

Ignorance is the mother of scepticism. Ignorance does not abound to any great extent in Sullivan County. So that there is but little scepticism about the value of the News Item as a profitable advertising medium. Read it, your neighbor does. Subscribe, don't borrow.

County Seat Indices. AND GLANCES AT THE TIMES.

The turkey is now on the home stretch. If we give Spain all the time she wants she will take a big slice from eternity. The Czar's throne is once more waiting for Tom Reed. Thos. Simmons of Sonestown, was shaking hands with Laporte friends Saturday. Rufus K. Polk carried the seventeenth Congressional district by a plurality of 2500. Henry Pardee of Milview was a business man in town Saturday. Grant Little of Jakersville was doing business in town Wednesday. Born, to Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Gumble, Monday, November 7, a boy. Judge Dunham is in Tunkhannock this week holding argument court. Chas. R. Lauer transacted business in Dushore and Lopez on Wednesday. T. J. Keeler has converted a portion of the front porch to his residence into a baywindow. Mr. J. W. Ingham of Sugar Run is the guest of his brother Hon. Thos. J. Ingham this week. Mrs. Jacob Fries spent the fore part of this week with her daughter Mrs. J. L. Farrell at Dushore. Mrs. William Walsh and son are spending the week with friends and relatives at Dushore and Bernice. Mr. Simon Breigher has moved from the Karns cottage back to the tannery where he is engaged at firing. Naturally enough, since the election went right, preparations are being made to enlarge many industrial plants. Mrs. Emma Barrows spent several days last week with Mrs. Agnes Rogers at the Williamsport hospital. Mrs. Rogers is improving nicely. Considering the near approach of the season instead of the time-honored rooster lots of the papers might get out a crowing Thanksgiving turkey. Further proof of the tendency to run party interest in the ground around election is shown by the statement that a lot of dead men were assessed in Chicago. E. L. Place is filling his store full of choice holiday goods and invites all to see his liberal preparation he has made for your wants. His assortment of Christmas goods is to the extreme limit of choiceness. Dr. Reedy, Overseer of Poor of Hughesville, was in town Monday night looking up the last place of residence of Elmer Dawalt whose family is a town charge. Dawalt who resided a few months here previous to moving to Hughesville, has been arrested for some misdemeanor and left his family in destitute circumstances. Davidson township is the last place he had gained a residence. With a new assortment of ultimatum for little Alfonso he must begin to see that it is time for him to get his gun down again, or get out of the way of the eagle. And, as his gun has been taken from him, there seems nothing left but to dance when the eagle screams.

HARP AND BANJO STRINGS.

The Best and Finest Grades Are All Made in Italy.

It has always been believed that violin, harp and banjo strings were made out of the viscera of the cat. The gut of a cat is no more suitable for such use than that of a mouse, and as far as my investigation goes has never been so used. Violin strings are made of many kinds of skins, but principally out of sheep skins. The secret is in curing the skins, which has always been kept in Italy, where all the finer and better grade of strings are made. There are, however, several concerns in this country which turn out musical strings, and they make a very good grade, though they do not compare as yet with the Italian strings. All the poets who have sung of the musical insides of the cat were wrong. Even Shakespeare, who was phenomenally correct generally in his productions, fell into the prevailing error, probably because he did not take the trouble to look into the matter and accepted the general opinion. The various metallic or wire strings are improving constantly and are used in very large quantities and by the best musicians. They have one advantage over the skin strings when used out of doors in that they are not affected by the weather. In damp weather skin or gut strings, as they are generally named, are affected very much, and, notwithstanding all the tightening, they are very frequently flat in tone. The wire string escapes that influence, though there is a certain effect, a timbre, technically speaking, that can be got out of a skin string that no wire string yet made will give you.

A Peculiar Industry.

In one of the streets in the neighborhood of the famous London Bridge there has for some time been carried on an industry peculiar even to that city of curious and crowded occupations, namely, an eel-skin leather factory. Here are prepared and manufactured an interesting variety of articles from the skin of the common eel. By means of numerous complicated processes the skins in question are manipulated until they resemble and would be easily taken for leather, although of a more glutinous and pliable nature. In one specialty this strange substance is cut into long, thin strips and plaited very closely together for whiplashes and to cover portions of the handles of more expensive whips. Certain kinds of lashes and harness leaces are also made from such skins, combining flexibility and toughness.

Eels in London.

Talking about fishing, I am reminded of the destruction of the famous London Sunday eel market, which had existed on the Surrey side for over three hundred years. Customers went from all parts of the metropolis to purchase this cheap and nutritious food. The dealers were called "sniggers," and the eels were sold by the "grab"—six-pence a time. The eels were first placed in sand, and the vendor would seize a handful, which made about a pound. It is astonishing how many of our neighbors eat eels. Not long ago, when a hydrant was opened in Seventh avenue, above the Park, many of the quirming things came out, and there was a lively contest for their possession. I would as lief eat a snake. Eels are of great economic importance.

His Ship His Sweetheart.

The word "ship" is masculine in French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, and possesses no sex in Teutonic and Scandinavian. Perhaps it would not be an error to trace the custom back to the Greeks, who called all ships by feminine names, probably out of deference to Athene, goddess of the sea. But the sailor assigns no such reasons. The ship is to him a veritable sweetheart. She possesses a waist, collars, stays, laces, bonnets, ties, ribbons, chains, watches and dozens of other feminine valuables.

Everybody Warned.

An Arizona rancher has posted the following notice on a cottonwood tree near his place: "My wife Sarah has left my ranch when I didn't Doo a Thing Too her and I want it distinctly understood that any Man as takes her in and Keers for her on my account will get himself Pumped so Full of Led that some tenderfoot will locate him for a mineral claim. A word to the wise is sufficient and order work on fools."

An Old University.

The oldest university in the world is at Peking. It is called the "School for the Sons of the Empire." Its antiquity is very great, and a granite register, consisting of stone columns, 320 in number, contains the names of 60,000 graduates.

To Burn Coke.

Coke can be burned in ordinary fireplaces by means of a new attachment, consisting of a perforated conical, hollow block, to be placed in the grate bottom and connected with exterior draught pipes to supply air to the interior of the mass of burning fuel.

Earrings Not in Favor.

Among the Phoenicians the wearing of earrings was a badge of servitude, the same custom obtaining with the Hebrews. The latter people said when Eve was expelled from paradise her ears were bored as a sign of slavery.

Oysters Feeding Time.

It has been discovered that oysters feed only at about the turn of tide, and that the habit of opening periodically persists even when they are out of water.

THE KHALIFA'S PRISONER.

Story of Carl Neufeld Who Was Held a Captive For Thirteen Years.

STARTED OUT AS A SPY.

Was Captured, Came Near Being Executed and Suffered Fearful Tortures and Privations.

Spent a Whole Year in the "Black Hole" of the Prison—Was Fearfully Flogged at Times—Finally Discovered Saltpetre for the Manufacture of Gun Powder—Now a Free Man.

One of the first things General Kitchener did on entering Omdurman was to look for Carl Neufeld. This now famous man was at the time, and had been for thirteen years, a prisoner in the Khalifa's capital. He was soon found and released, and among the first to congratulate him was his old friend Slatin Pasha, himself formerly a prisoner of the Mahdi and the writer after his escape, of that absorbing work, "Fire and Sword in the Soudan."

Herr Neufeld was a merchant residing at Assuan. From a fugitive from the Soudan he got the news that in Northern Kordofan there was a large quantity of gum which the merchants had been unable to dispose of in consequence of the rebellion. If he could get it to the Wady Halfa there was money in it; so he resolved to try his luck, and got permission from the British Government to set off with a caravan that was to join Sheikh Saleh. In return he proposed to spy out the land and give a detailed account of the situation to General Stephenson. Unfortunately the famous Nejudi was on the lookout for him. A fight ensued. Saleh's people got the worst of it, and these of them that were not killed in battle were beheaded, with the single exception of Herr Neufeld who was conveyed to Omdurman, and brought before the Khalifa.

News spread like wildfire that an English pasha had been captured, and this caused a great stir in the capital. The Khalifa considered him a most important capture, and Neufeld was ushered into the presence of the three Khalifas and two Europeans who were entrusted with the examination of his papers. Neufeld spoke Arabic, and was quite fearless. His papers showed that he was a Prussian, and had studied in Leipzig University.

All the documents were translated to the Khalifa as it was most important to assure him that Neufeld was not an Englishman, as otherwise it would have gone very hardly with him. There was one letter, however, in English, which, if it had been truthfully translated would have probably got him into great danger. After Neufeld's preliminary examination the Khalifa's mind seemed to have been put at rest, for he delivered from his high seat a long speech regarding this "great English pasha," who, he said had come to the Soudan with arms and ammunition intending to seize Kordofan and fight against Mahdism, but fortunately the brave troops of Wad el Nejudi had met him near Dongola, killed his soldiers and captured him. Poor Neufeld was therefore thrown into chains and carefully guarded by soldiers.

It was decided that Neufeld was to be hanged next morning. Very early the Khalifa sent orders that the great drum was to be beaten while the blast of the huge ombeya (trumpet) sounded close to Neufeld's ears. The slaves made game of him as if he were a monkey, but he kept up his courage and answered all insults with a manly spirit. The rope had been fixed on the scaffold and crowds of people collected to see the "Englishman" executed. Neufeld was taken to the market place, escorted by horsemen. The crowd raised a yell of delight when he appeared, but Neufeld walked fearlessly on, and on reaching the gallows he jumped onto the anzarib (bedstead) and bent his head so that the rope might be adjusted. Just at that moment the judge stepped forward and said that the Khalifa had been graciously pleased to repeal the sentence of execution, and Neufeld was therefore again removed to the prison.

The depth of misery to which he was reduced may be understood when it is known that he spent a whole year in the stone hut ("the black hole") of the prison, and it was not till he had completed two years in prison that through the intermediary of a friend he was allowed to build a little cell for himself in one of the corners of the yard.

When powder became scarce in Omdurman, some one suggested that it would be much better to make the unbelievers work for religion instead of remaining all day idle in prison, and that Neufeld ought to undertake the saltpetre refinery.

The Khalifa said: "Do what you think is right, I am content." Neufeld was sent to Halfaiah in search of saltpetre. He found some and went to work in the old Mission House at Khartoum, receiving a small sum as wages. "He still wears one chain on the feet," says Ohrwalder, "which, from constant rubbing, has become as bright as silver and there are great black marks around his ankles."

The chain is knocked off now, and Neufeld is, after thirteen years of exile and slavery, once more a free man.

As many as 4,601 muscles have been counted in the body of the moth.

Forksville. Election passed off very quietly. Mr. Harry Ritter of Philadelphia was in town Wednesday. E. M. Sehanbacher, Geo. W. Williams and Fred Shaffer, who joined the 5th Regt. Co. K. P. V. I. last July, were mustered out of service at Wellsboro last Wednesday. Wm. O'Brien and Owen McCann of Overton were in town Saturday. Mr. A. A. Collins and wife visited friends at Canton recently. The Literary Society will give a public entertainment Wednesday evening, November 23, at the M. E. church. Every one is cordially invited to attend. Mr. Chas. Nye is on the sick list. Dr. Plumstead of Hillsgrove was in town Monday. Miss Myra Rinebold has been visiting at Dr. F. M. Gross'. R. W. Right was in town Monday. Miss Emma Benjamin is attending school at Freeburgh, Pa.

COURT PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, HON. E. M. DUNHAM, President Judge, Honorable John S. Linn and Conrad Kraus Associate Judges of the Courts of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Deliverer, Quarter Sessions of the Peace, Orphans Court and Common Pleas for the County of Sullivan, have issued their precept, bearing date the 25 day of Sept 1898, to me directed, for holding the several courts in the Borough of Laporte, on Monday the 12th day of Dec. 1898, at 2 o'clock p. m. Therefore, notice is hereby given to the Coroner Justices of the Peace and Constables within the county, that they be then and there in their proper person at 2 o'clock p. m. of said day, with their rolls, records, inquisitions examinations and other returns, to cause things to which their offices appertain to be done. And to those who are bound by their recognition to prosecute against prisoners who are or shall be in the jail of the said county of Sullivan, are hereby notified to be then and there to prosecute against them as will be just.

ELLIS SWANK, Sheriff. Sheriff's Office, Laporte, Pa., Oct. 31, 1898.

Trial List, December Term, 1898.

- 1. C. H. Haverly vs Benjamin Kykendall, Jr. No. 71 May Term 1897. Trespass. Plea "not guilty". Mullen, Thomson.
2. Mitchell, Young & Co. vs A. J. Hackley, No. 104 Sept. Term 1898. Sere Exces. Plea "Payment, payment with cause etc. Hill, Inghams.
3. James McFarlane vs W. C. Mason, No. 92 Feb. Term 1897. Defendants Appeal. Plea "Non Assumpsit, payment, payment with leave to set off. Hill, Inghams.
4. Merritt Shaffer vs Josephine FitzPatrick, No. 98 May Term 1898. Foreign Issue. Plea "Payment with cause etc. Hill, Inghams.
5. Martin Markle vs E. V. Ingham, No. 152 Sept. Term 1897. Defendants Appeal. Plea "Non Assumpsit Payment, payment with leave etc. Hill, Inghams.
6. F. M. Lewis vs J. W. Ballard, No. 5 Dec. Term 1897. Defendants Appeal. Plea "Non Assumpsit Payment, payment with leave etc. Mullen, Walsh.
7. F. H. Tomlinson vs Jacob A. Meyers and William J. Taylor, No. 1 Feb. T. 1898. Ejectment. Plea, not guilty. Hill, Mullen.
8. J. Wm. Allen and Martha Allen vs Taper Hunsinger and Rush J. Hunsinger, No. 98, May T. 1898. Ejectment. Mullen and Thomson, Hill and Platt.
9. J. Wm. Allen and Martha Allen vs Taper Hunsinger and Rush J. Hunsinger, No. 99, May T. 1898. Ejectment. Mullen and Thomson, Hill and Platt.

WM. J. LAWRENCE, Proth. Proth's office, Laporte, Pa., Oct. 31, 1898.

Incorporation Notice.

Notice is hereby given that an application for the incorporation of the Borough of Eagles Mere was presented to the Court of Quarter Sessions, in and for the county of Sullivan, on the 29 of September 1898, and an order then made by the Court that the same be filed with the Clerk, and notice thereof given in one newspaper of the said county for a period of not less than thirty days immediately before the next regular term of the court following the presentation of such application and the filing thereof, and that a hearing will be given to said application at the next regular term of said court.

WM. J. LAWRENCE, Clerk. INGHAM'S ATTORNEYS, Oct. 20, 1898.

Administratrix Notice.

Estate of Walter Spencer, late of Laporte Boro. Sullivan county, deceased. Letters of administration upon the above named estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons having claims against the same will present them for payment, duly authenticated, and those indebted thereto, will please make immediate payment to EMMA SPENCER, Admrx. A. J. BRADLEY, Atty. Laporte, Pa.

Register's Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the following accounts have been filed in my office, viz: First and final account of August Marshall, Executor. First and final account of Carl F. Heess, Guardian. First and final account of Chas. L. Little Administrator. First and final account of Peter L. Messersmith, Executor. First and final account of Hannah Brobst and Lyman B. Speaker, Executors. Also the following widow's appraisement: In the estate of Miles A. Burns, deceased. And the same will be presented to the Orphans' Court of Sullivan county on Monday, December 12, 1898, at 3 o'clock p. m. for confirmation and allowance.

WM. J. LAWRENCE, Register. Register's office, Laporte Pa., Nov. 14, 1898.

Executor's Notice.

Estate of Frederick Heinze, late of Elkland township, deceased. Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the estate of said decedent have been granted to the undersigned. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment and those having claims or demands against the same will make them known without delay to CHRISTIAN E. HEINZE, Executor. Lake Run Pa., Oct. 11, 1898.

Boarders.

John V. Finkle has opened his large and comfortable house for the accommodation of court boarders, and also for regular boarders by the day or week, at reasonable rates. Corner of Maple and Muncy Sts., Laporte.

Williamsport & North Branch R.R.

TIME TABLE.

In Effect Tuesday Sept. 13, 1898.

Table with columns for Northward and Southward, and rows for various stations like Halls, Pennsdale, Hughesville, Picture Rocks, Lyons Mills, Chamouni, Glen Maw, Strawbridge, Beech Glen, Muncy Valley, Sonestown, Nordmont, LaPorte, LaPorte Tannery, Ringdale, Satterfield.

R. E. EAVENSON, Gen. Manager Hughesville, Pa.

L. R. Gumble, Dealer in and Manufacturer of CARRIAGES AND WAGONS. Your Patronage is solicited on the basis of low prices. Don't let it in fact escape. We are getting rid of our large stock of hand made wagons. We also deal in factory made platform spring wagons. Blacksmithing and Repairing. Factory West Main Street LA PORTE.

Look out for A. E. Campbell's New Advertisement in This Space Next Week. He will have something important to say.

New York Weekly Tribune. THE GREAT NATIONAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER For Farmers and Villagers, and your favorite home newspaper. The News Item, BOTH One Year for \$1.25. Send all orders to The News Item, Laporte. THE N. Y. TRIBUNE ALMANAC, 340 pages. A National Book of reference for Governmental and political information. Contains the Constitution of the United States, the Dingley Tariff Bill, with a comparison of old and new rates. President McKinley's Cabinet and appointees, ambassadors, consuls, etc. The standard American almanac. Price, 25 cents. Address, The News Item.

Do you Appreciate Values? If so, I can readily do business with you. Call, and I can fill your order to your entire satisfaction. My Spring and Summer Line is Complete. Casimere Suits, \$4.50 to \$8.00. Worsteds Suits, \$5.50 to 20.00. Serge Suits, 5.00 to 10.00. Clay Suits, 4.00 to 18.00. Also an attractive line of Gents Furnishing Goods. Hats, caps, light wool and gauze underwear, umbrellas, trunks, traveling bags and valises. Call and see the largest line of clothing in this part of the country. J W CARROLL, Hotel Carroll Block, DUSHORE, P.

LA PORTE Clothing Store. We ordered carload quantities of Fall and Winter goods for the opening of our new building, Oct. 1st. The goods arrived as everybody knows and the new building is stocked and overstocked with goods. Fairly overflowing with new fall and winter styles—tables and counters actually groaning under the heavy loads of Fashion's fancies. Relief can only come in one way: CLEAR OUT THE GOODS AS FAST AS POSSIBLE by selling at a close margin. While other stores are trying to get rid of old stock of many years, we are now disposing of new goods at positively LOWER PRICES. JOE COOPER, The Clothier.