

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1900.

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.

—Miss Lorena Litzelman is visiting her parents at Dushore.

—A. L. Lovelace of Nordmont, had business in Laporte on Monday.

—Brady Worthing of Muncy Valley, spent Sunday with friends in town.

—A party of Lopez young people took dinner at the Commercial Hotel on Sunday.

—Mrs. C.P. Walker of New York, is the guest of Mrs. S. Mead at Point View.

—Mrs. H. T. Downs has returned home from Williamsport, for the Summer.

—Miss Frycklund, sister of Rev. Frycklund, is visiting in town for a few weeks.

—A. F. Heess, of Dushore, transacted business between trains in town Tuesday.

—Mrs. Chas. Wackenhuth and son, of Picture Rocks, visited with Laporte friends last week.

—Miss Grace Lawrence, who has been teaching at Lopez, returned home last week.

—Next week is printers' vacation week consequently there will be no NEWS ITEM issued.

—Clive Bohn of Dushore, was taking in the sights at Laporte and Eagles Mere on Sunday.

—Miss Fannie Little has returned home after spending a pleasant week at Sheriff Osler's.

—Henry Upman has accepted a position as clerk in the grocery store of Mr. Kehrer at Eagles Mere.

—Ice Cream will be served at the Baptist Church Parlors during the day and evening of July 4.

—Miss H. Lou Corson of Glen Mawr, who has been spending a few weeks in town, returned home Tuesday morning.

—Clarence Hess of Nordmont, who has been attending the Bloomsburg Normal, is renewing old acquaintances in town this week.

—Jean Gautier, a Laporte township charge, was taken to the Asylum at Danville on Monday. Overseer Philip Peterman and Sheriff Osler were the officers in charge.

—Rev. J. B. Adams of Picture Rocks, will preach in the Baptist church at this place, Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. The public is cordially invited the service.

—Miss Rosa Upman returned home last week from Philadelphia where she has been spending the past winter.

—The Ladies Aid of the M. E. church will sell ice cream at the residence of Mrs. C. E. Grimm, Saturday evening, June 30.

—There is to be a basket picnic on the Fourth of July in the Lake Mokoma Grove, chiefly for children accompanied by parents and friends. A pleasant time is anticipated.

Late arrivals at the Mountain House for the summer are Mr. J. Milton Titlow and wife of Philadelphia; Mrs. H. L. Bollman, Miss S. F. Butler, Mrs. J. M. Hastings of West Chester, Pa.

—The assault made upon Judge Metzger by Atty. Edwards, an account of which appeared in our last issue, has been agreeably settled by Mr. Edwards appearing in court and offering complete and satisfactory apology which was accepted by the venerable Judge.

—Mrs. H. G. Willson returned home on Wednesday from a visit with friends in Williamsport.

—Dr. Wackenhuth and Mr. Jud. Burrows of Picture Rocks, arrived in town Monday in search of the speckled beauties. They returned the following day with a large catch, as some of their friends had been engaged with the rod and line the day previous. Their stories are original however.

—Postal Clerk Chas. Yeager spent Sunday with his family at this place. The present mail service on the W. & N. B. is thought will last for some length of time and in this event Mr. Yeager is contemplating moving to Hughesville. The Railroad Company take a great interest in that quiet little village and are certainly doing their share to build up the place and give it a mail service equal to any city.

Bernice Echoes.

A petition is being circulated here asking for a new school building. Thanks to the man that started it, for if there is a town in the county that needs a new school building, this is one. We have the largest number of children of any town in the county and yet have the poorest accommodations. School houses are the headlights to civilization; then let us keep them trimmed and burning.

Thos. Payne went to Philadelphia last week to have an operation performed.

The S. L. & S Coal Company have let the contract for putting down 5 bore holes on some of their coal land.

—Mr. and Mrs. Joel Saxon spent several days at Philadelphia last week. They also called at West Chester to visit their son Gordon who is attending school there.

Mrs. L. C. Boyd, of New York, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Taylor the latter part of the week.

Flem O'Brien visited his parents at Dushore Sunday.

Charge of Judge Metzger in the Case of Commonwealth vs John G. Scouten on an Indictment for Criminal Libel.

GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY:

This is a prosecution for libel. The defendant in this case, John G. Scouten, is charged in this indictment, in the first count, with having published a libel on Conrad Kraus, who was an associate judge of this court but who is now dead, by a caricature contained in a paper published by him in partnership with a man by the name of Hugo; and in the second count he is also charged with libel on the same Conrad Kraus, by having published certain matters in reference to his salary and mileage, and certain comments that he made thereon.

You will observe that the publication of this libel is concerning a person who held public position—a public official—and therefore is some what different from the publication of scandalous matters in reference to a private citizen. For instance, the character of a private citizen cannot be assailed with impunity, and even the truth may not avail the defendant in the case of the publication of a libel of and concerning a private citizen, although we find that newspapers nowadays do publish many of those things which they have certainly no right to do. But when we come to a public official they do have a right to fairly criticize their official conduct so long as they do not do it maliciously or negligently; that is to say, they have a right to make a fair criticism on the conduct of an officer who holds a public position, and this results from the fact that the entire public is interested in the doing of their public servants. Therefore where a publication of that kind is made and is the subject of the libel, the first question is whether the matter published concerning the officer was a matter for public information, because under the constitution of Pennsylvania although he may publish it yet he still must not do so, even by way of criticism if it is a matter not proper for public information. There has been an Act of Assembly recently passed which makes it the duty of the court to determine that question, whether the subject matter of the libel complained of is a matter proper for public information. And upon that point we say to you that we think the subject matter of the libel in this case was a matter proper for public information; that is the public had a right to know, and any party had a right to communicate to the public the matters that were communicated in this libel so far as relates to the salary and mileage drawn by the associate judges. The entire public was interested therein, it was proper that they should be informed of the facts. There is, however, a difference between the

two counts in this indictment. You might find that in the one case the publication was properly made, in a proper manner, while in the other case you might find that it was an improper publication, made in an improper manner, although the subject matter of it might have been proper for public information. We will explain that more fully to you further on.

The defendant in this case it appears, is a joint proprietor with Mr. Hugo in a paper published at Dushore in this county, known as the Sullivan County Herald. There is no dispute about this fact, and there is also no dispute about the fact, for the defendant's own testimony shows it, that on the 21st of June 1899, the article complained of in the indictment and the caricature complained of in it were published. By the publication we mean not only that it was printed but that it was given to the public, or at least was received by parties other than those connected with the press that published it. And there were a number of witnesses called who were subscribers, who had received this paper and read the article, hence the publication seems to have been proven. The next question that would arise is whether the matter as published is libelous. Now, so far as the subject matter is concerned, we have already said that that was matter proper for publication, and that in itself it would not be libelous. Whether it becomes so by reason of the comments made upon it in the article published, or by reason of the caricature which was intended to illustrate the article, I presume is a matter wholly for your determination, and with that the Court has nothing to do. But we will give you the rules that we think you will have to be governed by and to which you must apply the facts in order to ascertain whether it was a libelous article, published in the manner which it has been published.

Although a matter may be proper for public information, yet it does not follow that because it is of that character, it can be made the pretext for defaming and villifying a man, and therefore where the article on its face would show an improper motive, and would show upon its face that it was intended to defame and bring into ridicule and contempt the party, without having any justifiable motive for it other than a vindictive one—I mean if the article on its face would exhibit those indications—then you would say that it was libelous, although it was a matter proper for public information. Again, where the matter is, as this is, proper for public information, you must be satisfied, as I said before, before you can convict, that it was done maliciously or negligently. I have already adverted to one way of determining whether there was malice, and that is from the face of the article. If you find such intrinsic evidence in the article itself as to lead you to believe that the motive was an improper one, and that he was actuated by the impulse to injure the party rather than to serve the public good, from that you may infer malice, or malice may be proven. That is, the Commonwealth may prove express malice by actually showing by witnesses that the publication was prompted by ill feelings toward the party concerning whom it was published, and malice is really sometimes as well proved by circumstances as it is by actual, express and positive testimony. Now, there would be no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that the matter was malicious if you have express testimony, and it was uncontradicted, that the party did it out of revenge. Such statements if uncontradicted would of themselves indicate that of course it was a malicious article. Then, even though it might not be malicious, yet it might be libelous if negligently made and was not true. A newspaper has no more right than anybody else to publish a matter so carelessly and negligently that it will tend to reflect upon and injure the party, unless there is a good foundation for the allegations that it makes. If a man has no reasonable grounds to believe that the charges are true he has no right to publish them, even though it be a criticism of a public officer, because while the party publishing the matter is protected so far as he is honest and gives a fair, honest criticism, the reputation of the other party is equally protected against dishonest and revengeful feelings which might inspire the writing and publishing of and concerning him of scandalous matter.

Continued in Next Issue.

\$2100. IN PREMIUMS

Write for circular explaining how we will distribute \$2100 in premiums, without any cost or without any lottery scheme to customers. Our carpet agents are making \$25 to \$500 a week—so can you—write for particulars.

Our new catalogue of 1000-1000 Order Clothing is now ready. Large samples attached in every copy. Daily can be bought for from \$1.25 to \$20, guaranteed to fit, express paid to your station. It also tells about great bargains in coats and vests, trousers and spring overcoats.

Our Lithographed Catalogue shows the "Famous Maryland" Carpets, Rugs, - Art Piece, - Bedspreads, Lace Curtains and Bed Spreads in their several colors, so that by looking at these colored plates you can tell exactly how a carpet will look on your floor or a drape-ry at your window. Carpets range in price from \$1.25 to \$10.00. New carpets free, furnish- ing, without charge, and express freight.

Don't Tobacco Spit and Smoke Your Life Away. To quit tobacco easily and forever, be magnetic, full of life, nerve and vigor, take No-To-Bac, the wonder worker, that makes weak men strong. All druggists, 50c or \$1. Cure guaranteed. Booklet and sample free. Address Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or New York.

—J. C. Noble of Postoria, Ohio, is looking after land in Sullivan county for the purpose of drilling for oil and gas. It would pay land owners to call on Mr. Noble at the Laporte Hotel.

LOST.—A bunch of keys belonging to Dr. Willson lost about three weeks ago. Anyone finding and returning same will be suitably rewarded.

WANTED—Quaker Aspen or Shaker Poplar, as some people call it. Also White Poplar and Basswood in the log, or by the cord. Address, KEYSTONE WOOD CO, Williamsport.

I wish in this manner to express our gratitude and thanks to our friends and neighbors who by their kind offices and in so many ways sympathized with and helped us in our recent sorrow. J. V. FINKLE.

Fresh lake herring and white fish just received at J. W. Buck's store. Finest Santabara Cali. prunes 8c. Fancy evaporated apples, 9c per lb. Fancy evaporated peaches, 11c lb.

At A. Buschhausen's. A nice fresh lot of oranges, lemons and bananas at J. W. Buck's. If its Dold's its the best. We handle Dold's smoked meats exclusively at A. Buschhausen's.

Mr. James McFarlane is agent for the Celebrated Pitkin Paint and Specialties. This is the oldest mixed paint manufactory in America and their goods are guaranteed not to chalk, crack or peel off when properly applied and to last longer than any mixture of Trust Lead and Oil.

Executors Notice. Estate of Philip Karge decd of Laporte township. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary upon the estate of said Philip Karge decedent have been granted to the undersigned. All persons knowing themselves indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims or demands against the same will make them known without delay to HENRY KARGE, Laporte.

Straw hats for sale at J.W. Buck's store, Sonestown.

ASK YOUR DEALER FOR THE Creighton Shoe For Ladies. ... WARRANTED. ... \$2.00 \$2.50 \$3.00 PER PAIR. Perfect Fitting, Best Wearing and Most Reliable Shoe sold. For seventeen years our product has been a Standard Shoe for Women, and is to-day conceded to be one of the most reliable and thoroughly honest lines of Ladies' Footwear on the American market. Sold through our authorized Agents. All styles, sizes and widths. Sold exclusively by Mrs. D. H. LORAH, SONESTOWN, PA. MADE BY THE CREIGHTON SHOE CO. LYNN, MASS. None genuine unless they bear this TRADE-MARK stamped on Sole. MONEY To PATENT Good Ideas may be secured by our aid. Address THE PATENT RECORD, Baltimore, Md. Subscriptions to The Patent Record \$1.00 per annum. To Cure Constipation Forever. Take Cascares Candy Cathartic. 10c or 25c. If C. C. fail to cure, druggists refund money. How Are Your Kidneys? Dr. Hobbs' Sphragis Pills cure all kidney ills. Sample free. Add. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or N. Y.

Campbell, The MERCHANT, SHUNK PA

LADIES.

I have just returned from the city with a magnificent new line of Spring and Summer Dry Goods, Notions and Ladies Furnishing Goods.

Everything of the Latest

Please call and examine, the prices are right. Don't fail to look over the Bargain Counter, it will interest you.

GENTS.

I have just received a car of seeds, consisting of Garden, Red-top, Orchard Grass, Timothy and Clover Seed, also a car of Bowkers Fertilizer and the prices are very low. When in need of a plow I can supply you with the best made "THE WRAP." If you want anything in General Merchandise I can supply you at the lowest possible price.

HIGHEST Market Price paid for Butter and Eggs.

Yours very respectfully A. E. CAMPBELL.

What \$12.00 will buy.

The above named price on several hundred

Very Swell, Very Pretty, Very Excellent Suits.

The fabrics are pure wool in fancy patterned clothing as well as plain and blue; shapes of coats are single or double breasted, and the appearance and serviceability of these suits are equal to any which you may have made to measure at \$25. There is a reason why we sell these suits at this low price, but it concerns you not, it has no bearing on quality or price. There are rich pickings for early comers. This is an opportunity which should not be lost.

J W CARROLL, Hotel Carroll DUSHORE, P Block.

LAPORTE Clothing Store. WE'RE PREPARED

WITH A VFRY LARGE STOCK OF Clothing, Shoes and Gents' Fine Furnishing Goods Etc., and a

Very Large Variety of the Finest

Ladies' Wear for Spring and Summer.

We are able to offer you a good many articles cheaper than the cost of making them. Men's suits at 2.75, 5.00 up to 10.00; made in the latest styles. Youth's suits at 2.50, 5.00 and 8.00 are the finest qualities. Children's suits at 1.25, 1.50 and 2.00. Men's fine shoes 95c, 1.25, 1.50, up to 4.00. Ladies' shoes 90c up to 3.00.

JOE COOP R, The Clothier.

CLOTHING! A. A. Baker, Of LAPORTE,

Desires to call the attention of buyers of clothing to the fact that he represents

The American Woolen Mills Company, Chicago,

in this locality, the World's Largest Tailors, and that he has a full line of Fall and Winter Samples of suits, pants and overcoats, in all styles and at prices that will defy competition. Also a full line of ladies' and gentlemen's Water proof Goods. Call and examine his line of goods and prices before purchasing elsewhere. All orders filled promptly. Perfect fit and satisfaction guaranteed. Correspondency solicited throughout this section.

ADDRESS, A. A. BAK F LAPORTE, PA.

Wright & Haight, Furniture and Undertaking.

TWO FINE HEARSEES ALWAYS IN READINESS. BRANCH CONNECTION AT LAPORTE, PA. NEXT DOOR TO WAGON SHOP. R. A. CONKLIN, Mgr. Ten Years Experience has taught Us how to give the best value for The LEAST MONEY. FORKSVILLE, PA.