The Forest Republican.

W. R. DUNN - - - - - EDITOR

TUESDAY MORNING, JAN. 10.

—We have received the Governor's Message, which is a rather good document, but two long for us to publish as it would exclude all other reading matter.

—We take the following from the Elk County *Gazette* which is good, square sound sense. It fits our case somewhatty, and therefore we give our readers the benefit of it: "$2.00 is a small amount; but there are a great many 'two dollars' on our books which would make a handsome sum if all was sent in. We do not intend this as a 'supplication;" but as a notice that we wish our subscribers to heed their indebtedness if they want a paper. If they do not want it, let them settle up what they owe, and they will be at perfect liberty to quit at once. We ask no one to continue a subscriber, against his will; neither will we permit any one to remain on our books, who does not think the paper worth paying for. When we arrive at that stage of proverty which demands that we shall publish a paper for nothing and live on its glory, we will duly announce the fact."

—Our friends have been urging us to run for Assemblyman next fall, and of course,as the district is Democratic, we would stand a beautiful chance of being elected. We perused the following from the Greenville *Argus*, and concluded we wouldn't be a candidate:

J. T. Chase, Esq., United States Revenue Collector at Titusville, is unable to give a satisfactory account of some $5,000 of the Government's treasurer, and for this reson is to be prosecuted as a defaulter. Suit will be brought against him at Erie, before the United States District Court now in session in that city. Mr. Chase was at one time Prothonotary of Crawford county. He was also at one time a member of the legislature from the same county. Previous to his going to Harrisburgh he was comparatively a decent man. Ever since then, however, he has been going to ruin. Some one has remarked—"See Naples and die." We say—See Harrisburgh and be eternally ruined No man except he has more than the ordinary ingredients of human nature in him can pass through that school of corruption without being ruined for ever. Mr. Chase is only one among a dozen that we know who went to Harrisburgh decent men, but returned dripping with corruption, and with their natures hardened against every honorable impulse of the human heart.

—A few weeks ago some gentleman in Meadville wrote a letter to the *Republican*, denouncing the defamers of Johnny Steele. The editor indorsed the sentiment and published the communication. The subject of the letter writes as follows to the *Republican*:

ROUSEVILLE, Jan. 2, 1871.

Meadville Republican:—

DEAR SIR:—Please permit me, through your interesting and valuable paper, to return my humble and heartfelt thanks to your correspondent, for his remarks in regard to me and my unfortunate career. He is the first and only man who ever attempted to state, in public print, anything but the lowest scoffs and slurs in regard to me. Any man of reason knows what evils beset me at the time the possession of the property became vested in me. Money was no object to any one, and I was set upon by vultures of all persuasions, and on all pretences. I was a minor and hardly knew what to do. I tried to have a guardian appointed, but, under the excitement at that time, the bail demanded was fabulous, and I failed. Every one I met had advice for me, and, in the end, wanted to, *or did* borrow money. I could get no peace at home for bores for projects of every description. I never handled any amount of money. Betwixt my agents on the farm, and a host of self-constituted agents, my share was small. Some of your townsmen assisted *faithfully* to rid me of money and property. I should have thought all would be satisfied, when they got all I possessed, but it appears that some miserable satraps of newspaper correspondents, either disappointed at not getting a share, or prompted by their evil nature, still try to keep up a cry of the fabulous amount I spent, and in such absurd ways. I have since, as before, tried to earn an honest living, which I know is more than many of my defamers do.

Should your correspondent be in this section, I shall be very happy to have him stop and see me, when I shall tell him such facts in regard to my "Rise and Fall" as may interest him and corroborate his remarks in regard to me, and great deal more. By giving this a place in your paper, you will receive the thanks of

Your Humble Servant,
JOHN W. STEELE.

Book Binding.

We are agent for as good a book bindery as there is anywhere. We are prepared to do all the binding which may be brought to us, at low rates, and satisfaction guaranteed. Samples can be seen at this office.

Court Proceedings.

MONDAY, Dec. 26, 1870.—Court met at 10 a. m.

Present Hon. Jas. Campbell, President Judge, and Hons. J. A. Proper and A. Cook, Associates.

Commission of A. Cook read.

Constables called and sworn.

Grand Jury sworn and charged.

W. W. Mason, Esq., District Attorney elect, sworn in open court.

Case of Neill & Wilson vs. Jane E. Gilbert et. al. Neill for pl'ffs, Guthrie for def'ts, verdict for pl'ffs for the land described in the writ to be released on the payment of $53,428.00.

Mowris vs. Slater et. al. Tate for pl'ff, R. Brown for def'ts. continued.

Strain for use Hilbronner vs. Crispin, two cases, Lathy for pl'ff, Mason and Jenks for def't. judgment confessed by defendent.

McFarland & Bro. vs. A. Bean. Irwin for pl'ffs, Lathy for deft., verdict for pl'ffs for $135.70.

Foster & Co. vs. Taylor & Whiting. Irwin for pl'ffs. judgment by default for pl'ffs.

Stearnes, Clark & Co. for use of—— vs. Taylor & Whiting. Irwin for pl'ffs. judgment by default for pl'ffs.

McQuaig vs. Miller. Irwin for pl'ff. judgement confessed for pl'ff., as per writing filed.

DECEMBER, 27, 1870.—Dale vs. Tionesta Boro. Reid, Pettis and Tate for pl'ff. Lathy for def't verdict for pl'ff for $220.00

Gill vs. James Green et. al. admr's. of Jos. Green dec'd. Mason for pl'ff. Irwin & R. Brown for def'ts., continued.

McQuaig vs. Brecht. Lathy & Irwin for pl'ff., Reid & Mechling for def't., verdict for pl'ff for $309.16.

McQuaig vs. Brecht. Irwin and Lathy for pl'ff, Reid and Mechling for def't., verdict for def't for $348.50.

Randall vs. Reousdolph et. al. Mechling for pl'ff. Mason for defendant, verdict for plaintiff for $93.08.

PRESENTMENTS OF GRAND JURY.

Commonwealth vs. John Fagundus, indictment larceny, not a true bill.

Commonwealth vs. Lewis Nellis indictment assault, a true bill. Def't pleads not guilty. Case settled by the parties. Def't pays all costs, and enters into recognisance to keep the peace for one year.

DECEMBER, 28, 1870.—Glenn vs. Hickory Farm Oil Co. Lathy for pl'ff, Tate for def't. Continued.

Whitman vs. Seigworth et al. ejectment. Mason for plaintiff, Corbett for defendant. Plaintiff takes nonsuit.

Pittsburgh & Stewarts' Run Oil Co. vs. John Herbert et. al. ejectment. Blakely and Mechling for plaintiff, Brown and Tate for defendant. Plaintiff takes a nonsuit.

Wm. Gray vs. Barnett Township School District. Lathy and Lathy for plaintiff, Reid and Jenks for defendant. Verdict for plaintiff for $236.47.

DECEMBER, 29, 1870.—Waling vs. Boolmer. Lathy for plaintiff, Mason for defendant. Judgment confessed by defendant for $120 and costs.

Sheriff's and Treasurer's deeds acknowledged.

Argument list taken up, and disposed of.

After disposing of various matters of business, Court adjourned without day.

—We clip the folling items from the Oil City Daily *Register*:

The Venango City Skating Rink is well patronized.

Wm. B Reynolds broke his arm by falling upon the ice, on Monday last.

The Canning well, on Sanday, is now reported as producing 40 bbls. per day. A material increase.

Vandergrift & Forman have made all the arrangements for laying an oil pipe to the Sandy oil field.

The tools are fast in the McLaren well, on Sandy. Hope to get them out in a few days.

The big well at Reno has ceased to produce, and will be drilled deeper. It was only three feet in the third sand.

Active preparations for the erection of a large number of buildings in this locality as soon as the Spring opens, is being made.

Jacob Shirk, Esq., is the fortunate owner of a new 250 barrel well near Fagundus City. He still on speaking terms with his less fortunate neighbors.

Rev. J. G Coady, of St Joseph Church in this place, was the recepient of a purse containing $100, from the members of his congregation, on Saturday, Dec. 24th.

The employees of our fellow citizen, L. D. Kellog, Esq., recently presented him with a very fine gold headed cane. A compliment worthily bestowed.

A little child of James Wilcox, of Venango City, was badly burned by removing the chimney from from a lamp in the room, where the child had been left alone, on Tuesday last, and has since died.

—We are under obligations to Hon. Jacob M. Campbell, for his Annual Report as Surveyor General of Pa. for 1870.

The Fire and Falling of the Suspension Bridge—A Loss of Life and Several Wounded.

On the morning of December 30th, about 11 o'clock, a fire broke out in the building known as the Mashall House, at the steamboat landing, on the lower side of the suspension bridge across the Allegheny river. The house, in the days of steamboating, was used as a hotel, but at the time of the fire was occupied by Mr. S. H. Marshall as a dwelling. The fire was first discovered by Mrs. Marshall, who was in the sitting room on the second floor, with two children. Mrs. Marshall saw a light volume of smoke ascending from the floor, and supected fire in the building, proceeded to investigate the matter by tearing off the tin covering of an old stovepipe hole in the floor. Upon removing the tin a flame of fire darted up from below, the vent fanning the fire and hastening the destruction that followed.—In a moment Mrs. Marshall had seized her babe,taken the hand of the other child, and conducted them to a neighboring house a few rods off, giving the alarm as she fled. Returning to the burning structure instantly she found the flames had made such rapid headway as to preclude an entrance. Almost instantaneously after the first alarm was given the whole building was enveloped in flames and the fire had communicated with the toll house of the bridge company on the opposite side of the street. Immediately upon a knowlege of their danger the occupants of the toll-house, Mrs. Mary McIntyre, her two daughters Sarah and Mary, and her son George, a cripple, assisted by a few who came to the rescue upon the first sound of the alarm, proceeded to save the household goods by carrying them to the bridge for safety. In less time than it takes to read the foregoing both buildings were afire from top to bottom,throwing an intense heat around the suspension wires of the bridge, which were anchored a few feet from the houses, and passed directly over or near the buildings in their course from anchorage to the towers of the bridge, and those assisting in saving the furniture—about fifteen in number—were cut off by the intense heat from all retreat save by the bridge or running down the steps of the abutment and leaping to the ground. So sudden was the breaking out of the fire that a few neighbors were all that witnessed the destruction of the dwellings. While the flames were raging and the men and women, unconscious of all danger, were carrying out the furniture of the toll house, one of the suspension wires on the lower side of the bridged snapped from the effect of the heat. The structure tottered perceptibly, an alarming shout was heard from the spectators on the shore, and all was confusion and consternation. The unfortunate ones on the bridge,now first becoming aware of their awful danger, ran further out on the bridge, of sought safety by flight toward the shore and down the abutment at the risk of a roast or the danger of a leap to the ground, a distance of 8 or 10 feet. As near as we can learn about eight persons escaped death or maining by the leap. Another wire snapped, and the bridge gave warning to its occupants of its fate by another and more forcible wrench. Another and another wire snapped; the whole support of lower side was gone. The first span sank to an angle of about 45 degrees, precipitating some of the persons on that part of the bridge on the ice below, and in another moment it was hanging like a pendulum. The remaining support broke, and it fell with a crash, burying its victims in the ruins. The other span followed, but fell easier, the strain of the timbers and wires of the first span on the remainder breaking the fall. Immediately upon the fall of the structure the people on the shore ran out on the ice or took skiffs and rescued the sufferers from the wreck.

On the first span were Mrs. McIntyre, Mr. Wm. F. Neal, Miss Sarah McIntyre, and Mr. Wilford Kilgore, all of whom went down with the wreck. Mr Neal and Mrs. McIntyre were terribly bruised and cut by the falling timbers. Mr Neal lived about an hour. He was 46 years old and leaves a wife and enild. Mrs. McIntyre lived until Monday morning. She was a widow and aged 65 years. Sarah McIntyre was severely injured, but at the present writing is still alive, and strong hopes of her recovery are entertained. These three were taken out of the wreck in a few moments after, but young Kilgore could not be found until Monday afternoon, when he was discovered tightly wedged between the ruins of the bridge and the ice. He was twenty-three years old, the son of a widowed mother, and time of the accident was employed in the freight office of the A. V. R. R. He must have been instantly killed.

On the second span, between the first and second piers, were John Henninger, Alex. McCartney, Warren Leonard, Geo. McIntyre, Mary McIntyre, Thos. Connors, John McCarty and Henry McCarty. These all escaped with a few bruises or a cold bath. Some of them were taken out on the ice and others in skiffs. All on this span were first precipitated into the water or on the ice and saved themselves by catching hold of the timbers of the bridge and clinging there until rescued by the by-standers.

On the other end of the bridge were James Flood, Mrs. Thomas Conners, Chas Johnson, a lad of about 13 years, Capt. J. R. Miles, and Chas. Baker. Flood went down with the wreck, sustaining some severe injuries. Young Johnson leaped into the water and swam ashore, where he was taken charge of and soon recovered from the freezing effects of his swim. Mrs. Connors, Capt. Miles and Chas. Baker all escaped by clinging to some of the timbers of the last span which did not go down with the wreck. They all got safely to shore without any injuries whatever.

The origin of the fire is not known to a certainty, but it is supposed a loose brick in the chimney, that ran from the first floor up, was the cause, and that the fire had been underway an hour or two between the ceiling of the first floor and the floor of the second story before it was discoved by Mrs. Mashall. It is certain that the fire caught between the ceiling and the floor.

The Marshall House was owned by Mr P. McGough, was valued at $4,000 and had $2,000 insurance on it at the time of the fire. Mr. McGough was also a stockholder in the bridge. Mr. S. H. Marshall, the occupant of the house, lost all his household furniture and all the clothing and effects of the family—not an article being saved from the building.

The toll-house belonged to the bridge company and was a small loss itself. The McIntyre family lost nearly all their household furniture, a sewing machine, we believe, being the most valuable article saved.

This is the second time the bridge across the river here has been destroyed. It was burned on the morning of the 13th of May, 1863, the fire being communicated to the bridge by a bulk boat full of bunrning oil that had floated down the river from the great oil fire at Oil City. The bridge is 720 feet long, and originally cost—in the days of cheap labor and material—about $45,000 After the destruction in 1863 the company built the suspension bridge,using the piers first built,—they being unjured by the fire of 1863,—at a cost of over $26,000.

The fire department was on the ground promptly, but, so rapid had been the destruction, it was of no use.

The number of casualties, the suddenness of the deaths and injuring of the victims,—for the bridge had come down with a crash and buried its victims almost before any of our citizens heard the alarm of fire—makes this calamity the most appalling that has ever visited our city. It cast a gloom over the town, and the sufferers have the heartfelt sympathies of the whole community.—*Venango Spectator.*

—We learn from the Sharon *Herald* that on Monday morning, Dec. 26th, Peter Bonacher, residing on Main St., in that place, met with an accident which caused his death in a few minutes. He, in company with some of his friends had been at the house of his son in the upper part of town, at a christening, and on his way home, on the morning of the 26th, when near the residence of R. McFarland, Esq., slipped and fell upon the point of a lead pencil, which entered his side, penetrating his heart and causing his death.

Also, on Saturday evening Dec. 31st, a man whose name we have been unable to learn, but who resided at Smith's bank, in walking across the Shenango, between Wheatland and Middlesex, slipped and fell through the ties striking the ice some fifteen feet below, and injuring him to such an extent that he died the following day.

MURDEROUS ATTACK.—On New Year's night, a notorious character Dick Brake attempted to force his way into a house of bad repute in Petroleum Centre, and failing his effort, he attacked Mattie Davis the proprietress, with some murderous weapon, producing a severe, of not a dangerous wound, on her face, and then fled. A warrant was issued for his arrest.—*Herald.*

MARRIED.

TAFT—KIFFER—On Jan. 1st, 1871, by Rev. J. A. Hunne, Mr. John G. Taft to Miss Elizabeth Kiffer, both of Hickory Tp., Forest Co., Pa.