

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.

—Ice harvest. —Let's go South. —Coal men's boom. —New century next year. 99 years does not make a century. This is the year to elect McKinley. —Ernest Lauer made a business trip to Williamsport, on Saturday. —Dr. Willson spent Monday night in Williamsport. —Candidates for office are hustling around making friends. —Ice houses are being put in shape to receive the harvest that will soon begin. —Miss Eva Lawrence returned to Canton on Monday where she is attending school. —Clothier Joe Cooper drove to Hughesville on Sunday, returning by train on Monday. —Mr. Leo Wrede is amongst his old friends once again. —Mr. James McFarlane is stocking his milliard with logs. —Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rouse, of Dushore, spent Sunday with their daughter, Mrs. John Fries. —The Republicans of Elkland will hold caucus in their election house on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1900. —Mr. Jacob Fries and sister Mammie and Maggie Donovan, took in the entertainment at Dushore, Saturday night, and spent Sunday at John L. Farrels'. —Mrs H. T. Downs returned to her home in Williamsport, on Monday, after spending three weeks with her daughter Mrs. N. C. Mabin, at this place. —Candidates for township and borough offices are venturing forth this cold weather. The situation will never thaw out for some of them. —Owing to the lateness in receiving the secretary's minutes of the Teachers County Institute, we are obliged to defer publication until next week. —The ice that covers Lake Mokoma never furnished more excellent skating as it does now, and the young people frequently enjoy a spin on "the steel runners." —Miss Nora Mosteler of Nordmont was taken to the Williamsport Hospital on Monday to be operated on for appendicitis. It was delayed for a purpose until Wednesday, the result of which has not yet been learned. —The county auditors are making rapid progress with the annual settlement which will be completed next week. Messrs. A. P. Starr and James Sweeney who make their first appearance in an official capacity, work like old hands at the business. Auditor Caseman, who served last term assists the new auditors in becoming acquainted with their duties. —Mrs. E. R. Powell, wife of Rev. Powell, formerly of this place but now of Warrensville, Pa. underwent an operation for cancer of the stomach, at the Williamsport Hospital several weeks ago. Mrs. Powell was reported to be in a critical condition after the operation. Her many friends at this place hope for her speedy recovery to health.

—William Walsh and family and Cella Donovan with Mr. and Mrs. Michal Flynn, attended the St. Basil School entertainment at Dushore, on Saturday night of last week. —John I. Kane, circulating agent of the Williamsport News, was in town Wednesday enjoying gratifying results in adding new converts to his list. The News is a hustling daily that can't be surpassed. Try it, if you want good news. —Louisa W. Wright, a woman of prominence at Eagles Mere during the summer seasons, figured as a defendant in a libel suit in Philadelphia on Tuesday in which the jury returned a verdict in favor of Miss Laura Evans, plaintiff, for the sum of \$12,500 the full amount of her claim. —Washington Camp No. 220 P. O. S. of A. will celebrate their seventh anniversary Thursday evening, Jan. 25, at their hall in Shunk, Pa., with a free oyster supper for the members of Camp 220 and their families. District President, H. W. Taylor of Bernice, Pa. will install the officers of the Camp for the current term, in the presence of the member's families. A good time is anticipated. —The reciprocity treaties which have been framed under the McKinley administration and are now before the Senate will, if ratified by the foreign governments as well as our own, increase very greatly the exportation of farm products, their principal object having been to obtain reduced tariff rates on articles of agricultural production, both in European countries and in the West Indian islands with which they have been negotiating. —As a means of expressing the sentiment of esteem and loyalty they feel toward their honored chief, the teachers of Sullivan county presented Co. Supt. F. W. Meylert with a handsome gold watch, selecting Christmas to commemorate the giving event more auspiciously than their token of esteem might be regarded in that golden sunlight of honor to whom honor is due. Mr. Meylert has not only won the esteem of teachers in his official capacity, but the public as well have justly learned to value him highly. That harmonious relations exists between the professor and the directors, who are never slow to realize efficient service, is evidenced by the fact that he is now serving his third term. He is unmistakably the right man in the right place. —"The Man with the Hoe" poem seems to be taking prominent rank in literature of late. Seldom has an author indulged in such flights of fancy as has the poet of "The Man with the Hoe." Indeed it would seem as if he had kindled fancy into its brightest possible flame by over-doses of exhilarating hashish. The title itself is largely imagery, for the "man with the hoe" in these days is not nearly as common as he ought to be. But accepting it as the designation of the filler of the soil, we are presented with a description of this "unfortunate" which certainly stirs the pity which the author evidently intends to arouse. The man with the hoe seems to be in a state of dilapidation, ambitionless, pretty nearly idiotic, hopeless and helpless. It is a lively imaginative mind that can hold such a conception. Perhaps it would be better to say an incurably disordered mind. The world-to-day with its brilliant civilization, high moral and intellectual development, its accumulated wealth and all that makes the nineteenth century marvelous, is largely the product of the man with the hoe. He has left his finger marks upon every town and city; wet with the sweat of his brow every picture that the artist has painted and every statue that the sculptor ever chiseled; laid the foundation for every schoolhouse and college in the land, and has been constantly injecting new blood into every profession and all the avenues of commerce, and has furnished most of the master minds and dominating influence in every honorable walk of life. To-day he is a solid thinker and a power in the affairs of the nation. He thinks, and thinks well. No garden like that which spreads over the country, from ocean to ocean, could have been made to bloom at the touch of a degraded, hopeless slave, or under the direction of a benumbed intellect. He may not always have been treated justly, but injustice has never brutalized him or made him less than a manly man. On every battlefield that has been consecrated by the lovers of liberty and humanity, his footsteps may be found, and in every cluster of graves, in which patriots and heroes rest, he is sleeping.

February Jurymen who will Listen to the Pleadings of Lawyers. TRAVERSE. F. H. McCarty, Wm. Northrop, Frank Morgan, Wendal Sick, Dan. Rinebold, Minard Peterman, John H. Lawrence, John Darby, W. C. Mason, Benj. Hillsman, James Spence Sr., Clyde Welliver, John Wright, Peter Messersmith, Winfield Potter, Edward Hunsinger, J. F. Mullan, Valentine Rhoe, O. H. Bird, Henry Richlin, John Durkes, Augustus Hugo, Peter Huffsmith, Thomas Donehoe, Hugh Bristin, B. E. Bohn, Rubin Thrasher, Chas. Williams, Josiah Smith, Patrick Cahill, John Yonkin, Wm. Dunn, Chas. Wanek, Rush Rogers, T. Frank Landon, John Manvel. GRAND. Horace G. May, Frank Miller, L. B. Carrington, Edward Holmes, Luther B. Martin, John W. Speary, Geo. W. Golder, L. G. McHenry, Sylvanus Morgan, Joseph Dohm, H. M. Chilson, R. A. Conklin, J. R. McCarty, Wm. Kiess, Ed. Bown, L. S. Bedford, Albert Kay, John G. Plotts, Melvin Dennis, D. J. Frawley, W. H. Sherwood, Carl H. Pardoe, Owen Sweeney, John Rahm. The Era of Prosperity. Pittsburg, Jan. 5.—The American Steel and Wire company to-day posted notices in all of its plants notifying its employes of a general advance in wages of 7 1/2 per cent. to take effect from January 1. The advance affects 30,000 employes, 10,000 are in the Pittsburg district, the balance being employed in the company's works in Chicago, Cleveland and Kokomo City, Ind. New Trolley Line to Eagles Mere. Muncy, Jan. 5.—A special meeting of the borough council was held last night to listen to and consider a proposition from J. W. Zellers, Esq. of Lewisburg, who represents a party of capitalists contemplating the building of an electric street car line through our town. The council discussed the matter and appointed a committee to draw up an ordinance and submit the same at the next regular meeting. The proposed line has nothing to do with the Drexels, who own the Montoursville and Watsonstown lines, but is the proposition of an entirely different party, who owns considerable land on the mountains in the vicinity of Eagles Mere and Highland Lake. They propose to run the line from the railroad station through our main streets, and up to Hughesville and Picture Rocks, thence to Eagles Mere and other points. The line is to be completed to Picture Rocks by the end of next season, and within two years to Eagles Mere. The council is divided on giving the right of way through town, but a majority is in favor of it. We hope to see the line built and completed ere another year goes by. Muncy is to be the terminal of the road, and the headquarters are to be located in Williamsport. The party pushing the project is responsible and means business. Dushore. The Misses Pardoe of Forksville spent Sunday with A. D. Haag's. Miss Jennie Molyneux of Overton, is visiting relatives at this place. D. E. Mingoos spent Sunday with relatives at Monroeton. W. C. Garry and family move to Elmira Heights this week, which place they expect to make their future home. Born.—To Mr. and Mrs. Mark Scorman, on Friday last, a son. James Donahoe, of Perth Amboy, N. J. and Miss Mary Kaier, of this place were married on Tuesday. We extend congratulations. Protracted meeting is being held in the Evangelical church, beginning last evening. Mrs. Ava Lane, of Towanda, visited friends at this place last week. James Cunningham, the boss fisherman and hardware dealer is putting on acetylene gas plant in his store to supply the office, warerooms, store and factory with good light. The many friends of Morris Leverton of the firm of Morris Leverton & Co., will be agreeably surprised to learn that his engagement to Miss Leo Sorson, of Elmira, N. Y., has been announced. The wedding will take place some time next month. The L. V. R. R. has completed arrangements to replace the old wooden trestle at this place with a neat new iron bridge, as soon as the work can be done. The old structure has often been repaired but is not considered any to safe and the increasing traffic demands a trestle that shall be thoroughly reliable.

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A prominent and progressive Western Sullivan county farmer sends this office an article on making roads; which, if practiced, would be found to be very practical. It says "The greatest enemy of good roads is water. A road may easily be kept good if the water can be kept off. Hence the first thing to consider in constructing a road is to build it so the water will run off. This is accomplished by building it high in the middle or "crowning" it and giving the entire road surface a hard, smooth finish. Water always runs down hill, and it will readily run off of any road if it be but given an opportunity to do so. The fault with too many of our roads is that the water cannot run off. Passing wagons and horses hoofs are permitted to wear them down until ruts are formed, these hold the water and allow it to sink into the ground, which becomes softened, so that continued travel makes matters worse and worse. The problem of building roads which will shed water has been solved by the road grader or road machine. The American farmer is quick to realize the value of machinery, and the rapid growth in the use of the reaper, the binder and the separator is an eloquent tribute to practical genius of American agriculture. Use of machinery in building roads has been seriously handicapped by its cost. It is frequently thought wrong that farmers should be obliged to tax themselves for the purchase of road graders and road rollers in addition to having to stand the regular road tax. There is much justice in this position, for the average farmer pays his full share of taxes, and these should not be added to or increased without some very excellent reason. But the farmers of the United States are badly in want of good roads, and the clamor for there construction is growing from year to year. Quite a number of towns have solved the road machinery problem by voting to pay their taxes in cash instead of working them out, and using a part of this fund for the purchase of machines, which avoids the necessity of levying an extra tax for the purpose. Road taxes may be collected in cash without hardship to the poorer farmer, who may desire to continue working out their share of the taxes as heretofore. Only part of the tax would ever be required during any one year to pay for machinery, and the remainder would be used to employ men and teams for operating the machines. Thus the poorer tax payers are given employment at good wages, and the town officers are in a position to secure a dollar's worth of work for every dollar of tax, which has been impossible in many towns under the old system of working out taxes. This explains the growing popularity of the cash road tax and the fact that few towns have ever abandoned it after giving it a fair trial. Experience has shown that more can be accomplished with \$1 of road tax paid in cash than with \$2 or even \$3 of tax worked out on the highway. This has made it possible to make a large reduction in the amount of the tax. A number of states have recently adopted laws authorizing the town boards to purchase road machinery on time payments, among them being Michigan, New York, Arkansas and Wisconsin. —The talk about "oppressing" the Philippines and denying them freedom and justice is along the line of the fulminations of a certain class during the Civil War, who constantly asked whether the United States should subjugate the South and hold its free people as vassals. The Confederate States were subjugated; forced to submit to the sovereignty of the Union, but the people of those States are not now vassals or oppressed. Oppression under the Stars and Stripes is only a phrase for demagogues.

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