

Republican News Item.

VOL. VII. NO. 33.

LAPORTE, SULLIVAN COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1902.

PER YEAR.

Better Than Ever!

I am better prepared than ever to supply your wants in

HOLIDAY GOODS

AND STAPLE JEWELRY,

I invite your inspection at your earliest convenience.

RETTENBURY,

DUSHORE, PA. The Jeweler.

**COLE'S
HARDWARE.**

No Place Like this Place For Reliable

**STOVES and RANGES,
COAL OR WOOD
HEATERS;**

ONE OF WINTER'S GREAT DELIGHTS.

House Furnishing Goods, Tools of Every Description, Guns and Ammunition.

Bargains that bring the buyer back. Come and test the truth of our talk.

A lot of second hand stoves and ranges for sale cheap. We can sell you in stoves anything from a fine Jewel Base Burner to a low priced but satisfactory cook stove.

Hot Air, Steam and Hot Water Heating and General Repairing, Roofing and Spouting.

Samuel Cole, Dushore, Pa.

The Shopbell Dry Good Co.,
313 Pine Street,
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

THE CHRISTMAS SELLING BEGINS

and it begins right! Begins with every section fully fortified to meet the demands of the gift givers--and who is not a gift giver at Christmas? To tell you about our stock is the object of this ad. Can't tell you about all of it by any means. Can only suggest to you some of its most prominent features; a hint here and there to guide you in your buying. You will find the Christmas spirit pervading every nook and corner of the Store.

The Sale of Handkerchiefs.

We have provided for the wants of Handkerchief Buyers as never before--done everything toward making choosing easy. 50 dozen Ladies' Unlaundried Pure Irish Linen Handkerchiefs, with Hand Drawn Corners, at the low price of 15c, or two for 25c. Another lot of finer quality with Hand Embroidered Corners, of neat designs. These are extra good for 25c. Children's Initial Handkerchiefs put up three in a neat box, at 25c a box.

Umbrellas.

The prices run from 60c up to \$5. The quantity and variety are greater than ever before. If you want a good Umbrella to use or to give away, you'll save money by getting it here. Close Rollers, Paragon Frames, Steel Rods, Fashionable Handles. The better qualities have Silk Cases and Tassels. We have just outlined the Umbrella Stock, but ask you to come in and see them.

All Sorts of Leather Goods.

Chatelaine Bags, Wrist Bags, Pocket Books, Coin Purses, Card Cases, Cigar Cases--All make useful and appreciated presents.

The Shopbell Dry Good Co.

Subscribe for the News Item

COUNTY NEWS

Happenings of Interest to Readers

Columns of Interesting News Gathered by Our Special Corps of Hustling Correspondents in Many Towns.

REDNICE

While mining coal in No. 6 drift last Thursday, two Polanders were hurt, one seriously and the other fatally by a fall of top rock weighing several tons. One of the men had several ribs broken, and was sent to the Sayre Hospital, the other had his back broken and cannot recover. Drs. Randall and Campbell attended their injuries.

An Italian working on the coal chute at the breaker, fell a distance of twenty feet striking on the railroad track and seriously injuring himself on Friday afternoon.

Miss Florence Hollenbeck of Towanda, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Walburn of 26 West Main St.

Several of our young people took advantage of the fine sleighing Friday evening and went to Dushore to take in the entertainment by home talent at that place. All reports are a good time.

The State Line & Sullivan R. R. Co. on Saturday removed a large boiler from its foundation at the pump station and took it to No. 6 drift to pump the water supply at the new barn and to the Power House on the old turnpike. H. H. Bentley managed the job.

DUSHORE

Chas. Messersmith has resigned his position with C. E. Molyneux to accept one at Waverly, N. Y. Chas. has many warm friends who wish him unbounded success in his new place.

Wm. Kraus has moved his family from Cherry Mills to his own house in this place adjoining his meat market.

Miss Ida Heverly has moved her dressmaking establishment to rooms in the Utz Block.

The Reformed Church Sunday School will hold its Christmas services on Christmas Eve.

The K. O. T. M. entertainment last Friday evening netted the Association about \$125.

Mrs. Belle Lynch who has been spending a few days here with her mother, left for her home in Ohio, on Saturday last. She was accompanied by her brother "Holly" Kentner.

Tony Rouse has purchased the furniture, stock etc. of Charles Babcock, of the Carroll Hotel, and will take possession March 1st, 1903. Mr. Rouse is proprietor of the Exchange Hotel, and evidently believes in expansion.

LOPEZ

16 below zero Sunday evening at nine o'clock.

James Deininger of Harrisburg was a caller here last week.

Quite a number of our young people attended the show at Dushore, last Friday night.

An Austrian, who has been working for Jennings Bros., had his foot badly smashed on Friday.

Arthur Grimes, who a short time ago returned from the Sayre Hospital, had the misfortune to break his arm in the same place where it was broken before.

Under the management of the leader Mr. Saddler of New Albany, the Lopez band is becoming one of the best in the county.

A new arrival at Wm. Johnson's Jr. A big boy.

T. J. Messersmith of Wyalusing, was here on business last week.

"The Lone Orphan" doesn't seem to be very lonely as he is doing a rushing business.

Miss Gertrude Cooper of Philadelphia, who has been here for the past six months returned to Philadelphia last Saturday.

Mrs. O. J. Young of Fredonia, N. Y. is visiting her mother, Mrs. Solon Heverly.

Geo. Kaufman of Wilmot, transacted business here on Monday.

Saylor Lawrence of Dushore was

in town on Sunday.

The clothespin factory which has been shut down for the past two months is running on full time again.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Finch of Bella Sylva, were in town Monday.

J. D. Sturdevant who has been on the sick list is looking after his work again.

Thos. Kunes of Bella Sylva, who has been sick for some time, left on Monday for Sayre Hospital for treatment.

Mrs. F. L. Campbell, who has been visiting at Buffalo for the past two weeks, returned on Tuesday.

SHUNK

Mrs. Royal Sargent, who had been sick for some time died on Saturday Dec. 6th, aged 52 years. Naught but good can be said of this Christian lady, as she was a kind, loving wife, a good neighbor and a friend to friends. Her death was a shock to a great many and for those upon whom the affliction is visited the community has the deepest sympathy. The funeral which was held on Tuesday was largely attended, and the remains taken to Ellenton for burial.

R. S. Fanning is visiting friends and relatives at Elmira, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Orlanda Dickerson are rejoicing over the arrival of a son on Saturday Dec. 6'

Mr. Harry Green of Hills Grove has been engaged to teach our school and entered upon his duties last Monday morning.

Miss Smith of Towanda is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. W. Raub.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Porter, nee Lulu Wescott, formerly of this place but now of Fall Brook, Pa., died last week and was brought to Ellenton for burial.

W. H. Fanning and son Harold are on a business trip to Elmira this week.

ESTELLA

We are having fine sleighing and bark and log hauling, pleasure riding and coasting occupies the older and younger people's time at present.

Born, December 6, at the home of Delbert Brown, a daughter. Mother and child are doing nicely, but we hear Dell is recovering slightly from over joyousness.

Mrs. J. S. Shoemaker, of Leroy, who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. D. Brown, at the Falls, has returned to her home.

Mrs. W. T. More and Mrs. S. S. Vroman have returned home from their visit to their brother, A. L. Shoemaker at Beech Creek, and relatives at Jersey Shore.

There will be a Christmas tree at Estella church on Christmas eve.

Ellery Brown is in Benton visiting his sister Mrs. Chet Campbell, also his sister Mrs. Dennis Boudman at Unityville.

E. Jennings, one of Estella's enterprising merchants, is moving the old blacksmith shop to the rear of his town lot and will convert it into a barn. Lewis Rosback has the contract.

The schools are progressing finely.

Mrs. Hattie Smith is visiting her sister Mrs. M. M. Webster at Jakersville.

Mr. L. S. Brown still continues in very poor health.

Says Turkey Tom to Turkey Hen, Now what's the use of living; We'll have to die at Christmas time If we did escape, Thanksgiving.

Christmas Entertainment at Estella Church.

The exercises will consist of choruses, solos, duets, instrumental music, recitations, essays and addresses. All are invited to attend and bring their presents. Exercises begins at 7:30 p. m.

By order of Committee.

Government Ownership of Railroads.

By BENJ. G. WELCH.

COMMUNICATION.

Responding to the invitation of The Item that its readers would consider this question and let The Item have their views the writer has to say that fifteen years ago in the earlier days of railroad combination he expressed the opinion that the process would go on until the whole system in the United States would be practically controlled by an association of strong men of very limited numbers. It was pointed out that many of the State constitutions forbid the control of competing lines being acquired by any competitor, and to this the response was made that it would be perfectly easy to organize a Trust Company that should own a controlling interest in as many lines as desired. In fact there seemed to be no reason why one such company should not have centralized in its office, either directly or indirectly, the ultimate control of the whole system.

The Northern Securities Company is one step in that direction. A Southern Securities Company is a logical sequence. Then a Northeastern, a Central and so on *ad libitum*. Naturally there follows a view of United States Trust Corporation *a la* United States Steel Corporation, and there you are.

If the ownership or control were all it would be a comparatively simple matter as the only thing necessary would be for the national government to buy out that last Trust Company that had absorbed all the others. Perhaps something of the nature of confiscation might be in order if that ultimate Trust is only owned by a few plutocrats as it is the fashion to designate them. The debating school of The Item could make short work of such an organization, but if the men who direct are wise enough to spread the ownership of its stock all over the country and among all classes, there will come the rub. The engineers of the consolidated schemes are generally wise, albeit sometimes they do foolish things as they did in the initiation of the coal strike. Suppose the miners had kept it up for a few weeks longer where would the country have been? Who is there that believes they could not just as well have kept it up most of the winter with the assistance they were getting from all over the world and with their experience in living on the most meagre fare?

When the magnates want to control anything they simply take measures to discredit it in any possible way without regard to the thousands or the hundreds of thousands that suffer. When they start at this course they also start the machinery in Wall Street to buy it up while the whole country is alarmed. Sometimes they play this trick on each other, witness the late experiences with Northern Pacific and the Louisville & Nashville railroads. The change in both was made in almost one day but it is to be remembered that with the property the purchaser took over also a capable management, able to operate either property, and while a new set of owners took possession one morning neither you or I traveling on either road or doing freight business could have told from anything we saw or did that any such change had taken place. With all of it however it seems that every such question, whether it be railroads, steel manufacturing, meat packing establishments, steamship lines or anything else, they find their way to the same office in Wall Street for the final adjustment.

How would it do for the government to absorb that Wall Street concern into its cabinet and set it to work?

Continued in next issue.

Notice! To the tax-payers of Laporte township: All taxes not paid by the 15th of January, 5 per cent will be added. I will try and call on you about that time, please be prepared. George Karge, Collector.

EDITOR NEWS ITEM: As you are giving every body an opportunity to air their views on government ownership of coal mines and railroads I desire to make a brief statement in reply to Editor Newell's flimsy veil of irrational reasoning in his last issue. He says: "In the postal system the government enjoys a complete monopoly, and yet fails to make it pay. Would the government make the railroads and coal mines pay? We do not believe it. And if they did not, where would the money come from to make up the difference?"

Let us study why the postal system does not pay--so to speak. But it does pay, pays the public handsomely. Does Mr. Newell not realize the benefits he derives and the advantages he gives to every one of his subscribers by not having to pay one cent postage on all the papers he sends out in Sullivan county and only one cent a pound on mail out of the county. This gives the public a much cheaper news service which they would not enjoy if J. P. Morgan was at the head of the system. The so called deficit for this year is \$2,937,949.81, almost a million less than last year. We will figure the deficit at \$3,000,000. The government extends to publishers throughout the whole United States, a free circulation within their respective counties. Postmasters weigh all these many tons of papers sent out daily and reports it to the department. It is here found that these papers, at regular rates of postage, would pay the department \$12,000,000. Why not place the deficit over against this amount and say that the people enjoy a profit of \$9,000,000 annually, which they keep in their pockets. This surely is not an unreasonable way of looking at the matter.

Then comes the usual extortion of the railroad combines. In the Postmaster Advocate of December issue is found some statistics of Professor Frank Parsons, who has been at work for a number of years on a book of railroad questions. His data relative to what American railroads receive for carrying the mails in comparison to what is paid in foreign countries for like service is so radical that it offers food for thought.

The United States pays the railroads, for carrying the mails, about \$34,000,000 per annum. This enormous sum is further increased to \$37,000,000 when rental of mail cars is included. In France the railroads, in return for their grants of right of way, carry the mails free. In Switzerland the same. In Germany the railroads carry one mail car free, when more are required the government pays moderately for it. Italy pays nothing to the railroads for carrying the mails, as it is provided in the concessions made for right of way that the mails must be carried free. Belgium's laws are the same. In England where the House of Commons is filled with railroad directors and holders of railroad shares the comparative expenditures by the government is only about one-ninth of the expenditure by the United States for like service. In this free country the railroads receive one-third of the money expended to run the postal department. It has been conservatively figured that it would cost our government less to convey a ton of mail from New York to Chicago by hiring a man and team and paying the expenses at the best hotels, than what is now charged by the railroad combine. Were the railroads to receive the same rate for hauling postal cars that are charged for freight cars, as near as I can calculate, the government would save over \$21,000,000 annually. Add this to the \$12,000,000 of free service it gives to the people and you have a credit balance of \$33,000,000 to offset the \$3,000,000 deficit.

These words and figures are not juggled without regard to fitness or reason, and a view of the matter which the writer believes is one that has a little common sense and a great deal of fairness about it. Very plain, isn't it Mr. Newell.

A FOURTH CLASS POSTMASTER.