Mary Connelly, No. 9, $37.50.

With the exceptions of Miss Bristow and Mr. Rhoads, the corps of teachers is the same as last year. There were twenty-seven applications for the ten positions.

Woy Bros. were awarded the contract for furnishing all the coal to be used in both school buildings during the term.

SHADE TOWNSHIP.

The following named teachers have been elected by the board of school directors of Shade township, Somerset county: McGregor, B. F. Lambert; Coffee Hill; C. Foster Cable; Ridge, O. W. Williamson; Specht, Maggie Wagner; Breastwork, B. F. Horner; Buckstown, D. W. Williamson; Statler, M. D. Reel; Potts, Harry Lambert; Sand Spring, Ira Lambert; Cherry Knob, D. W. Manges; Fairview, W. H. Yost; Center, George Buhan.

The schools will re-open Sept. 16 and continue for six months.

Wanted.

A good live agent in Somerset county to sell the latest thing in gate and door springs. Address, C. R. Soxman, Somerset or Latrobe, Pa.

NO FEAR OF THE LAW.

Laurel Hill "Moonshiners" Have Resumed Their Former Occupation.

The following graphic account of the activity of the illicit distilling business in this and Fayette counties is taken from the always veracious Connellsville *Courier*:

County Detective Frank Campbell has for more than a year past been in possession of evidence sufficient to convict a quartet of Springfield township moonshiners. Had the Secret Service officials seconded him, a raid that would have resulted in the capture of four stills could have been made. At the present time illicit distilling is going on within four miles of Normalville. Vital statistics and information have been divulged regarding the sturdy mountaineers' mysterious consumption of rye and oats, but still the moonshiners, like the night owl in the somber glare of the twinkling stars, hoot at every prying eye and defy detection of their secrets among the chestnuts and the pines of Laurel Ridge. There is a day of reckoning coming, however, and it would have been a thing of the past now had Uncle Sam's sleuths taken advantage of the information furnished them.

A little over a year ago County Detective Campbell began collecting evidence against the mountain whisky distillers. With the assistance of one or two persons who were well acquainted in the district and knew every foot of the moonshine territory he succeeded in locating four stills. Conclusive evidence of the existence and operation of these was in his possession last spring. Ex-Deputy Collector L. M. Herrington was informed and the two made their report to the Secret Service Department. Their co-operation was asked to make a raid on the moonshiners. They gave their promise but never carried it into effect. Repeated appeals to them since then have gone unheeded. The moonshiners in the mountain, though always suspicious of every intruder into their wild mountain premises have grown much bolder. The distribution of their "mountain dew" has been extended for many miles around and the "shiners" have grown to feel so secure from the law as to deliver their product to persons living within a mile of Connellsville.

Most of those now engaged in the illegal trade are old hands at the business. Messimer Kramer is one. He lives in a small plank house on the very top of the Laurel Hill mountains, about five miles beyond Springfield. It is a lonely place and well adapted to the secret business, for which the solitude is a fitting shield from the law. Old "Bill" Pritts, the fugitive murderer of Yony Hochstetler, at present has no still in his own home. He probably knows that if there is a raid made his house will be one of the first to be searched. Pritts has a more fertile farm, if the cleared patches on the mountain can be called farms, than any of his neighbors. None of them plant more wheat and corn and potatoes than is necessary for their home consumption, but all plant as large a piece of ground as possible in rye. Pritts does not sell railroad ties or pit posts, but makes a larger sewing of rye than his neighbors. His distilling is done at the Kramer still. "Bill" Kramer, a brother to Messimer, gathers the rye from the different growers interested in the moonshining and hauls it to Jones' Mills, above Davistown, not far from Indian Head. There the grain is ground and then hauled back to the distillery, which is a very crude affair. A furnace is built and a good sized copper kettle placed on it. The kettle has a double lid, both fitting tightly and the top one having a high inverted funnel. At the narrow end of this funnel is attached the worm, which carries the condensed vapor into a barrel. There it becomes the celebrated moonshine whisky.

The ingredients of the liquor are water and rye or oats. Rye is the favorite malting grain, but if that is not to be had the process does not stop if oats can be obtained. Sometimes laurel is put in the fiery beverage. This makes the liquor border close on to a poison, and of course it is only kept in reserve for a supposed enemy. It is a veritable mountain knock-out drop. A man who is well known here went to the Kramer still recently and asked for some of the famous whisky. He was not sufficiently acquainted with the wary moonshiners, and they denied having anything stronger than water about the house. He insisted upon having a drink, claiming to know all about the business and threatening to give them away if they did not satisfy his thirst. They gave him more than satisfaction. He was given a drink of the laurel-dosed whisky and in a short time was wild as a raving maniac. When he regained his senses he found that he had been led far away from the still, and also that he had been robbed.

Wilson Tinkey, a neighbor of Kramer's, operated a still up till a few months ago, when he either quit making the "dew" altogether or moved his still to some other place. At all events it is not made at his house, and it is thought that he has severed his connection with the entire list of moonshiners.

"Jim" Hart and son, Samuel and Scott Grimm had a still in operation almost constantly for several months this year. Their little log house located immediately across Indian creek below Indian Head had every advantage for good distilling. A spring of clear water runs through the cellar, giving them an exhaustless supply without labor or the fear of detection. Their furnace was built in the cellar also, and a connection was made to the chimney of the house for a smoke outlet.

The process of making the "moonshine" was not kept going every day, and hence a detective might spy from a fence corner for several days and see nothing more than a peaceful little mountain home. But if he persevered he would finally see a wagon load of the chopped grain arriving at the house. By-and-by a few mountaineers would come in from different directions and after awhile an unusual amount of smoke would curl up from the little chimney and roll off into the trees. Several times the Hart house has been watched in this manner without their knowledge. It was also visited while the still was going by a peddler, who was given more than usual liberties about the place. He learned much, and then gave his information to County Detective Campbell.

The Harts evidently became frightened, for in the spring they moved their still about a mile away to the house of David Pletcher, where it is now.

The moonshiners the more easily preserve their secrets on account of their relationship. Besides "Bill" Pritts, who is at the head of the whole gang, there are in his neighborhood Jacob, George, and Stephen Pritts and several others, all of whom are related to Pritts and live near him at the head of Neal's run. The moonshiners have another method of keeping their secrets. Everyone who desires to enter into this illicit traffic, before taken into the confidence of the distillers, is obliged to take what is termed among the moonshiners, "The Black Oath." While being baptized in moonshine whisky the candidate swears to kill any of the faithless members who divulges a secret of the unlawful manufacture and barter, at the same time submitting himself to the liability to the same fate, should he ever prove treasonable. "The Black Oath" explains the fate of Yony Hochstettler, who was murdered about five years ago by "Bill Pritts" and Wm. Miller. The latter is now serving a term in the Penitentiary for his crime. Hochstettler had taken "The Black Oath." He broke it and paid the penalty with his life.

James Grimm, who lives on the William Bassenger property near Simon Porterfield, collects the whisky at the different stills and peddles it about among the customers. He delivers irregularly, often arriving with his jug for one of his customers a day earlier or a day later, and sometimes the liquor is delivered by one of the mountaineers, many of whom see nothing wrong in the traffic. Many also go direct to the stills and get the whisky themselves, the demand often being so great that the liquor is sold direct from the worm. Grimm has been in the habit of adopting a decoy while delivering. He loads on the wagon apples, potatoes and other things, placing the whisky underneath. His usual load is 15 gallons. The whisky is white in color. It is sold at 25 cents per pint or $2 per gallon. It is delivered now as far north as the mountain region beyond Mt. Pleasant and as far south as Connellsville township.

In summing up the moonshine business it is safe to say that trade is prosperous in Springfield township. The number of distillers is greater than for many years, and more moonshine is flowing from the little copper stills than ever before.

Besides the band of illicit distillers that infest the mountains along the Fayette-Somerset line there are several persons in the same neighborhood who are doing an extensive and profitable business in counterfeiting silver coins. Within the past two months at least fifty spurious dollars have been passed in and around Connellsville. The record of the leader of this gang of coinackers is on file at Washington. It is by no means an enviable one. The fellow is a skillful chemist, a clever designer and altogether a very smooth article at counterfeiting.

A Somerset Boy Nominated for Judge.

The Greensburg *Democrat* of last week says:

In the unanimous nomination of Paul H. Gaither, Esq., for additional law judge, the Democracy presents to the voters of Westmoreland one of the foremost members of the bar and one of the best equipped for that exalted position. Mr. Gaither is an attorney of large practice and an experience covering every important line of legal business. Not only is he thoroughly "learned in the law," but he is also a gentleman of scholarly attainments and broad culture. He is likewise a man of the most upright character, and, in this community, where he is best known, he is held in general esteem. The nomination was tendered to him without opposition and without solicitation on his part, in recognition of his splendid qualifications for the bench. Should he be elected, of which there are the most flattering prospects, we are confident that he will fully meet every reasonable public expectation."

Mr. Gaither is the youngest son of the late Samuel Gaither, of Somerset. The strongest argument that can be urged against him is that he is a Democrat.

"Yellow" Treatment.

'Mid scenes of confusion the Rockwood base ball team, with a following of about forty lovers of the national game, and the Ohio Pyle team, with some two hundred and fifty spectators from that place, to say nothing of the contingent from the surrounding country, met on the grounds of the latter on Friday afternoon. The game was somewhat delayed owing to the owner of the grounds threatening to sue the visiting team for trespass, which was only one among the many discourtesies shown the Rockwood players. After seven innings, and the home team without a score to their credit, the umpire came to their assistance and made them a donation of the runs they received during the remaining two innings. Nog since the days of Robin Hood has a man so cleverly stolen from his fellow man as did Umpire Rush during this game. With two men out in the ninth inning and three men on bases, J. M. Miller came to the bat and made a hard infield hit which was fumbled by the second baseman, McCrum, which gave Miller time to mix up with first baseman Rush, who dropped the ball. The umpire called him safe and two runs crossed the plate, which put Rockwood two runs in the lead. He afterwards reversed his decision and wished to call it a tie, but this was not permitted by Captain P. S. Will. A particularly fallacious report of the game was sent to the Pittsburg papers, reporting the result of the game as 10 to 10, and further claiming the game by authority of the umpire's decision by 9 to 0. Rockwood was treated "yellow" throughout the entire game. Umpire Rush has the ability to umpire a game in a very satisfactory manner when away from home, but when supported by the Ohio Pyle "rooters" his conscience becomes very elastic. Following is the score:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Rockwood—	0	0	1	0	5	1	0	1	3	—11
Ohio Pyle—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	—7—10

Her Features.

One of the prominent features of the Cinderella Range is the extra large and high oven, which insures perfect baking and roasting. Sold and guaranteed by JAS. B. HOLDERBAUM, Somerset, Pa.

West Virginia Farms.

Choice improved farms along the West Virginia Central and Pittsburg Railway, for sale cheap. Good home market for truck and farm products. Profitable investment for Pennsylvania farmers. For prices and further particulars address.

N. G. KEIM,
ELKINS, W. VA.

Punished a Wife-Beater.

Before Alderman Donohue, of Wilkesbarre, Stephen Dorsey, a colored man, was arraigned charged with brutally beating his wife and failing to support his four children. The alderman tried to induce Dorsey to turn over a new leaf and become reconciled to his family. The prisoner said he would rather go to jail than support his family. He also threatened to get even with his wife for having him arrested. This made the justice angry, and he invited Dorsey into his private office. After the door was closed behind them Donohue told Dorsey to take off his coat. The latter did so. Then the alderman said: "I'll show you if you won't support your wife and family. Are you ready?" Dorsey said: "Do you mean to fight me?" "I mean to punish you," said the justice. The alderman then waded into the prisoner. The latter was a powerful man, but he could not ward off Donohue's blows. Dorsey had to finally cry for mercy, and under solemn promise that he would not beat his wife again Donohue allowed him to depart.

River Dynamiting Bill.

For years the illegal practice of dynamiting the rivers and streams in the State by people who wanted to catch fish, but were too lazy to go for the finny tribe in a legitimate manner has been in vogue. The following bill, passed finally, makes the practice of dynamiting a stream or river in this State a flagrant violation of law. Here is the bill:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania in general assembly met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That no person shall at any time place in any of the waters of Pennsylvania, any torpedo, giant powder, nitro glycerine, dynamite, lime, electricity, or any other poisonous or explosive substance for the purpose of catching or taking fish.

SEC. 2. Any person or persons offending against any of the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof, shall be fined fifty dollars for each offense and undergo an imprisonment of not less than thirty days, or more than one year.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

Mail For Almshouse Inmates.

Judge Thomas, Assistant Attorney General for the Post Office Department, has just made a curious decision in a case which came to him from the Pittsburg Almshouse, involving the rights of the inmates of that institution to receive mail from their friends outside. Complaint was made by the inmates that mail addressed to them had been opened before delivery by officials of the institution.

Judge Thomas rules that carriers may deliver mail for the inmates of such institutions to the keepers or officers thereof, but that the latter may refuse to give the mail to those to whom it is addressed unless they will agree beforehand to inform the officers of the contents of the letters or packages. The Judge also holds that officers of these institutions have no right to open the mail of inmates, but may hold it indefinitely as a precaution in the absence of an agreement to disclose the contents.

Small Beginnings

Make great endings sometimes. Ailments that we are apt to consider trivial often grow, through neglect, into atrocious maladies, dangerous in themselves and productive of others. It is the disregard of the earlier indications of ill health which leads to the establishment of all sorts of maladies on a chronic basis. Moreover, there are certain disorders incident to the season, such as malaria and rheumatism, against which it is always desirable to fortify the system after exposure to the conditions which produce them. Cold, damp and miasma are surely counteracted by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. After you have incurred from these influences, a wineglassful or two of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters directly afterward should be swallowed. For malaria, dyspepsia, liver complaint, kidney and bladder trouble, nervousness and debility it is the most deservedly popular of remedies and preventives. A wineglassful before meals promotes appetite.

Housekeepers.

Be wise, and examine the Cinderella Range. It has more points that excel than any other range on the market, and is sold guaranteed to bake and roast. Sold by

JAS. B. HOLDERBAUM,
Somerset, Pa.

Notice to Builders and Contractors.

The Commissioners of Somerset county