

SNOW SHOE TIMES

Published on Wednesday of
Each Week at
MOSHANNON, PA.

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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
One Year, \$1 00, if paid in advance.... 75c
Six Months,..... 50c
Three Months,..... 25c
Single Copy,..... 10c

Advertising Rates on Application.

Correspondence solicited, subject
to the approval of the editor.

Entered as second class matter,
March 9, 1910, at the post office at
Moshannon, Pa., under the act of March
3, 1879.

Those who expected something particularly astonishing from Halley's comet on last Wednesday night, and staid up all hours to see the phenomenon, must surely have been "stung." However, it was well to be ready and have the lamps trimmed and burning for whatever might have taken place, and we think much better to be "stung" than to be "stunned."

Halley's comet travels at the rate of over 1,600 miles a minute. That is as far as from New York to Omaha in 60 seconds. Going some, eh? Almost as fast as the red heifer around the strawstack.—Keystone Gazette.

Will you attend the Decoration Day exercises on next Monday? A program is being arranged and a very pleasing time is expected. Do not fail to be at the cemeteries to take part in the exercises, and show your respect for the departed soldiers and friends.

While this day is, in a way, one of solemnity and sadness, yet it may be made a very pleasant one without losing any respect for the occasion. It is the day for the living to commemorate the deeds and patriotism of those who imperilled their lives for the preservation of our country and encourage the rising generation in patriotic valor. It is a day for the greeting of friends who you may not have seen since the last Decoration Day. Therefore come out to the cemeteries on that day and have a pleasant time among your friends and neighbors.

The Boston man who lately wrote a book to show what disreputable characters the Revolutionary fathers were has brought upon himself a variety of criticism. This he could stand, avers the Philadelphia Ledger, for much that he wrote was a rehash of old stories, and his opinions were not of great importance. But somebody has now discovered that whole paragraphs of his book were conveyed by scissors and paste, without acknowledgment, from a lecture delivered some years ago in a church in New Jersey and printed for a charity fund. It is the rector of the church that impales Mr. Stark with the deadly parallel.

While the meat supply and the most of living are under consideration we may as well take notice that according to the Department of Agriculture there were in the country of cattle other than milch cows on January 1, 1900, 27,710,054 head, but exactly one year later there were 45,500,213. We can believe a good deal of official information when none other is available, admits the Philadelphia Record, but we cannot credit an increase of 18,000,000 head in one year. We presume that the figures for 1900 are the estimate of the department, and the figures for 1901 are the result of the census enumeration. The farmers are as prone, we presume, to underestimate the amount of livestock as to overestimate a crop of cotton or wheat, and we doubt greatly if the number of cattle other than milch cows decreased 10,000,000 from 1892 to 1899. In the case of sheep there appears to have been an increase of 18,000,000 and of swine almost 20,000,000 in the calendar year 1900. We decline to believe that that was a year of phenomenal fertility in livestock, and incline rather to believe that the farmers had not been reporting all the cattle they had and which the census disclosed. But the figures show no such sudden jump in the number of milch cows.

PENNSYLVANIA

Interesting Items from All Sections of the Keystone State.

LOOKING OVER ROUTE

Figuring on New Section of Western Maryland Railroad.

Connellsville—In charge of L. T. Herndon, chief engineer of the Carter Construction Company, which has the contract for building the 87-mile connecting line between the Western Maryland and the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroads, a score of contractors are going over the proposed route from Connellsville to Ohio. The men are sub-contractors, figuring on the work to be sublet.

Rights of way are being secured in the vicinity of Ohio, confirming the report of the building of the line. It is understood the Western Maryland Railroad will construct a viaduct over the Baltimore & Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroads and West Penn trolley lines just south of the West Penn power house in Connellsville, landing on the bluff overlooking the Pennsylvania tracks.

HOLD SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Freeport Votes to Increase Bonded Indebtedness After Hot Contest.

Freeport—By a majority of nine at a special election held in Freeport, it was decided to increase the bonded indebtedness of the town to the extent of \$13,000. Of this amount, \$2,000 is to be spent for street improvements and the balance for the erection of a new borough building. It is probable that the legality of the election may be contested in the courts.

Ford City—For the second time in two years the voters of Rural Valley, near this place, at a special election, defeated the proposition to increase the indebtedness of the town by \$6,000 to erect a new school building.

Real Test of Bridge.

The freight department of the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie railroad gave the new bridge over the Ohio river at Beaver the real test. After the christening ceremony, when the crowds had departed, seventeen freight trains lined across the structure within five hours. These trains totaled 1,112 cars and carried 62,533 tons of freight, about ten miles of commodities all told. Until the old bridge is torn down, all southbound traffic will pass over it, while the northbound trains will cross over the new bridge. The new bridge has been in constant use since the opening and has stood all the tests well.

Reunited After 50 Years.

Butler—Through a chance remark of a Butler attorney, who met her son, Charles Hartley, in the Union station, Pittsburgh, recently, Mrs. Ellen Hartley, of Sistersville, W. Va., met her brother, former Sheriff H. D. Thompson, of Center township, whom she had not seen for 40 years and whom she supposed was dead. The reunion took place at the home of her brother near here. Mrs. Hartley left here 50 years ago and went to West Virginia. She lost trace of her brother and did not know he was alive.

Cooper Will Quit Congress.

Uniontown—Congressman Allen F. Cooper, who represents the Twenty-fourth district, comprising Fayette, Greene and Somerset counties, officially announced that he will not be a candidate for another term in Congress. While he was in Washington friends filed a petition at Harrisburg asking that his name be placed on the ticket.

Charged With Embezzlement.

Uniontown—Leslie A. Howard, an attorney, of Connellsville, is charged with embezzlement here, an information having been drawn and a warrant issued from the office of Justice of the Peace John Boyle. He is alleged to have taken \$140 belonging to Mrs. Mary J. Cooke, of Connellsville, for whom Howard had acted as attorney.

Increase Capital Stock.

Sharon—Stockholders of the Mahoning & Shenango Valley Railway and Light Company have authorized an increase in the capital stock from \$10,000,000 to \$11,000,000, the added stock to be preferred. The increase is to be used to take care of growing needs of the company. The directors have authorized the sale of 750,000 shares of the capital stock.

Miller Denies Kidnaping Story.

Beaver Falls—Chief of Police George Woods returned with Hugh Hare, the local boy alleged to have been kidnaped a month ago, and his alleged abductor, Charles Miller, from Zanesville, where the two were taken into custody. The boy, who was taken to Chief Woods' home, said he had been gagged and put into a wagon by Miller and taken away.

Labor Camp Quarantined.

Kittanning—United States immigrant inspectors from Philadelphia traced two of the immigrants who came to that port in a smallpox infested ship to this place and found them in a labor camp on the Pittsburgh & Shawmut Railroad. They found one of the men with a fully developed case of smallpox. They quarantined the entire camp of 200 men.

DEPUTY SHERIFFS HELD

Eighteen Must Answer for Yukon Striker's Death.

Greensburg—Justice Jacob Truxall held for court eighteen deputy sheriffs who figured in the riot at Yukon last Sunday night. They were held for the murder of the foreign striker who was shot. L. C. McWhorter, F. R. Fee and Arthur Thompson waived a hearing and gave bail for court. Samuel Pratt and C. L. Brody are fugitives from justice and are being traced by detectives. No evidence being produced against Harry Ben and M. Campbell, the two men were discharged. Fifteen were unable to furnish bail and were sent to jail for the August term of court.

FIRE FOR FIGHTING

Students Who Rioted at Ball Game Dismissed.

Indiana—Four students of the Indiana Normal school have been dismissed indefinitely and three others prohibited from attending the remainder of the base ball games here this season as the result of the attack upon E. C. McConahy during the ball game. Those dismissed were Mike Castenada, Newell Douglass, Eugene Hammit and William Caldwell. Louis Brown, Ray Little and Julius Duenas were directed to stay in their rooms during base ball games.

Tidewater Coal Co. Chartered.

Butler—A charter has been granted to the Tidewater Coal Company, which has 600 acres of coal land in this county. When the company has a tippie and mining machinery it will ship coal. The capital stock is \$50,000. The officers are William Leslie, president; Thomas Leslie, secretary and treasurer; J. H. Young, general manager; Edward Menges, field manager, and Thomas Minford, engineer.

Admits Trying to Wreck Train.

Huntington—Charles H. Burnshire, aged 18 years, of Wallacetown, is in jail in default of bail charged with trying to wreck a train on the Petersburg branch of the Pennsylvania railroad. Just before the west bound passenger train reached Waterstreet a piece of iron was found fastened to the track west of the station. Burnshire admitted the charge but would give no reason for wanting to wreck the train.

Guardian Named for Woman of 99.

Harrisburg—Jesse Shallcross, Burgess of Coatesville, was named as guardian of Miss Maria Bender of Harrisburg, who is 99 years old. Miss Bender has property worth several thousands of dollars, which she is unable to administer. Miss Bender is the oldest person for whom a guardian has ever been named in this county.

Veterans of '98' Organize.

Latrobe—A temporary organization of the ex-soldiers of the United States service, was effected at a meeting in the office of Major John A. Metzger, a veteran of the Spanish-American war. The organization will include veterans of the United States army, regulars and volunteers, and the navy and marines.

Cochran Acquitted of Murder.

Greensburg—John M. Cochran of Grapeville, charged with the murder of Charles C. Doran of Youngwood last February, was acquitted. Tesse Raimondo, an Italian merchant, who shot and killed Marino Herml near here April 4, also was acquitted of the charge of murder.

Found Dead Beneath Trestle.

Butler—The body of an unknown man was found underneath the trestle of the Pittsburgh, Harmony, Butler & New Castle railways line at Lyndora. The chest was crushed. The man is supposed to have fallen from the trestle itself, or from a car passing over the trestle.

Board of Trade Organized.

Clymer—At a meeting of the business men at this place the Clymer Board of Trade was organized with the following officers: President, W. E. Oakes; vice president, Dr. L. E. Ackerson; secretary, J. M. Switzer, and treasurer, J. C. Davidson.

Altoona Man Killed by Train.

Altoona—Falling asleep on a track of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad near Myersdale, Charles V. Stains, aged 24, of Llyweson, a suburb, was killed by a shifting engine. His mangled body was found by the tracks. He was a bricklayer.

Despondent Man Kills Himself.

Charleroi—Despondent from ill-health, August Kirchner, 31 years old, a decorator at the Macbeth-Evans glass plant here, ended his life by shooting himself through the right temple.

Franklin—Five hundred employees of the Eclipse Oil works, a Standard Oil concern, were notified of a 6 per cent increase in wages, effective May 1.

Grove City—John Perry, 18 years old, a mute, was killed by a Bessemer passenger train at Pardoe. He lived at Pardoe.

The Farm

Cows Spread Consumption.

To show that there is danger of contracting tuberculosis from using milk from tubercular cows, we cite the statement of Health Officer Woodward, of Washington, who says that about fifteen per cent. of the people who die in the District of Columbia from tuberculosis contract the disease as a result of drinking milk from dairies in and around Washington. It has been found that an unusually large number of cows around Washington have the disease. This is a serious situation, and if this is true around Washington it is true in other large cities. The only safe way is to give the cows the tuberculin test.—Farmers' Guide.

Cheap Horse Feeds.

The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station has published a bulletin on comparative horse feeding. It states that six horses at work received a regular ration of timothy hay and oats at an average expense of 29.6 cents per day, estimating the feed at current prices. The horses lost an average of eleven pounds each. Six horses were fed a cheaper ration consisting of shredded cornstalks, oat straw, hay, ear corn, oats, beet pulp, bran, oilcake and a few carrots, the average cost of which was 17.7 cents per day, and the horses gained on an average fourteen pounds each. Four horses were also fed the cheaper ration, but as they were at rest part of the time they were not fed as heavily as the other lots. The average cost of maintenance in this trial was 12.9 cents, and the average loss in live weight for each horse four pounds.

Horse Holidays.

The Federal Government is acting on the old saw that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and has adopted a rule for a holiday for horses employed in the public service. The first example of the new law was tested in the case of all horses used in the service at Washington. The horses employed in the Postal Department are to have a thirty days' vacation every year, the same as Government employees. The chief of the department believes holidays will add to the efficiency and durability of the horses in the Government service. Every summer all the horses employed in the Postal Department at the capital will be sent to the Government pastures of Maryland. A change to the rich, tonic grasses of the country and the opportunity to repose in the shade of the stately trees will not only be appreciated by the horses, but will greatly add to their efficiency.

Feeding and Training Colts.

Feed is high, but so are horses, and even the chronic grumblers have stopped saying that it does not pay to raise colts. There is no denying that it pays better to raise the heavy breeds than the trotting-bred colt. Nine out of ten of the former are prizes, where only now and then a trotter is developed. The trotter requires special training; the drafter needs only use to make him saleable at a good price. Somebody asks if it is true that at present prices for feed a colt will "eat his head off" in a few months? It all depends upon how he is fed.

A yearling may be kept well, which means kept growing, at not to exceed from \$2 to \$2.50 per month while in stable, and for much less when at pasture. A favorite ration is a pint of ground oats, the same of bran and half a gill of oil meal, twice a day, made into a thin gruel with water and spread on the hay feed. If hay is high, feed oat straw in its place if bright and clean. Do not give the colts any dusty food, and see to it that they do not become constipated. Linseed meal, roots, cornstalks and apples are useful to prevent this danger.

The main thing is to keep the youngster growing, and to see that he has no backset. Stunted colts, like stunted children, will carry the ill effects of early malnutrition as a handicap all through life.

Next to sensible feeding is intelligent handling of the colts. This should begin early and be carried on with patience and good sense. Kindness allied to firmness is the great essential in the training of a colt in the way you want him to go. A bawling, impatient, headstrong man can very soon turn a likely colt into a vicious and worthless imitation of himself.—Weekly Witness.

Determine Vitality of Seed Corn.

There is serious danger that this year's corn crop will be limited by a poor stand of plants.

Many growers will be compelled to buy seed. In such case do not risk purchases from a different latitude. If good seed of a productive variety cannot be bought near home, then make sure that the seed has been

grown in a section having a similar growing season, advises a writer in National Stockman and Farmer. Even if the corn is sold as tested seed buy early enough to enable you to make a test for yourself before planting.

The first thing to do is to test the corn that one is planning to use. It will pay to do this right. Make some boxes three inches deep and, say, eighteen inches square. Partly fill with sawdust or any other material that will hold moisture. Place on this a square of muslin that is marked in one inch squares and numbered. On each square place four kernels of corn taken from different parts of the ear, one square for each ear that is to be tested. Give the ear the same number as the square by writing the number on a slip of paper and tying it around the ear. Cover the corn in a box with a pad that will hold the moisture, and keep the box in a warm room. Select for planting only the ears whose kernels have shown strong germinating power. If one kernel in four fails to germinate, or if the germination is slow and weak, reject the ear. The task of testing is not nearly so great as these directions may indicate, and in this way one may know that all the seed is capable of making a strong growth of plants.

It pays every year, but this year it will be unusually profitable. Much corn will not grow at all, and very much will germinate only under most favorable conditions, and some cold, wet weather after planting will rot it. Make sure of the rejection of all seed that is not full of vitality, and this method of testing will enable anyone to do so.

STEEL TOYS.

Made Now in Large Variety in Place of Cast Iron or Tin.

Steel is used nowadays not only in the frames of tall buildings, in railroad tracks, in bridges and such large ways, but also in the manufacture of toys. Many toys that once were made of wood, of cast iron, or of tin are now made of steel.

Steel toys include, for example, toy carts and wagons stamped out of thin sheet steel. A toy steel dump cart, painted in bright colors and provided with a twisted wire handle, is made to retail for five cents. There are other toy dump carts and four-wheeled toy wagons of various sizes and sorts, including ice wagons, mail wagons, express wagons, milk wagons, all decorated in colors, and some without and some with horses and wagons and horses all of steel, these larger toys, ranging up to a retail price of twenty-five cents.

Among the steel toys are toy safes in various styles and sizes and made in very safe-like appearance, and there are steel toy money banks of various designs and toy steel furniture and horns and flutes. In fact steel toys are now made in large variety, not the least interesting thing among them being the steel toy drum, which is made not only with its shell and hoops of steel, but with heads also of steel, painted to imitate sheepskin. There is an all steel toy drum that is retailed for as little as ten cents.

"Palm Trees on Long Island."

I read once a prophecy by a well known scientist to the effect that "the child is now living who will see palm trees growing on the southern shores of Long Island." In other words, that the Gulf Stream is slowly changing its course so as to make New York as warm a place as Italy. I think there may be some truth in it, for "the good old-fashioned winter" seems to be a thing of the past. Yet I can remember the winter when ladies in New York carried parasols in January. Also the July when crops froze in the ground. Does any other reader's memory go back so far as that, I wonder?—Grandmamma, in the New York Evening World.

Popular Fiction.

"I Just Adore Grand Opera!"
"I Don't Care For the Nickel; It's the Principle of the Thing."

"Yes, Mabel; I'd Love You Just the Same If You Were as Poor as a Church Mouse."

"No, Sor, the Young Lady Isn't at Home."

"I Haven't the Money With Me Now, but I'll Pay You Next Week, Sure."

"He's Not Five Years Old Yet, Conductor."

"I Don't Want It For Myself, You Know; I'm Buying It For a Friend."

"I Detest Liquor, but the Doctor Advises Me to Use It."—Chicago Tribune.

The crude rate of mortality last year in the seventy-six largest English towns, having an estimated population of 16,500,000, did not exceed 14.7 a thousand.