

Forest Republican.

Industrial Supplement.

Tionesta, Forest County, Pa., Wednesday, Feb. 16, 1898.

TIONESTA, PA.,

Its Manufacturing and Mercantile Interests, Its Growth and Business Enterprise, Its Beautiful and Healthy Location and the Many Inducements it has to offer to Industries Seeking Advantageous Locations.

That the spirit of progress has commenced to dawn on Tionesta has now been apparent for some months, and it is to demonstrate this fact to the doubting ones—those who have been so long wont to stir the county seat of Forest for its old-fashioned slowness—and at the same time to point out to the people of the country at large the superior advantages which are now offered for industrial development, in certain lines, that this illustrated supplement to the Republican has been undertaken. Tionesta has never been backward; it has simply lidd its time. Half a century ago Forest county was but a wilderness and the energy of her people was and has been largely devoted to the wresting the wealth of timber from the forests and the gas and oil beneath. With this labor still incomplete, but proceeding with sturdy strides, the people are now finding time and opportunity to test the county's resources in other and more cultivated fields of industrial effort. Where natural gas is cheap and plentiful for fuel; where miles of virgin forests are still close at hand ready to furnish raw material for a multitude of varying industries; where the mountains are rich with shale for brick and sand for glass, there is certainly ample opportunity for well-directed enterprise. All these and more Forest county has to offer and the town of Tionesta is beyond question the natural center for such operations. When we add to these advantages, supplied by nature the bright promise which exists for increased railroad connections and the enterprising, though safe and conservative spirit now being manifested by the business circles of the town, as illustrated by the newly established Tionesta Manufacturing Co., who can doubt that Tionesta has a future before her?

Tionesta is situated at the mouth of the Allegheny creek, on the east bank of the Allegheny. From the river bank to the

switch-back. A regular line of railroad up the Tionesta valley would open up a rich territory to public travel, give more convenient outlet to the lumber interests and would furnish the Allegheny road a direct connection with the Pennsylvania system. At the same time, it would be of immense value to Tionesta.

Reference has already been made to shale deposits in this neighborhood. These deposits are of such a nature as to warrant more extended notice. Immediately across the river from the borough and back of the Overlander Flour mill, along Hunter run, and at another point on the mountains close by, are almost limitless deposits of shale suitable for making both red and buff brick. Mr. T. F. Ritchey, the prominent Forest county attorney and resident of Tionesta, has with others been at considerable pains to have these shale deposits thoroughly tested, and some effort has already been made looking in the direction of organizing a company. Quantities of the shale have been sent to Bradford, Johnsonburg and Chicago, and samples of brick manufactured therefrom may be seen in Mr. Ritchey's office. The results were marvelous, the shale being pronounced of the highest quality—much better, in fact, than that used by the Bradford company which enjoys such a high reputation.

The forests of this county produce pine, hemlock and hard woods, and many thousand acres are still uncut. Manufacturing industries that require raw materials of this character would certainly find it profitable to locate here, where gas fuel is cheap.

Tionesta's population is now estimated at over 1,000, and steadily increasing. A number of new residences have been erected, and there is not a vacant house in the town. The Tionesta Manufacturing Co., an extended

as the Tionesta Water Supply company, is offered as follows: G. W. Robinson, president; S. D. Irvin, secretary; A. H. Kelly, treasurer, and A. W. Richards, manager.

Tionesta Manufacturing Co.
DESIGNERS AND MAKERS OF HIGH GRADE WOOD MANTELS, INTERIOR WOOD WORK, ETC.—A FLOURISHING AND ENTERPRISING CONCERN THAT IS BRINGING TIONESTA'S NAME TO THE FORE—ORIGINALITY AND ARTISTIC MERIT IN DESIGNS AND SUPERIORITY OF WORKMANSHIP MAKE THE COMPANY'S PRODUCTS TAKE THE LEAD IN THE MARKETS OF THE UNITED STATES.

No other institution or business organization in Tionesta so well illustrates the spirit of enterprise and progress that is now being manifested by the people of this town. As shown the Tionesta Manufacturing Co. This company manufacturing high

orders began coming in for mantels from all parts of the country, so that the company's business opened on a paying basis from the very start. This gratifying state of affairs has continued ever since the company gradually increasing its force of workmen until now they number 40 with the prospect of further increase as fast as preparations can be made. Already an electric lighting plant has been put in to enable the company to do night work.

The main buildings of the works are two in number connected by a passage-way. One building is 50x100 feet in size, three stories high, and the other covers the same space of ground but is only two stories high. These buildings, a cut of which appears in this issue, there is a dry shed 20x80 feet and a dry kiln of three departments, each department 12x20 feet. There is a boiler house and oil houses. The power is furnished by a big gas engine, the supply for which is secured on exceedingly low terms from the Tionesta Gas Co. The material employed by the company in the manufacture of wood

greater portion of his life. His brother, the late H. Huntington May, was the head of the banking firm of May, Park & Co., which was the predecessor of the present Forest County National bank. Mr. Benjamin May still enjoys excellent health and possesses the esteem and veneration of all. He resides with his wife, Mrs. Sue Sharp, his wife having long since passed away and heaven having failed to bless their union with children.

Tionesta Gas Co.
The gas supply of Tionesta is furnished by the above-named company, who have an almost unlimited supply of natural gas territory, and who, it may be interesting for manufacturers looking for suitable sites for location to know, stand ready to supply gas for manufacturing purposes at extremely reasonable rates. The Tionesta Gas Company was organized in the year 1886, and nearly all the stockholders, including those of the Empire company, whose interests were merged with



PLANT OF THE TIONESTA MFG CO.

Manufacturers of Wood Mantels and Artistic Interior Wood Work.

grade wood mantels and interior wood work of like character, although only in corporate existence since last spring, and in actual operation since the first day of October, has already sprung to the front as the leader of the American market in this particular line of work, and there seems to be no ordinary limit to the possibilities of this industry for the future. With a factory built with special view to the requirements of the work in hand, and with a

mantels and all interior work is mostly Indiana quartered oak, Canada red birch, Spanish and San Domingo mahoganies, Primavera birds-eye, curly maples, Hungarian ash and imported curly birch, although any other choice woods will be employed to suit the taste of the purchaser. When the mantels leave the factory, they are entirely finished and ready to set up in place in the residence or office as desired. Only the most expert workmen are employed in the carving and turning, etc., and the finishing is in equally experienced hands. But, as already noted it is in the designing, new styles being constantly introduced by Mr. Swanson, that the company has its main superiority over competitors. A reduced cut of one of these late designs we publish herewith, although it is only fair to say that it will doubtless have been superseded by still later of Mr. Swanson's designs before this ink is fairly dry on this edition of the Republican.

those of the Tionesta, are residents of Tionesta and vicinity. The company controls over a thousand acres of proved gas territory, 500 acres of which are in what is known as the Slocumb tract, being the extreme northeast side of that prolific territory. The other 500 acres are in the Clarion sand, four miles from there, and both districts are within easy reach of Tionesta. The company, besides furnishing gas for Tionesta and the immediate surroundings, sells a considerable supply to the Standard interests. The officers of the company are: T. F. Ritchey, president; A. H. Kelly, secretary and treasurer, and A. W. Richards, general manager. Mr. Ritchey is one of Forest county's leading attorneys and men of affairs, and has always been active in promoting the material advancement of the town. Mr. Kelly is mentioned elsewhere in connection with the Forest County National bank, of which he is cashier. Mr. Richards, who has direct control of the business management of the company, has conducted its affairs in such a manner as to meet with the hearty approval of the company and the public generally.

In addition to wood mantels, which is the staple product, the company is prepared to furnish original designs and turn out all classes of work for interior fittings in hard woods for offices, banks, bars, etc. At present New York is consuming nearly all the company's product, the whole United States is fairly the field for the company's operations.

Carrriage Factory.
The substantial and well equipped plant of Messrs. Scowden & Clark, a cut of which appears herewith, is de-



T. D. COLLINS, President of Tionesta Mfg. Co. and one of Forest County's most extensive lumber operators.

gentleman at the head of the active management of the institution, who stands in the very front rank among the artistic mechanical designers of the country, the company seems to be in a position to maintain a lead over all similar concerns for some time to come. The company recognizes no rivals in the United States, and we might say in the world, in the speed and promptitude with which it introduces new, original and highly artistic designs for wood mantels to the trade. Mr. John H. Swanson, the expert designer and the manager of the manufacturing department of the company, has long been recognized by the trade throughout the United States as an enterprising and talented leader in this respect. Indeed, he is looked upon as the pioneer mantel-maker of the east, by reason of the new, progressive and artistic methods which he has introduced with such success into the business. A native of Sweden, he was brought up in the wood working and designing trade, his father having been a cabinet and piano maker. Coming to America in early life with his parents, he quickly became imbued with the more practical eye American ways, and this quality joined with the taste for art in wood working which he inherited from his father and which he did not fail to cultivate by means of proper training and practice in schools of design, resulted in producing an ideal artist-mechanic, peculiarly qualified for making headway in this rapid age. Mr. Swanson's first business venture for himself was in connection with the Jamestown



JOHN H. SWANSON, Manager of the Manufacturing Department and Designer of the Tionesta Mfg. Co.

follows: President, T. D. Collins, of Nebraska, Forest county, one of the most prominent, wealthy and enterprising lumbermen of this section; vice president, H. D. Voorhies, who came to Tionesta with Mr. Swanson from Jamestown; secretary and treasurer, J. C. Bowman, the cashier of the Citizen's National Bank of Tionesta, who is mentioned here at length elsewhere; manager of manufacturing department and designer, John H. Swanson, already referred to in this article. The directors besides the foregoing are O. W. Proper and T. J. Bowman of Hickory, a prominent business man of this section. The business management is in charge of Mr. R. N. Herman, the superintendent of the institution. Mr. Herman has long been identified with the material development of Tionesta, and is a director in the Citizen's National Bank.

Benjamin May.
In another column we print the portrait of Mr. Benjamin May, the oldest living inhabitant of Tionesta, and a man who has been more or less identified with the material development of this section. Mr. May was born in September, 1808, in Bangor, Me., and he is consequently in his 90th year. He is the son of the Rev. Benjamin May, a Presbyterian minister and a graduate of Yale, being also the son of a Yale graduate, came to this section in 1821, to carry the gospel into the wilderness. With him and the other members of the family came Benjamin. The young man soon entered into lumbering operations and followed this business during the



JOHN H. SWANSON.

veted to the manufacture of carriages, wagons and sleighs, the repair of various kinds of vehicles and the sale of their own product, as well as vehicles from other well-known and reliable manufacturers, farm implements and machinery and a well-selected line of hardware. The business has been built up from a small beginning, and now gives steady employment to four skilled workmen—a number which is sometimes increased to five during the busier times. The main building of carriage factory proper is equipped with blacksmith shop and the necessary tools and machinery for an industry of this kind. It was erected originally by Charles Reimig, who established the business about the year 1880. Twenty years ago Messrs. J. C. Scowden and Joseph Clark, both skilled carriage-builders, formed a partnership and bought the plant, and they have conducted it ever since with marked success. From time to time, as their business increased, they improved the plant in machinery and buildings, add-



RESIDENCE OF J. C. BOWMAN.

partnership with Mr. Clark. During his residence in Tionesta he has taken active interest in politics, having served in nearly all the borough offices, and having been eight years ago the chairman of the Republican county committee. Mr. Joseph Clark is a native of Forest county, and learned his trade in the shop in which he is now a partner. He has also served in the borough council. Both gentlemen are progressive in their sentiments and are disposed to add all worthy objects intended for the advancement of the town. They are both stockholders in the gas company and in the Forest County National bank.

Horner while maintaining general supervision over the house is ably assisted by his daughter, who has charge of the office, and who performs the duties of clerk in a charming manner. The hotel was built 25 years ago by George Sawyer, but it has been rebuilt, enlarged and improved at various times since, and kept pace with the times. The rates charged to transient are \$1.50 per day. In connection with the hotel is ample stable room. Mr. Horner, prior to six years ago, was engaged in lumbering, making his headquarters at Wilcox and Glen Hazel. In 1891 he entered the hotel business, conducting the East Branch Hotel at Glen Hazel until just prior to his removal to Tionesta. Mr. Horner is popular with the traveling public and he makes many warm friends in and around Tionesta.

L. J. Hopkins.
Probably the largest general store in Forest county, and certainly the largest in Tionesta, is that of Mr. L. J. Hopkins, located in the only brick building in the borough. Two floors, 26 by

F. E. Lanson.
Among the business men of Tionesta



SCOWDEN & CLARK'S HARDWARE.

16 feet in size, are used for the display and sale of goods, and a commodious cellar gives additional space for the storage of surplus stock. But large as this space is, it is filled to repletion with choice and seasonable goods of all descriptions. The large stock and the low prices that always prevail combine to make this a busy mart. The building was erected in 1871 by Holman & Hopkins, who founded the business. The present proprietor, Mr. L. J. Hopkins, purchased the business from Mr. F. E. Lanson, on Jan. 1 of last year, although he has been connected in one way or another with the establishment since it was first founded in 1851, and has participated during all that time in the building up of the trade to its present proportions. Mr. Hopkins came to Tionesta from his native town of Pleasantville in 1881, and he feels a natural pride in the growth and progress of the town, which the future counts to have in store.

who have done valuable work in building up the material interests of the town, for deserve more prominent mention than Mr. F. E. Lanson. Mr. Lanson is a native of Chautauque county, N. Y., and came to Tionesta from Pleasantville in 1851. In 1853 he became partner in the general mercantile firm of H. J. Hopkins & Co., successors to Holman & Hopkins, who had two years before established the business. This partnership continued until 1882, when Mr. Lanson became the sole proprietor. In January, 1887, he sold out to Mr. L. J. Hopkins, all that portion of the business devoted to the general trade, excepting the flour and feed departments, which Mr. Lanson will continue to conduct, having a large and widely extended trade. He owns the real estate on which both businesses are located, and is also a director and has been president of the Citizens National Bank. He has filled various

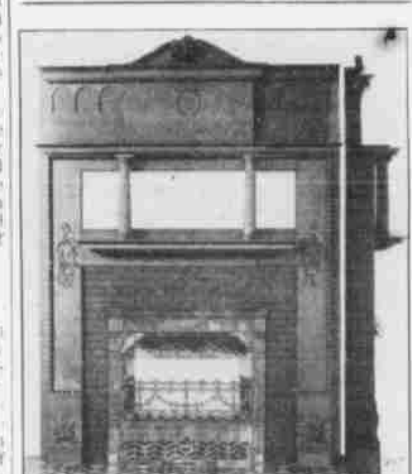


K. C. HEATH, Burgess of Tionesta and Senior Member of the firm of Heath & Kilmer, druggists.

mountains a pronounced, but not abrupt rise of ground extends to the base of the mountains. This furnishes natural drainage, while from the hills and mountains back of the town is secured a supply of the purest spring water to be found in the state of Pennsylvania. Further along we refer more at length to this feature of Tionesta's claims to superior advantages. Across the river, on the opposite bank, the W. N. Y. & P. railroad winds its way, the depot being reached by a handsome and substantial iron bridge, which is free to pedestrians and vehicles. At no distant day, it is safely expected, another railroad will be in operation connecting the town with competing lines. This second railroad, an extension of the Allegheny Valley road from Oil City, has long been a dream of the inhabitants of this section, but there is now good reason to believe that this dream is nearing its realization. The people and business men all along the proposed route are ripe for it, and ready to give it all proper encouragement and there are whispers of mysterious conferences of the owners that seem to indicate speedy action. Briefly stated, the extension of the Allegheny Valley railroad from Oil City would run up the east bank of the river, till it struck Tionesta Creek at Tionesta, a distance of 20 miles, when it would diverge into the valley of the creek, running in an easterly direction, till it struck the Philadelphia & Erie road at Sheffield, about 25 miles further on. The grades are easy, and for a consid-

notice of which follows, gives employment to upwards of 40 men. There are two excellent banks, three fine hotels, four churches, a large and handsome brick school where a high school course is taught, a commodious and well-built court house, here the courts of Forest county are held, and a modern jail, constructed after the most approved plans. The town is connected with two telephone systems, the Bell line and the Forest Telephone company, an independent institution whose lines extend to every point in the county and with independent companies in Clarion, Jefferson and Armstrong and Clearfield counties. For a list of the borough and county officials, the reader is referred to the third page of the main sheet of this issue.

The Water Supply.
No city or town in the country can boast of a better, more abundant and more unfailing water supply than Tionesta. The water is absolutely pure, clear and can be found in any moderately high mountain, and being collected in a reservoir of 4,000 barrels capacity high above the town, so that a pressure of



NEW AND CHEAP DESIGN OF WOOD MANTEL.

Manufactured by the Tionesta Mfg. Co. Mantel Co., which company he helped to organize. Later he became the senior member of the Jamestown Mantel Manufacturing Co., leaving Tionesta last year when he came to Tionesta with Henry D. Voorhies of Jamestown, to organize a mantel manufacturing company in this place. And this brings us down to the history of the Tionesta Manufacturing Co.

Messrs. Swanson and Voorhies found Tionesta with its cheap and abundant gas supply practically unutilized for industrial development. The capitalists of the town, being active and enterprising in spirit, but in no way stationary in their views, were looking for a good thing when they saw it, while at the same time they were not likely to be led away by unproven schemes. Negotiations having commenced and thorough investigations having been made, the merchants and other men of means of the town contracted to subscribe the sum of \$2,000 cash and a site for the buildings, the cash to be paid in instalments as the promoters carried out certain agreements in their part in the way of actual development of the plant. A stock company was then organized, buildings were erected on plans drawn by Mr. Swanson and under his personal supervision and when completed they were equipped with the very latest and most improved machinery for fine woodwork. On Oct. 1, last, as already noted, work was commenced, but even before this date, as soon as the trade learned that Mr. Swanson was with the new concern,



Stores of L. J. HOPKINS, General Merchandise, and F. E. LANSON, Flour and Feed.

vest living inhabitant of Tionesta, and a man who has been more or less identified with the material development of this section. Mr. May was born in September, 1808, in Bangor, Me., and he is consequently in his 90th year. He is the son of the Rev. Benjamin May, a Presbyterian minister and a graduate of Yale, being also the son of a Yale graduate, came to this section in 1821, to carry the gospel into the wilderness. With him and the other members of the family came Benjamin. The young man soon entered into lumbering operations and followed this business during the

ing in the south a frame store building which they use as a carriage repository, and for the sale and storage of the farm implements and machinery and the line of hardware which they carry. Their make of carriages were long and highly favored for the quality of workmanship and material, and the demand for them to steady over a wide extent of territory surrounding Tionesta. Mr. J. C. Scowden, the senior member of the firm, was born in Mendville, Pa. Fourteen years ago he moved to Tionesta, and two years later, as already noted, entered into



THE CENTRAL HOUSE.

The Central House, which is the first hotel the traveling consumers of the way over from the depot, being located across the street from the two banks, has been under the ownership and management of its present proprietor, Mr. H. W. Horner, since the first day of last May, at which time Mr. Horner purchased it from Charles Weaver who moved to Oil City to engage in the building business. Mr. Horner has made various marked improvements in the house and it is now one of the best appointed hotels in the city in any town in the state of similar size, in Tionesta. The large and well furnished office, the fine public parlor, the commodious and neatly appointed dining room and the beautifully fitted up bar together with ample rooms for traveling men, the kitchen and the laundry, are all located on the ground floor. The up stairs are 21 sleeping rooms, all large and airy and supplied with modern beds and bedding always kept immaculately neat. The sleeping rooms are heated and lighted with gas, and there are bath rooms with hot and cold water for the use of guests. An excellent table d'hôte and every effort is displayed by the management to look out in all possible ways for the comfort of guests. The bar is conducted in a careful, orderly manner and in all respects the hotel is a model hostelry. Mr.

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F. P. Ansel.
Mr. Ansel makes a specialty of fruits and vegetables and also handles tobacco, cigars, confectionery and an excellent line of general groceries and produce and his place of business is located on Elm street between Bridge and Walnut streets. The store is a commodious one and the stock carried is heavy and attractively arranged. Everything is fresh and reliable and the prices charged are as low as the lowest. By careful attention to the wants of his customers and by purchasing a wise form of policy of fair dealing with all Mr. Ansel has built up a thriving trade, which is by no means confined to the limits of Tionesta. He established the business three years ago in partnership with Mr. J. G. Hutter, but six months later he came to Tionesta and since then has conducted the business himself. He recently purchased the above building south of his present location, and in the spring of last year moved into his new quarters. Mr. Ansel was born in Oil City and was raised in this section. After spending some time at Bangor where he was raised, he came to Tionesta and entered in business for himself as a merchant. He is looked upon as an energetic and capable young business man, and is ever ready to aid in any way possible, in the up-building of the town.

burgh offices and takes an abiding interest in the welfare of the town.

erable standard along the creek valley standard gauge tracks are already laid and in operation in connection with the lumbering interests of Mr. T. D. Collins and his associates. This lumber road now runs from Nebraska, 7 miles up the creek, to Mayburg, a distance of about 15 miles, and it finds its present outlet or connection with the W. N. Y. & P. over the tracks of the Hickory Valley road, owned by Wheeler & Duaneburg, to West Hickory. The connection with the latter road is made by means of a spur extending up Ross Run three miles above Nebraska, running over the mountain top by means of a

60 pounds is given to the water as it flows to consumers. The supply is practically unlimited for all present or future demands, and it is so distributed in pipes through the town as to furnish as nearly perfect fire protection as can be found in any moderately high mountain in the country. Two volunteer hose companies are maintained by the borough, and fire plugs are located at all convenient points. The two hose companies, the North Ward and the South Ward, are popular institutions, and receive the hearty support of the business men of the borough.

The water company, which is known

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