THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1892

Entered at Postoffice at Butler as 2d class matter

W. C. NEGLEY, - - - - Publisher

Republican Ticket.

For Judge of Supreme Court,
JOHN DEAN, of Blair Co.

For Law Judge,
JOHN M. GREER,
(Subject to District Conference.)

For Congressmen at Large,
WILLIAM L. LILLY, of Carbon Co.
ALEXANDER MCDOWELL, of Mercer Co.

For Congress,
THOMAS W. PHILLIPS,

For State Senate,
WILLIAM B. MEREDITH,

For Assembly,
DAVID B. DOUTHETT,
JAMES B. MATES,

For District Attorney,
IRA MCJUNKIN,

For County Surveyor,
C. F. L. MCQUISTION,

Meeting of the County Committee.

The County Committee met in Cosmopolitan Hall, Monday at 1 A. M., with nearly all the districts represented. The roll was called, the returns collected, the substitutes given permission to vote and then Mr. Robinson introduced two resolutions as follows:

Resolved, That John M. Greer be and is hereby declared the nominee of the Republican party of Butler county for the office of Law Judge in the 17th Judicial District. That his candidacy be hereby respectfully urged on the Republicans of the district.

2d. That he be and is hereby authorized to appoint his own conferees.

These were unamiously adopted; the chairman and secretaries were authorized to tabulate the vote for publication and the Committee adjourned. The vote polled, is as follows:

Adams, north	25
" south	66
Allegheny	33
Brady	32
Bald Ridge	20
Butler	61
Buffalo	100
Clay	58
Centre	21
Cherry, north	23
" south	38
Clearfield	16
Clinton	53
Concord	51
Connoquenessing, north	29
" south	14
Cranberry	29
Donegal	58
Fairview, east	44
" west	26
Forward	49
Franklin	39
Jackson, east	14
" west	40
Jefferson	39
Lancaster	39
Marion	28
Mercer	14
Middlesex	49
Muddycreek	62
Oakland	34
Parker	53
Penn	66
Slippery Rock	75
Summit	7
Venango	25
Washington, north	32
" south	47
Winfield	46
Worth	46
Butler, 1st Ward	79
" 2d "	93
" 3d "	39
" 4th "	81
" 5th "	72
Centreville	61
Prospect	27
Saxonburg	59
Sunbury	34
Millerstown	66
Petrolia	
Fairview	31
Karns City	29
Harmony	31
Evans City	41
Bellevue	64
Harrisville	18
Total	2575

BLAINE'S RESIGNATION.

Secretary Blaine's sudden resignation of his office last Saturday, seems to have been a surprise to everybody. It created a sensation all over the land. The short correspondence between himself and President Harrison, was as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, June 4, 1892, 12:45 P.M.

To the President:

I respectfully beg leave to submit my resignation of the office of secretary of state of the United States, to which I was appointed by you on the 5th of March, 1889. The condition of public business in the department of state justifies me in requesting that my resignation may be accepted immediately. I have the honor to be

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant,
[Signed.] JAMES G. BLAINE.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, June 4, 1892.

To the Secretary of State:

Your letter of this date tendering your resignation of the office of secretary of state of the United States has been received. The terms in which you state your desires are such as to leave me no choice but to accede to your wishes at once.

Your resignation is therefore accepted.

Very respectfully yours,
(Signed.) BENJ. HARRISON.

(Received 5 minutes of 2 o'clock.)

The words, "Received at five minutes of 2 o'clock," are an indorsment made by Mr. Blaine on the copy furnished to the press.

Mr. Blaine gave the first hint of this move on Friday when talking to Rev. Father Cronin, editor of the *Catholic Union*, of Buffalo. This gentleman had a two hour's talk with Secretary Blaine and that evening in private conversation with some friends, he was asked what Secretary Blaine had said. He refused to repeat the conversation, but turned about in his chair and impressively asked the question:—"What would you think, and what do you think, the public opinion would be if Secretary Blaine resigned from the cabinet at this junction?" The query seemed a strange one, and Father Cronin, on being closely questioned, said he thought Secretary Blaine was contemplating such a step.

The story was repeated to a number of newspaper correspondents, who immediately wired it to their respective journals. Father Cronin was subsequently routed out of bed at Williard's hotel and asked for a verification of the story. Fearful that the news would create a sensation and that he might come in for some comment, if not criticism, the reverend gentleman vehemently denied he had repeated such a story, though he did not deny that Mr. Blaine had said what was attributed to him. The item was therefore suppressed in certain quarters, especially in the east and the and the Secretary's exit from the cabinet was duly theatrical and effective.

Speaker Crisp was the first person in the House of Representatives to learn the news. The slip containing the bulletin was handed to him as he sat in the speaker's chair. His hand trembled violently as he read the few significent words. Hastily delegating Representatives Johnstone, of South Carolina, to take his place, he hurried to Representative Dingley, of Maine, and told him the news. The word was passed around and in a minute the house was in the greatest confusion.

A witness to the incidents attending the event relates that Secretary Blaine worked diligently at his desk in the state department all morning attending to the routine work on hand. Shortly after one o'clock, a clerk brought to him some documents to sign. Mr. Blaine waved him away with an impatient gesture and said: "I sign no more papers. I am no longer Secretary of State." Another dramatic effect had been given and the clerk tottered from the room, and in a few minutes the three departments —State, Navy and War, all located in one building—rang with the news. Mr. Blaine then left the State Department and repaired to his house, two squares away. Before an hour had elapsed following the sending of his resignation he received the President's acceptance of the resignation.

To a reporter for a Press association Mr. Blaine, when asked for some explanation of his sudden and unexpected move, said with peculiar dryness: "I have nothing to say. The newspapers can explain this action as they have done former actions of mine."

MINNEAPOLIS.

PROGRAM AND PROBABILITIES.

Tuesday--Temporary Organization and Selection of Committees.
Wednesday--Permanent Organization and Killing Time to Gain Votes.
Thursday--Report of Credentials Committee (perhaps).
Friday--Platform and Speeches?
Saturday-- Nomination (or perhaps not until next week).

On Monday the last touches were given to the decorations of the great Convention Hall, every arrangement for the convention was perfected, the shields of the 44 states were painted on American tin, and the shield of United States behind the Chairman's desk bore the moto Reciprocity and Protection; the galleries were hung with flags and at the end of the building, facing the chair, is displayed the time-honored banner of the Boston Home Market Club, which has been in so many conventions, with its inscription, "American Wages For American Workmen;" "Protection For American Homes."

That evening the hall was dedicated, and it was estimated that twenty thousand people were present on the floor and in the galleries, Chauncey M. Depew was the orator of the occasion and he began as follows:

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—It has been my privilege to voice the spirit and meaning of the occasion at the dedication of buildings occupied by science, literature, art, industry, education, religion and philosophy. I have spoken at the laying of corner stones of structures which were to be the homes of mighty newspapers, which were to enlarge the opportunities of education upon the old scholastic basis and upon the new and more practical principle of manual training; which were to concentrate the commercial activities of the continent; which were to provide for suffering humanity; but this is the first time I have ever attempted before a vast audience composed of the members of all parties to dedicate a hall for the use of one party.

Then he referred to the Roman Colliseum and the great gatherings of people in it; the progress of civilization since that time; praised Harrison and Blaine, and mentioned Sherman, Allison, Edmunds, Alger, Rusk and Lincoln; and concluded as follows.

"It is eminently fitting and proper that this great hall, which was built to house the products of the factory and the farm of Minnesota, should be dedicated to the use of a National convention of the Republican party. The Republican party has solved the problem of the harmonious activities and mutual prosperity of the farm and the factory. There is something sublime in the significance of this exhibition of a great people governing themselves. It can be equaled in grandeur only by the gathering from the sea and the land of those who will responde to the last trumpet when the assembled universe stands before the Great Judge.

"Its deliberations will be watched with equal interest by friend and foe. They will be carefully studied by the lovers of liberty all over the world. May partisanship without passion, individual judgment, deferential to the views of others, and patriotic effort for the right so ghide and control the action of this convention that its nominees and its principles shall command the support and receive the approbation of the American people."

During Monday the Harrison men were claming 515 votes on first ballot and the Blaine men 482, and it was predicted that a ballot would not be reached before Thursday.

TUESDAY.

Tuesday was opening day for the Convention, ten thousand people crowded into the hall.

"Fronting the speaker's stand were massed the men who are to name the next President. It is a distinguished and intelligent body of men. The leaders of the party are here, McKinley, the apostle and idol of protection and protectionists; Reed, the rock of sthrdy Republicanism; Ingalls, whose eloquence burns like a tongue of flame; Quay, sphinx-like in significant silence; Depew and Platt, Miller and Hiscock, mighty men in the Empire State; Cullon and Oglesby, worthy Representatives of the State of Abraham Lincoln; Mahone, Kellogg and Lynch; Confederate, Union soldiers and negroes, striking types of the singular elements bound in Southern Republicanism; Felton, Teller, Wolcott, Jones and Stewart, Senators from the States of silver and of gold; firery Foraker, from Ohio; dashing Bardley, from the Kentucky Blue Grass region; eloquent Spooner, of Wisconsin; silver haired Thompson, for 50 years the political oracle of Hoosierdom, all these and scores of others whose names the people know, are here from every State and Territory, white men and black men, many who wore the blue, some who wore the gray, men with white heads who sat in the first Councils of Republicanism and fought its earliest fights, young men in manhood's first flush and fullness enlisted in that grand cause which has drawn into its ranks the young blood of the country since Fremont and Lincoln first raised its banner.

At 12:30 Chairman Clarkson called the convention to order, there was prayer by Rev. Dr. Brush of South Dakota; M. H. DeYoung of California read the call for the convention; Chairman Clarkson announced that the Committee had selected J. S. Fassett of New York for Temporary Chairman, and Mr. Fassett mounted the platform and made a speech.

Then the convention recognized Thomas B. Reed of Maine sitting in the front row of the spectators gallery, and demanded a speech from him and he gave it.

After Mr. Reed finished his speech, Chairman Fassett announced that the convention would proceed with the regular order of business. Mr. Clarkson nominated a long list of Secretaries, Reading Clerks and Stenographers and they were elected.

Mr. Sewell of New Jersey, was recognized to offer a resolution for the appointment of one member each of committees on Permanent Organization, Rules, Order of Business, Credentials and Resolutions from each delegation.

Pending this the Chair said that if there was no objection the convention would be governed for the time by the rules of the last Republican National Convention. No objection was offered.

The clerk read Mr. Sewell's resolution for information. It was quickly adopted, and the Secretary began immediately the call of the roll for the appointment of the committees. The first State called was Alabama. The chairman of the delegation asked that the State be passed until the contesting delegation could have a conference.

The call then proceeded without interruption until R. W. Thomas, of Indiana, arose to announce the committeeman from that State. He was received with applause, which was repeated ten-fold when John J. Ingalls, of Kansas, stepped into the aisle and, leaning on his umbrella, prepared to announce the committeeman from Kansas, Mr. Ingalls smiled and made the announcement, and then said: "I send the written slip to the secretary for precaution." Other favorite sons were greeted enthusiastically.

When Louisiana was reached, a delegate arose after his name had been read and entered a protest. There was not one of the men named, he said whose seat was not contested. The Chairman declared the protest out of order, and roll call pro ceeded.

William Warner, the Republican nominee for Governor of Missouri, was greeted with enthusiasm.

Warner Miller who read the New York's list in a tone which brought the warning "louder" from the galleries, was applauded. Governor McKinley received another ovation, and when he reached ex-Governor Foraker's name on the list there was some slight applause.

Senator Quay received a liberal round of applause. Mahone, of Virginia, was cheered. Ex-Senator Spooner, of Wisconsin, was cheered. When the District of Columbia was called there was a pause and no response.

The Committees on Organization, Credentials and Resolutions, Rules, etc., were then announced:

For this State L. D. Gilbert is the member on the Permanent Organization Committee; D. H. Lane for Credentials, and H. W. Oliver on Resolutions.

A motion to adjourn until next day was then put and carried, and at 2 o'clock, to the music of the band, those of the delegates not members of the standing committees slowly filed out of the hall, and the committeemen adjourned to their respective committee rooms to proceed to business.

The Committee on Platform organized by the election of ex-Governor Foraker as chairman. The Committee on Rules elected General H. H. Bingham, of Pennsylvania, chairman, and Judge S. F. Stahl, of Arkansas, secretary. It was decided to recommend to the convention the adoption of the rules of the convention of 1888, with a few unimportant changes made necessary by the admission of new States since then. The Committee on Permanent Organization organized by the selection of Lockwood, of Idaho, as chairman, and King, of New Hampshire, as secretary. A sub-committee, consisting of Ellis, of Kansas; Thomas, of New York; T. Madison Vance, of Louisiana, and Depauw, of Indiana, was appointed.

All the scheming done that day was to prevent Harrison's nomination on the first ballot. An attempt was made to unite the New York delegation on Sherman, with a view of taking away Harrison votes in Ohio; Allison's name was peddled about in order to break the Harrison strength in Iowa: Alger was kept in the fight to catch Southern votes and hold the Michigan delegation, and the friends of Governor McKinley were taken up into mysterious high mountains and shown imaginary kingdoms, where presidential nominations grow as thick as dandelions in the meadow.

WEDNESDAY.

On Wednesday the Convention did not meet till noon, though it had adjourned till 10 a.m., as the delegates were slow in arriving. Temporary Chairman Fassett called the convention to order; a Nebraska man was given permission to present the convention with a gavel; the Chairman called for the report of the Committee on Credentials and the Chairman of that Committee took the floor, said the Committee was not ready, asked for time and promised to be ready by next day; then the report of the Committee on Organization was called for and its Chairman reported the name of Wm. McKinley of Ohio for Permanent Chairman. This announcement was greeted with great applause, and a committee escorted Gov. McKinley to the Chair, the convention arose and cheered and the band broke out; McKinley made a short speech, then the rules of the last convention were adopted; these provide that the Credentials and Platform Committees must report before balloting begins; the presentation of candidates at that time was declared contrary to the rules and the convention adjourned till next day.

Harrison's friends were expecting unfair treatment at the hands of the Credentials Committee.

That night the Harrison men claimed 517 votes on first ballot, and his friends were very confident. The anti-Harrisonites were looking around for a new man, and had everybody they could secure in a Blaine procession.

A BILL to create a "rural" delivery and collection system is before the House Committee on Postoffices and Postroads. It authorizes the Postmaster General to establish, wherever in his judgment it is practicable, a rural delivery and collection system, and to enploy persons to be known as rural messengers in said service, who shall receive a yearly compensation of not less than $300 or more than $500 per annum, with an additional allowance, not exceeding $200 annually, for horse and other service. Messengers thus employed in rural or farming communities are to be authorized to receive and receipt for and deliver registered matter and required to sell, in limited quantities, stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards and newspaper wrappers. An appropriation of $500,000 to carry out the provisions of the bill is asked. Postmaster General Wanamaker's belief is that within a few years every person's mail will be delivered.

Prospect Dots.

Peruse and learn:

That Gus Shannon, the artist, has his car in readiness to take all kinds of pictures at suitable prices. Give him a call as his glass will stand any face.

That Mrs. Boehm was in Pittsburg last week combining business with pleasure. Nettie Hay and Maggie Allen ran the dining room during her absence.

That Frank Critchlow has recovered from a short sick spell and is able to be at the store again.

That P. H. Sechler and Sam Kennedy went to Mt. Chestnut and set some fine monuments that Phillip had made. Won der why they sat in the hind end of the wagon?

That Henry Langherst, who works in Pittsburg was home on Decoration Day.

That Ad. Coates of Whitestown, and Aus. Cable of the "Little Creek" were in town recently.

That in "Schools and Wages" printed last week, we didn't like to see our own good township stand lowest, and hope she won't stay there long.

That Cap. Hunter attended the horse sale at Butler, May 28, and bought a fine horse and buggy. Tired walking Cap.

That Decoration Day was fittingly observed here. Rev. Hunter preached the Memorial Sermon and Prof. Magee made the oration. John Weigle commanded the G. A. R., A. W. Shannon the I. O. O. F., Jeff Heyl, the Jr. O. U. A. M., and John Edmundson the Cornet Band. After parading the principal streets and visiting the cemeteries to decorate the graves, they marched to the Lutheran church to hear the oration.

That Miss Sue English, of Franklin twp., visited her brother Ed. one day last week.

That the game of base ball between Prospect and "Little Creek" stood 31 to 4 in favor of the former. Dana's batting was one of the features of the game. Kelley and Cooper were Prospect's battery, while Stevick and Gray were the battery for Little Creek. Wonder when the school boys will play again.

That W. B. McGeary and wife, of Butler, spent Decoration Day here visiting old friends. Glad to see you.

That Mrs. Marion Henshaw, of Duke Centre, Pa., is visiting friends here. Mr. Henshaw who had been home, is also here look after his oil interests.

That we couldn't close without adding a word of praise to Mrs. Boehm for the superior quality of the ice-cream she is furnishing her patrons this summer.

JO COSITY.

Seeing Frank Off.

This morning, June 7th, 1892, an interesting scene was witnessed at the P. & W. depot. Francis M. Eastman was followed to the train by his comrades, the members of the Union Veteran Legion, and as he took his departure for the Old Dominion, the comrades formed in hollow square; the Acting Adjutant taking a scroll of parchment from his pocket, Col. Clark gave the command "hats off" and then was read the farewell testimonial of his fellow comrades, neighbors and friends.

It recited his services and the loss of his arm in the late war, his three-year term as Clerk of the Court, ten years as Court Stenographer, seven years as postmaster, one year as Col. of Veteran Legion, many years membership of the legal profession of Butler and twenty-seven years as a good neighbor, in all of which his conduct and character was unexceptionable and above reproach. At the close of the reading all the comrades cried Amen, and the parchment was delivered to the departing veteran and a hearty shaking of hands closed one scene in the drama of life.

N.

Petrolia Items.

Rev. J. N. Pollard is home from Ohio on a visit to his family.

Risenger Schreckingost is home from the West on a visit for a few days.

Our popular townsman, A. M. Rice is on our streets, he has been at Youngstown for three months in the book business.

Our City Dads are getting our streets in good repair.

Our Street Commissioner Wm Carland is getting the sidewalks in good repair and says the cows must be kept off the walks or there will be trouble. So you that have cows running at large, look out.

Justice W. A. Fleming had quite an exciting suit before him on Saturday, and after a great deal of fireside law the parties thought it best to settle.

J. M. Hawks, our popular grocer, was at Freeport on business last week.

J. M. Leonard, our broom man, is doing a good ice cream and root beer business.

Rev. J. M. Small will preach in the M. E. Church next Sabbath at 8 p.m. Subject, revival. Come and hear him.

Profs. Knoch and Scott of West Sunbury were in town last Sunday and Monday.

J. G. Carland carried off the prize at the convention last week. J. G. is a smart boy.

X.

Flood and Fire.

Word reached Butler last Sunday noon of great floods and fires at Titusville and Oil City, that the third ward of Oil City was then burning, and that hundreds of people had been drowned and burned.

This combination of flood and flame seemed incredible until it was explained that there were dozens of oil tanks located along Oil Creek, and also some refineries; that the flood in the creek had upset and undermined the oil tanks, causing the oil to spread over the creek, that the oil had taken fire, and that the fire was thus spread to the refineries and to the houses of the towns along the creek, of which the principal two are Titusville in Crawford county, and Oil City in Venango county, at the junction of the creek with the Allegheny river.

The flood in the creek was caused by very heavy rains or water spouts in that section on Saturday, and by the bursting of a large mill-dam on the east branch of the creek at Spartansburg.

At Titusville the creek rose suddenly, about midnight of Saturday night, and people whose houses were near the creek were penned in their houses. At about 2 o'clock Sunday morning three terrific explosions shook the city, and a great light went up from the Crescent refinery, which almost instantly become one vast sheet of solid flame, the light from which illuminated a full half mile of surrounding blackness and showed to the assembled and horrified spectators the full extent of the great calamity that had befallen their city. The tongues of flame shooting 200 feet and more straight into the heavens; the shrieks and agonizing cries of the helpless human beings caged in their dwellings like rats in a trap, in the middle of that rushing and mighty water and within the very shadow of death from burning oil, benzine and naphtha that threatened at any time to engulf them; the shrill whistling; the jangle of the fire bells; the clatter of the steamers, hose carts and hook and ladder trucks; the crackle, roar, rush and rumble of the huge body of water and sky-piercing flames all went to strike terror to the strongest heart. The people, in their eager haste to get some place out of danger —they knew not where—in many cases rushed pell mell over each other and scores were injured by being knocked down and tramped on.

Oil creek, now swollen to 500 times its natural size and reaching from one hill-side to the other, presented an appalling picture. Floating swiftly by on its bosom were all sorts, manners and kinds of animate and inanimate objects—tanks, stills with the steam in them and blowing off; houses, barns, horses, cows, chickens, everything almost being borne onward with a rush. Clinging to various objects, such as drift wood, pieces of boards, timbers and any other object they could lay hands on, were scores of human beings, their white and terrorstricken countenances, desperate struggles and plaintive, soul piercing cries for aid all combining to create impressions on the minds of the beholders never to be effaced or forgotten.

About one hour from the time the Crescent works caught another alarm was sounded, and it was found that oil discharged from an overturned tank further up the creek had scattered itself over a broad enough expanse of water to reach the Crescent fire, where it at once ignited, and in a moment a large acreage of the creek was one vast sea of fire. This blaze soon spread to the International Oil Works and they were soon in a blaze. Then came the large refining plant and soap factory of Race & Robinson, which the flames in a short time reached and consumed. The wind was in the right quarter and on sped the fire, arriving in due time at the Oil Creek refinery and wax plant—as fine a one as was in this country and but recently completed.

Three refineries, some business blocks, a hotel, a railroad depot, and about 75 residences were burned, and the estimated loss of life was 45.

Most of the bodies recovered after the flood subsided, showed that death had been caused by burning oil, and some bodies were burned beyond recognition. The property loss was estimated at a million and a half.

The people of Oil City were warned by wire of the approaching flood, which reached that city shortly after daylight, though the water was not at its greatest height till towards 8 o'clock when all the houses along the creek were surrounded by water. Many people took refuge in the upper stories, while others went to higher ground.

Hundreds of people stood along the creek watching the flood, the greatest crowd being near the railroad bridge across the creek.

Near the bridge stood a tank which was dislodged from its position by the water. The tank began to leak and its fumes filled the air. Some say that gas from the tank spread abroad like a fog. The tank contained distillate and benzine, and the fluid leaking out, was ignited by fire from a rail road engine which stood near it on the track.

Few of the spectators who escaped can give a good idea of what happened. All agree that there was a terrific explosion and that the whole air was filled with flames. This was quickly followed by two other explosions. Men thought that hell had broken loose on earth, and their thought was not a violent one. Three gasoline tanks had exploded almost at the same time. The oil on the creek blazed up. The gas in the air burst into a roaring flame. The water, land and air were all literally ablaze.

Men, women and children were knocked prostrate by the shock and many never arose. Some of those who did found themselves in a lake of flames. The multitude fled with screams of anguish for the higher ground.

In the rush many of the weak were trampled upon and badly injuried. Some were hurt by horses; others ran and leaped into the water and were drowned. The flames in the air quickly burned out, but they left huge volumes of black smoke across the face of the heavens, beneath which roared the fierce flames of the burning oil upon the water.

The many submerged houses and shops along the creek bottom were soon in flames, and the silent fire of blazing gas was succeeded by the crackling flames of burning homes. In many of these houses the people were confined. They could not escape for the fire. Within the sight of thousands who heard their piteous screams, they burned to death or leaped into the river and there perished by both flood and fire.

Such a combined scene of destruction by two terrible elements was seldom witnessed upon this earth. It is marvelous that from this valley of death any were saved alive. It is strange that out of this comingling of fire and flood any houses were spared. But these things did happen. After the great conflagration had passed almost away 11 men, women and children were rescued in a boat from a dwelling. Three of them, women, were badly burned and the house was partly destroyed.

As soon as the fire had passed from the water many boats put out to rescue the living, and they did noble work. Meanwhile the larger buildings along the creek had become ignited and blazed with terrible fury. From there the fire spread to the buildings which stood upon the dry land on the west side of the creek, composing the third ward. There is a bend of the creek flowing through the city, which swept the burning oil to the west side and in addition to that the wind was blowing stiffly from the northeast and dashed the flames over the old portion of the city beyond the creek. That portion of the town is covered with burned walls and charred bodies.

The business section of the city, with the large hotels and big business blocks, was saved. On this side of the creek the chief losses to property are the Oil City barrel factory, near the railroad bridge, which was burned, and the new building of the Oil City tube works, collapsed by the high water. On the west side the large places burned are the Bellevue hotel, kept by J. B. Reinbold, the Petroleum house and Paul & Son's large furniture ware rooms.

About half a mile below the railroad bridge the Centre street bridge crosses the creek to the west side. The fire on the water consumed itself before this was reached, and, missing the west end of it, swept every house on the other side of the stream. The three hose companies here responded to the alarm, which was about 11 oclock. The fire, from its origin to its finish, was almost a mile long, and the boys scarcely knew where to go. They finally crossed the Centre street bridge to fight the greatest mass of flames at its further end. But they were powerless. The high wind, which was made fiercer by the fire's own suction, swept all houses and mills so rapidly that no human means of interposition would stay its progress. It burned westward and southwestward until there was nothing more to destroy.

Engines from Franklin were prepared to come with help, but help was useless, as 50 engines could have done nothing. When the first great wave of flame had passed, leaving a hundred burned and still blazing houses beyond, thousands of people began to pour into the city from all directions, and there were fears that there might be work of plunder.

THIS MAN SAW IT.

Probably the first person to arrive in Pittsburg that evening from the scene of the flood was T. C. Cronan, of Shelburne, Mass., who is agent for an eastern machinery company. He was at Oil City in the morning but on account of the high waters returned to Pittsburgh.

"I cannot tell you of the situation at Oil City in a manner that will come at all accurately describing it," said Mr. Cronan. "No pen can write or tongue can tell of the terrible scenes. I have heard of Johnstown flood; I have read descriptions of awful catastrophes, but in the valley of Oil creek there is an awful sight that can hardly be surpassed. I was at the Arlington hotel and intended to proceed further north to-day. Last night rain fell heavily and continuously around Titusville and Oil City, but not with so great volume at the latter place. Early this morning, some say 3 o'clock, the rain increased at Titusville from a heavy pour almost to a cloud burst. What happened there I am unable to tell; what I say of Oil City I saw. From as early as 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning many Oil City people assembled on the bridges and along the banks of Oil creek. The passenger bridge below Arlington hotel was especially crowded. The creek was running like a torrent full to the very banks, and in the water were stacks and stacks of drift.

"Occasionally from the watchers on the bridges the cry would be sent up that a body was coming. A woman and a baby went by in full view. I saw them and I don't know how many more were seen. But that is not the worst. About 11 o'clock, in company with a traveling man from New York, I left the Arlington to go to the northern end of the city where we had been told houses were submerged. In going up the street it occured to me that the postoffice would open at noon so we stopped to look around that building. When we were almost opposite I looked in a store window, and noticed that it was 20 minutes to 12. Just then there was a terrible explosion that shook everything, and in the shortest space there came another, and another and two more, and it seemed to me the very ground we stood on quaked. Over the creek a black smoke, dense and heavy, was raising and spreading, it seemed from one end of Oil City to the other. Then swinging over the town, it looked like a pall. Here and there in the smoke could be seen vivid flames shooting up and about, giving an awful tinge to the picture. There was the odor of burning oil and in the dense smoke that arose from it seemed the people would surely suffocate.

"Almost as one person, when the first crash came the people rushed for the high ground, and I among them. On the bridges they rushed every way, trampling some and throwing others down. To add to the horror several teams that had been about the Arlington hotel and the Petroleum exchange dashed up the street and across the bridge. Here, it is said, many persons were injured.

As the smoke raised I saw that the whole creek was on fire and had communicated to the houses on Seneca street, in the Third ward, which is on the west side of the creek. The whole street was soon in flames. On the east side, Oil City proper, the fire department was at work and did good service in protecting buildings. The greatest loss was on the west side. Seneca street is the main thoroughfare there. At the time of the explosion almost all the people were sitting on their front porches looking at the flood. For them there was only one way of escape and that a small one. Back of the houses a hill rises almost perpendicularly, so that there could be found no means of escape. Just around the foot of the street, which at that time was partly under water, is a road that leads into a ravine and back of the hill. There the people could have gone, but the chances are that only a few did so.

"I think there must have been fully 100 lives lost in the fire and flood in the Third ward alone. There may not have been that many, no body knows and will not until each family counts its members. When matters quieted a little I found the cause of the explosion. Above Oil City about three-quarters of a mile were strung in a row along the water's edge five big benzene tanks. The creek had undermined them, actually lifted them from their foundations and carried them away. At the Oil City boiler works the first one came in contact with the boiler and Engine house and exploded. The others followed quickly.

The river raged furiously, the burning oil sending up great volumes of smoke, and running along even faster than at first. The debris was partly burned and if there were any bodies floating along then they will surely never be accounted for. On a railroad bridge below the foot bridge a train of coal cars was placed to hold it in position. When the explosion occurred several of the cars were set blazing and the firemen turned their attention to them. They put the fire out.

"I never want to see such a sight as I saw from the hill we ran to when the explosion occurred. I saw once the pictured destruction of Pompeii with all the red fire that could be given. That was nothing in comparison to the real sight of this morning. I thought of Sodom and Gomorrah, and that coupled with the fact it was Sunday made the experience thrilling. In the Third ward people thought it was the end of the world; some sank down on their knees and prayed and others ran frantically about, thoroughly crazed by the sight."

At Oil City, up to Monday evening, 67 bodies had been recovered, of which 40 had been identified. Among the bodies identified was that of Sheridan Wick, a son of Henry Wick, and brother of L. C. Wick of Butler, who had a lumber yard there, he was knocked down by the explosion and drowned in shallow water near the bridge. Messrs E. H. Anderson and E. Miller went to Oil City Monday and returned with Sheridan's body. He was buried Tuesday afternoon.

Fully ten thousand strangers were in the town that day looking for relatives or drawn there by curiosity. All day bodies were taken from the charred ruins and carted or carried to the improvised morgues in City Hall or on the South Side.

The Mayor ordered the closing of all saloons, and the arrest of all suspicious characters.

Wade Hulings tells a touching story of William Terwilliger, who is among the missing.

Terwilliger, too was out saving people from the rocking houses. He was on the water when the explosion came. He immediately dived into the river. The oil and water were safer than the poisoned air Now and then his head came up the surface for air.

Diving and reappearing, but by grit, Terwilliger gained the shore and landed at last. His, back, arms and head were burned. He said he saw 30 or 40 women in the water through which he passed.

Since his landing on the shore, after his fight for life under water and oil, he has not been seen and it now seems that he went back a second time to help those weaker than himself and met a hero's death.

At Titusville, Monday evening fifty-four bodies had been recovered, and the estimated number of dead was one hundred. Some remarkable deeds of heroism were recorded and incidents recounted. One man, who was out of town at the time of the disaster, came home to find his wife and three-year-old boy burned, but found his 9-months-old baby in an alley unhurt.

The cloud burst there Saturday night was so heavy that it crushed in roofs, and this with the bursting of the dam above, caused the tremendous flood that upset the oil tanks, and after the oil on the water took fire people had to stand helpless and see their relatives and other people in buildings surrounded by water and burning oil perish.

All day Tuesday there was almost an unbroken line of funerals to the cemeteries of the two towns, whole families were buried in one grave.

Oil City's death roll is expected to reach 150, and 75 houses were destroyed by water and fire.

Did you Drink Lion Coffee For Breakfast,?

has removed his immense stock of Wall Paper, Window Shades, Fine Pictures and Frames to that large commodious room in the Aldinger building, 311 S. Main street. The increased size of my new room has allowed a large increase in stock.

W. A. OSBORNE.
ART DEALER, - BUTLER, PA

Roads in France.

The excellence of the French roads is well known. The United States consul at Bordeaux describes how they are made. The material is brought from the nearest quarries and placed at either side of the route surveyed. In order that the full amount contracted for may be delivered, the stone must be heaped in angular piles of prismatic shape and fixed dimensions. These heaps, placed at a given distance from one another, are afterwards visited by an official inspector, and must in all instances fit exactly beneath a skeleton frame carried by him. The material is usually marble, flint, stone, or gravel, and whatever is used must be the best quality and cleansed from all foreign substances. The stone must be broken so that each piece may pass through a ring 2½ inches in diameter. It is then spread evenly over the road, the interstices being carefully filled in with smaller pieces, so that the whole is smooth and free from abrupt eminences and depressions. A steam roller then crushes and further evens the whole, after which a superficial layer of clay and earth completes the work. Roads are classed as national roads, which are the main arteries of the system connecting most distant parts of the country, and are constructed and maintained by the government; roads, which connect different points of the same department or of two adjoining departments, and are constructed and maintained by the department; highways and public roads, which are the property of the commune through which they run, but are in practice made and repaired by the department from taxes levied on the commune, supplemented by a department subsidy; cross roads, which are maintained by sums derived from the ordinary revenues of the commune, occasionally supplemented by additional taxation; and country roads, which are kept in order by the commune, except they are injured by unusual traffic, when an indemnity may be claimed by the communal administration. For the purpose of maintaining the common roads the inhabitants living in the district are obliged to work three days in each year or pay an amount equivalent to the compensation of a laborer for three days. The consul at Havre says that French pavements increase in excellence with age. In France, he says, all roads have perpetual attention. If from weight, rain or other causes, a hollow, rut or chink is formed, it is repaired at once. Where the space to be repaired is of a limited area, the rolling of the new coating is left to the wide tires of the heavy carts, but in the case of extended areas a steam roller is brought into use. Every carrying and market cart in France is a road maker instead of a rut maker, for it has tires usually from 4 inches to 6 inches in width.

—THE country under the new Tariff law goes on record for the twelve months ending April 30 last as having exported over a billion dollars' worth of American products. Imports for the same twelve months amounted to $832,098,786, of which nearly 55 per cent came in duty fee. The balance of trade in favor of the United States in the same period was $179,406,514. There are no arguments that can controvert the prosperity displayed by these figures of national operations in trade and commerce under the McKinley law.

The Public Reading Room.

The Young Men's Christian Association is justly proud of its free Reading Room and Reference Library. It is largely attended, but surely our citizens do not realize its worth and wealth or it would be crowded.

On its files can be found among the daily papers the Butler Times, Pittsburgh Gazette, Dispatch, Press, Leader and Times. Weekly, Young Men's Era, Sunday School Times, BUTLER CITIZEN, Times, Herald, Record, Eagle, Grove City Telephone, Appeal Avalanche, Tribune Republican, Mail and Express, United Presbyterian, Cross and Church, Lutheran Evangelist, Observer, Standard, Kirchen-Zeitung, Voice, Journal of Labor, American, West Penn Press, Frank Leslie's Weekly, Harper's Weekly, Puck, Judge, Youth's Companion, Illustrated Christian Weekly, Christian Advocate, Scientific American, Free Press, Blade, Farmers' Friend, Independent, Public Opinion, National Babtist, Reformed Church Messenger, Christian Statesman, Political Dissenter, American Machinist, Electrical World, Monthlies, High School Magnet, Orphans' Friend Outing, Century, Harper's, Scribner's, North American Review, Lippincot's, St. Nicklas, Frank Leslie's, Cosmopolitan, Atlantic, Chautauqua Electic, Annals of Hygiene, Good Health, Physical Education.

Everybody is invited to visit the rooms.

How to Word an Advertisement.

A man was denouncing newspaper advertising to a crowd of listeners.

"Last week," said he, "I had an umbrella stolen from the vestibule of the church. It was a gift, and valuing it very highly I spent double its worth in advertising, but I have not recovered it."

"How did you word the advertisement?" asked a merchant.

"Here it is," said the man, producing a slip cut from a newspaper.

The merchant took it and read:

"Lost, from the vestibule of the church, last Sunday evening, a black umbrella. The gentleman who took it will be handsomely rewarded by leaving it at No.—High street."

"Now," said the merchant, "I am a liberal advertiser and have always found it paid me well. A great deal depends upon the manner in which the advertisement is put. Let us try your umbrella again, and if you do not acknowledge that advertising pays I will purchase you a new one."

The merchant took a slip of paper from his pocket and wrote:

"If the man who was seen to take the umbrella from the vestibule of the—church last Sunday does not wish to get into trouble and have a stain cast upon the Christian character which he values so highly, he will return it at once to No.—High street."

This duly appeared in the paper, and the following morning the man was astonished when he opened the front door of his residence. On the porch lay at least a dozen umbrellas of all shades and sizes that had been thrown in, while the front yard was literally paved with the umbrellas. Many of them had notes attached to them saying that they had been taken by mistake, and begging the loser to keep the little affair quiet.—Parksburg (Pa.) *Times.*

DEATHS.

AHMER—At her home in Summit township, June 2d, Mrs. Andrew Ahmer, aged ——.

McCURDY—At her home in Brady twp., on May 11, 1892, Mrs. Eliza A. McCurdy aged 72 years.

GRUBBS—At her home in Wilkinsburg, Allegheny Co., May 30, 1892, Charlotte Rachel wife of Daniel Grubbs, aged 37 years.

Mrs. Grubbs was a daughter of the late Jacob F. and Mary S. Weisenstein of Centre twp. this county. She leaves a husband and two sons, one an infant a few weeks old, and a large circle of relatives to mourn her loss, but they mourn not as those who have no hope. She was a consistent member of the M. E. church from her youth, lived all through her daily life the religion she professed, died in the Faith, and passed away rejoicing in the hope of everlasting life beyond the grave. Her end was peace. D.

ROYA