

Republican News Item.

VOL. VII. NO. 38.

LAPORTE, SULLIVAN COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1903.

75 CTS. PER YEAR

Better Than Ever!

I am better prepared than ever to supply your wants in

Clocks & Watches

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 Sale of Muslin Underwear IS AT ITS HEIGHT.

Don't the best things go before you do your shopping. All low prices previously advertised are still current. Every garment fresh from the best manufacturers in the land. We urge you to examine them carefully. Note materials, workmanship, style, trimmings and every other detail.

At the Linen Counter.

Here are goods and prices that will surely interest the "head of the house." Real Irish Damasks, the perfection of fineness and finish, new spring patterns. If you are ready for a few new cloths or a dozen of Napkins, never a better time than now to purchase them.

At 50 Cents

We are showing a very superior quality of bleached and unbleached Table Linen in neat patterns that are worthy of consideration.

At 75 Cents

We sell 72-inch wide unbleached and full bleached Table Linen, very heavy Scotch or Irish sort. They come in a large variety of new, neat designs. We own them cheap and you're going to get the benefit.

Our \$1.00

Quality full bleached Table Damask is a leader that has never been equaled. Their white satiny surfaces show in strong relief many new striking designs. Pronounced cheapness is unquestioned. Then we have napkins to match all patterns.

At \$1.25 to \$2.50

Our assortment of pure Irish satin finished Table Damask is complete. There is a firmness and grace about these that nothing but pure flax can give. Then the designs you'll be fascinated with.

LINEN SETS

Damask Cloths and Napkins is a large variety of designs and qualities that range in price from \$5.00 to \$23.00 for the set. We are showing some new Lunch Cloths, Centerpieces, Carving Cloths, Scarfs, Doilies and Squares.

COUNTY NEWS Happenings of Interest to Readers

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

MUNCY VALLEY.

The Republicans of Davidson Twp held their caucus at Hotel Lorah last Tuesday.

Samuel Secules has taken his teams to Jamison City to deliver bark to the tannery at that place.

John C. Taylor who went to the Williamsport Hospital last Wednesday and underwent an operation on Thursday is much improved at this writing.

Anna Meyers of Iola is visiting her Uncle, T. L. Watts.

Taylor Bros. of the Muncy Valley Stock farm have purchased a new 20 horse power engine and a new chopper.

F. W. Snyder a roller in the tannery rolled one of his fingers quite badly last Thursday.

Messrs. Jas. Moran Jr., Charles Hopper and Bertie Miller spent Sunday with their old friend Joseph Numtitz on Eagles Mere Ave.

Frank Magargle has purchased a large drove of sheep for his farm above Sonestown.

C. D. Stroup, the woodman is delivering about thirty cords of wood here every day.

Chas. E. Crawley seems to be the only candidate for supervisor in the lower end of Davidson. Charley has held the office for one year and has done such good work that no one has the "sand" to run against him.

Jas. Moran Jr. was at Laporte on Saturday.

A. P. Starr, County Auditor, came down from Laporte on Saturday to spend Sunday with his family here.

M. Donovan, who was badly scalded at the tannery is much improved but not yet able to walk.

D. M. Taylor spent Sunday with his son John at the Williamsport Hospital.

Jas. P. Miller was a Laporte business visitor last Friday.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Magargle was the scene of a large and delightful surprise party Thursday afternoon in honor of their daughter, Mrs. M. F. Shaw, who received some useful and handsome presents.

A. J. Hill has gone to Nordmont to work for the Union Tanning Co. The rain last week caued the ice to go out along the creek and the result was a large ice jam below town but it was blown out with dynamite by supervisor Crawley before any damage was done.

Samuel Ritter and Chas. Green spent Sunday at Laporte.

ESTELLA.

Ray and Clay Williams of East Canton, who have been hauling logs for Mr. Webster, have returned home with their teams.

Boyd Osler is reported on the sick list.

Floyd More is at home suffering with an abscess.

Clark Brown of Athens recently visited his father, J. S. Brown who continues in very poor health.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Duff, daughter No. 4. The first daughter also came to the home of Benj. Little on Bear Mountain.

J. J. Webster is at home superintending his log job.

A. T. Mulnix and D. F. McCarty made a business trip to Laporte last week.

Happy Children Sleighride.

Two sled loads of merry school children from Bernice enjoyed a pleasure trip to Laporte last Thursday afternoon. Prof. Bowles took them about the town and included the News Item office as one of the points of interest. The pupils were greatly interested in their instruction on how newspapers are made. They were every where cordially received and invited to return.

SHUNK.

We are informed that a large and commodious hotel with all modern improvements will be erected here this coming spring, by A. E. Tripp of Laporte. This place is very much in need of such accommodations, and Mr. Tripp has fully realized the wants of the people. Success to him.

Mrs. Lorenza Brown spent the greater part of last week in caring for her daughter, Mrs. Clarence Watts, of East Canton, who is very low at this writing, with no hopes of recovery.

The P. O. S. of A. celebrated the anniversary of their existence Monday night by giving an oyster supper to the members and their families and sweethearts. A large crowd was present and every one seemed to enjoy themselves immensely, especially "snaky locks."

C. V. Parrish and family of Caldwell, were called here last week by the serious illness of Mrs. Parrish's mother, Mrs. Sophrona Porter.

Miss Emma Spencer of Laporte enjoyed a sleigh ride to this place on Friday last, the guest of Mrs. W. E. Porter.

Ezra Williams of East Canton spent last week with his son O. J. Williams at this place.

A. V. Shattuck of Company M, 5th U. S. Infantry, who has been serving Uncle Sam in the Philippines for the past three years arrived home last Wednesday evening. Vic looks as though he had been through the war, having been sick with fever for about six months before discharged.

Lost, on Postoffice Ave. last week, a lady's breakfast. A reward of a tin plate will be given the finder.

RICKETTS.

Mr. Frank Kuhns and T. A. Keller returned on Saturday from a visit to Harrisburg. It is reported that the people of our capitol had prepared for the visit and had things fixed for them in a number of ways.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller spent Sunday near Jamison City visiting relatives.

Mrs. L. D. May of Granville Center, Bradford county, visited Mrs. Mintzer last week.

Just now we are in the midst of the ice harvest and it helps to keep things moving.

Engine 357 drawing passenger train No. 555, broke a tube at Beth Run Monday night and had to wait for two hours until another engine was secured. The train was 2 hours and 30 minutes late in consequence.

The mill has been running one half time lately owing to a broken shaft.

The axle on engine No. 3, broke last week causing it to be laid up for a week.

Want'd to know, where to get coal?

The K. O. T. M. held a dance on the 23rd which was well attended.

Mr. Milton Getts fell and broke his arm last week.

The snow is now over three feet deep in the woods making it very difficult to handle logs.

Mrs. J. Waring rendered two very acceptable solos last Sunday at the morning and evening services.

W. W. Ricketts of Ganoga Lake gave a supper to a number of Wilkesbarre friends last Saturday evening.

CHARLES A. GODCHARLES DEAD.

Charles A. Godcharles, a prominent manufacturer of Milton, father of Fred A. Godcharles candidate for Congress from this district last fall, died at his home in that place on Saturday January 17, after an illness of but a few days following an operation for constriction of the bowels.

FATAL WRECK ON W. & N. B.

One of the most appalling railroad wrecks in the history of the W. & N. B. R. R. occurred near this place at an early hour Monday morning, when a loaded freight train running at twelve miles an hour crashed into ten freight cars standing on the Summit siding, resulting in the death of three of the trainmen.

The dead are: H. L. Edkin, conductor. Edward Darling, brakeman. Thomas Swank, brakeman.

The injured: Lloyd Fairman, fireman, bruised and badly scalded about the body; Boak Steigleman, engineer, sustained minor injuries.

Both brakemen resided at Sonestown. Darling is survived by a widow and Swank by a widow and infant child, both having been married less than a year. Mr. Edkin who had been in the employ of the railroad for 18 years, lived at Satterfield. He is survived by a young widow.

The accident occurred at what is known as Summit siding which is about one and a half mile from Laporte. In order to accelerate the movement of coal, the crew had been at work to move all cars possible to Summit siding that big trains could be started in the morning toward Halls Station.

Owing to the steep grade from Satterfield to Summit siding only a short draft of cars was moved on each trip and these were placed on sidings between Nordmont and Laporte.

At an early hour Monday morning the crew of the early passenger train with their engine placed ten cars on the siding at the summit and the engine ran out the south end onto the main line and returned to Ringdale for the remainder of the train. At 2:40 o'clock the engine returned to the summit with loaded cars of hay and grain. Owing to the position of the cars already on the siding it was the intention of the crew to run past the north switch and push the cars back onto the siding from the south switch. As a consequence the engineer did not reduce the speed as they approached the north end but instead of continuing on the main line the engine dashed into the open switch and against the string of loaded cars left there a few hours previously.

All the men were riding in the cab of the engine except Fairman who was on the rear of the tender pulling down coal when the engineer saw his train turn to the switch and was but two car-length from the standing cars ahead. He shouted "Boys we are all gone!" All but he made an attempt to jump, but had only time to step to the tender when the collision occurred.

The impact of the engine and its string of cars against the stationary cars was terrific. The tender crushed together like an egg shell and lodged against the big locomotive. The cab was completely demolished and thrown upon the boiler over the dome. Engineer Seigleman was thrown through the cab window and escaped with a painful cut on the thigh. The fireman was on the rear of the tender shoveling coal and was thrown with terrific force against the fire box. The three unfortunate men were caught between the tender and the locomotive when it crashed together. Mr. Edkin's legs were crushed to the knees. Mr. Darling's body was horribly mangled, indicating instantaneous death. Mr. Swank's one leg was severely crushed and scalded. The fireman though badly scalded after assisting engineer Seigleman as best he could in caring for Swank and Edkin started for Laporte to summon help. The lanterns were all extinguished and the night dark and cold. The road to Laporte was not familiar to Mr. Fairman who lost his way. Half frozen and in a state of collapse he reached Laporte about 4 o'clock. The dreadful news was soon spread and a conveyance was dispatched with haste to bring the dead and dying to this place. Citizens who hurried to the scene found the unfortunates nearly frozen from exposure and loss of blood. Mr. Swank

died while being placed in the sled. Mr. Edkin lived to reach the Commercial Hotel where he recognized sorrowing friends who with tender hands and hearts full of pity were doing all in their power to alleviate his sufferings. He passed away at 10:30 a. m., a few minutes before his wife reached here from Satterfield. Despite his terrible injuries and exposure, having lain near the wreckage from the time of the accident at 2:40 until relief came at about 5 o'clock, he remained conscious until shortly before his death.

The force of the collision caused six of the cars to break from the stationary train on the siding and move out on the main track from where they went like a flash down grade for two miles where they were all derailed at a point known as King's fill and caused a damaging smash-up. This prevented through traffic on the road until late in the evening.

A coronor's inquest was held over the bodies in the afternoon. The verdict of the jury was to the effect that death had come through accident caused by neglect of one or more of the crew in not properly turning the switch. The jury was composed of Messrs T. J. Keeler, A. E. Tripp, A. H. Buschhausen, Lee R. Gavitt, M. W. Botsford and John W. Flynn. The Railroad Company was represented by Asst. Manager H. Knipe and Atty. E. J. Mullen; the Commonwealth by Dist. Atty. Howard Hill; Miss Julia O'Donovan serving as stenographer.

At first it seemed to be the purpose to show the jury that this crew had been kept on continuous duty for 34 hours, but the engineer's train orders showed differently, having been issued Sunday morning.

The evidence showed that Swank was detailed to attend the switch and when he boarded the engine was asked by the conductor, "Is everything all right?" to which he replied it was. The engineer then pulled on to Ringdale. He testified that he took notice of the signal when Swank stepped on the locomotive and saw the "white" and knew it was all right. He said he stopped opposite the switch for Swank to get on. The "white" showing at that point of view would throw the "red" up and down the track, indicating that the switch was open. It appeared, however, that the "white" conveyed the idea that all was right, not calculating at the moment his point of view.

Mr. Edkin's body was removed to the home of F. M. Crossley, uncle of Mrs. Edkin, Monday afternoon. Brief funeral services were held at Mr. Crossley's residence on Wednesday morning after which the body was taken aboard the ten o'clock train and taken to Hughesville where further services were held and interment made.

The funeral of Mr. Darling was held at Sonestown, Thursday forenoon, and the funeral of Mr. Swank was held in the afternoon of the same day.

Probably Murder.

Mrs. John Saam an aged woman of Forks township, died on Wednesday of last week under peculiar circumstances. She lived with her husband and son who it is alleged were in the habit of treating the aged woman most unkindly. Although she had been in poor health the neighbors knew nothing of her being seriously ill and were not informed of her death until after she had been prepared for burial, which took place on Friday. After the funeral, however, some of the woman's relatives became suspicious that all was not well, and immediately notified the coroner to investigate the circumstances surrounding her death. On Sunday the body was exhumed and found to be in a terrible condition, the stomach showed that the woman had partaken of no food for several days previous to her death. The back of the head and the body were covered with bruises and one rib was broken and penetrated the lung. The verdict of the coroner's jury was that death had resulted from injuries inflicted by person or persons unknown to the jury.

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