



ITEMS CONDENSED.

WANTED—Local agent to advertise and introduce the new educational work, WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY and ATLAS of the WORLD. Must be educated and able to furnish good references as to ability and character. THE SAALFIELD PUBLISHING COMPANY, AKRON, OHIO.

Connellsville's chamber of commerce is going to raise a guaranty fund of \$30,000 to get industries, on the Williamsport plan.

William Kilton will spend a term in the Columbia county jail for assaulting George Leiby by mistake. The convicted man has no hands.

Gettysburg will have a \$50,000 monument erected to the memory of General Lee. It will be on West Confederate avenue, near Spangler woods.

Andrew Paola was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at Philadelphia for shooting at Frederick Franks, a policeman who arrested him, and biting off part of the officer's finger.

Rhoda Thomas, of Whitesburg, near Ford City, was burned to death when her home caught fire and John Heron, aged 2, died at Monongahela from burns received at an open grate.

Twelve year old John Donaldson, who set his clothes on fire at Kittanning while he was playing at an open grate asked his mother not to scold him as he thought he would not live. He may die.

Mayor Magee, of Pittsburg, when met by a delegation of Bellevue citizens, stated that he will not aid them in their attempt to get a free bridge over Jack's run, unless their town becomes a part of Pittsburg.

Edith Schmidt, of North Side, Pittsburg, was burned fatally when her dress caught fire while she was standing in front of an open grate. She ran to the street screaming and neighbors succeeded in putting out the flames.

Mrs. L. W. Bamor, of Jersey Shore, routed a would-be highwayman in a street of that town recently, by defending herself with a hat pin. The fellow demanded her money, of which she had a considerable sum with her. She defended herself with the pin and called for help. He took to his heels.

Mrs. Joseph Stoeckel, wife of a Wilmington brewer, went over an embankment in her automobile near Chester and both she and the chauffeur landed in a pool of water. They escaped injury although they were drenched to the skin. The machine struck a rut and the driver lost control of it.

John Douglass, of Bradford, brought charges against his bride a few months for alleged perjury, she having sworn that she was not married before she wedded him, whereas she was a divorcee. But the grand jury at Butler upheld the woman, saying that it was up to the man to find out whether his wife ever had been married before. Douglass was placed in jail because he had no money to pay the costs which were placed on him.

William Green, a Bethlehem Steel company foreman, stepped in front of a locomotive which was hidden by a load of steam and had his skull fractured and his right arm pulled from its socket.

Within the next week almost \$1,000,000 will be drawn from banks and trust companies having State money deposited in them to meet the appropriations which fall due near the beginning of the year.

William Skillen was blown into an adjoining lot, suffered burns on the face and hands, and the side of the house was blown out when he tried to light the gas in a stove he had just erected at McKeesport. A leak had allowed considerable gas to escape.

Reports show that Pittsburg has reduced the number of cases of tuberculosis 50 per cent. within the past two years. More than 15,000 residents now are suffering from the disease and it causes as many deaths as all other contagious diseases combined.

C. G. Trimmer, of York, was held up and robbed of about \$145 in broad daylight. He had been accustomed to take the money every Saturday from a bank to his factory and when he was in the alley where the factory is located three men pounced on him and took the money.

So anxious are Philadelphia police to obtain costly jewels stolen from St. Jude's Greek Catholic church that they will send divers to the bottom of the Delaware river to get them if Eugene Birchler, the alleged confessed robber, can locate the spot where he threw them away.

Abraham Fisher, who introduced corn as an article of food into Ireland during the great famine, died at his home at Malvern, near West Chester. He was aged 87 years. When the famine was in Ireland, after the potato crop had given out, he sent a cargo of corn to relatives who owned a grist mill and it was ground and distributed. He was manager of the Jamesville and Washington railway.

A DISTRICT INSTITUTE

A district institute comprising the school districts of Riverside borough and Gearhart and Rush townships was held in the high school room at South Danville on Friday and Saturday. The sessions were well attended; a varied program was rendered and a degree of interest was manifested by those who participated that augurs well for the schools on the south side.

The district institute convened Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock. The principal address was delivered by Professor I. H. Manser, principal of the Trevorton schools. His talk dealt in a very practical way with those problems that confront a teacher in every day experience. Able and practical addresses were also delivered by I. C. M. Ellenberger, superintendent of the schools of Sunbury, and S. H. Dean, superintendent of the schools of Mt. Carmel.

On Saturday morning the institute convened at 10 o'clock. A very appropriate and well prepared paper was read by Miss Mary Lyons entitled, "Some Knotty Problems."

This was followed by a discussion of the subject, "Should the System of Grading and Promotion be Elastic?" the principal speaker being W. W. Fetzer, superintendent of the schools of Northumberland county. He spoke principally from the stand point of the rural schools and admitted that the problem is one which, under existing conditions in the schools, almost baffles a satisfactory solution. He does not believe in holding the pupil back unduly; at the same time he recognized the evils that would be pretty sure to ensue if a policy were adopted of making promotions regardless of deficiency that might exist in some branches thus keeping the average of the pupil down below the standard.

The discussion seemed to resolve itself into the question, whether out of justice to the child and as a measure to keep the high school filled it would be best to educate the pupil along the line he wishes to travel or "to balance him up" in the various branches embraced in the course of study. No definite conclusion seemed to be arrived at, although County Superintendent Fetzer inclined to the view that special examinations might be justified in the case of some pupils.

Miss Beaver read a most excellent paper on "Spelling." She was followed by Miss Bogart with a paper entitled, "How Can We Secure Better Results in English?" The paper showed a great deal of care and thought in its preparation.

A paper was read by Miss Gulick entitled, "Are We Experimenting Too Much and Devoting Too Little Time to Fundamentals?" which was very generally discussed. It seemed to be the consensus of opinion that while some experimenting may be defensible yet it is something that should not be carried very far in the school room. Publishing houses and those who furnish school supplies were held responsible for a great many of the innovations that are unloaded on the schools only to be discarded after extended experimentation, in which the schools have lost time and the pupils suffered positive detriment.

Superintendent Ellenberger adverted to the vertical system of writing, for a time quite popular in the schools, which he strongly condemned, declaring that it disqualifies young persons for holding positions where good penmanship is required and that many who have been taught according to this system had actually lost opportunities to secure employment. He advised that teachers be a slave to no system in any branch, bearing in mind that the success of the schools depends on "the genius of the teacher."

Superintendent Dean inveighed against the practice of ruling the slates for small pupils, introduced sometime in the past, and which "experiment" has found to be pernicious, leading in many cases to permanent injury to the eyes of the children. He advocated large writing and urged that whenever practicable the black board should be used.

D. N. Dieffenbacher, superintendent of the Danville schools, explained the result that followed experiment with the Pollard system and the vertical system of writing in his schools. Vertical writing has fallen into disfavor and the schools throughout the borough are going back to the slanting system. In reading a combination of several systems is employed.

Mr. Wertz read a paper entitled, "The Greatest Difficulty Met in Country Schools: How to Remedy It." It was a clever production, dwelling upon the tender and sympathetic relations existing between teacher and pupil. The teacher should be in close sympathy with the parents and should bring them to feel that he is interested in their children.

During the afternoon session Miss Surver, teacher of the grammar school belonging to the joint district of Riv-

THREE BRIDGES UNFINISHED

It has become quite clear that the three county bridges in course of erection can not be completed this season, all of which will be a matter of much regret to the public, especially those who have occasion to use the several highways on which the bridges occur.

The three smaller bridges—at Carey's, at John Coleman's, and at Buck Run—were completed by the Owego Bridge company last month. The three remaining bridges, built by the Nelson Merydith company, are located respectively at Cotner's, at Maust's and at Sechler's.

The contract in each case called for the completion of the bridge before this but the company pleads unavoidable delay caused by its inability to obtain the steel work.

The stone work was completed months ago. The crushed stone needed for the concrete floors is also on the ground. It is too late in the season to go on with the work, even if the material should arrive forthwith. Considering the time of year we would have to be favored with a period of phenomenal weather, indeed, before the county commissioners would feel justified in permitting the contractors to enter upon the construction of the bridges this winter. The erection of the ironwork, it is true, could proceed without detriment, but the laying of the concrete floors while freezing temperatures prevail would be obviously ill-advised.

During a discussion at the court house yesterday the fact was made patent, not only that floors of concrete have superseded plank, but also that bridges wholly of concrete are coming into favor in this State and promise in process of time—probably very soon—to displace iron or steel bridges.

The experiment where tried has proven thoroughly satisfactory. It is demonstrated that the counties can build concrete bridges more cheaply and that it costs less to maintain them. The item of paint is essentially eliminated; concrete is practically indestructible, and consequently no money is required for repairs on bridges of that sort.

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12 LAWYERS IN MONTOUR

Numerous inquiries received by the State Bar association as to the number of members of the Bar in the various counties of Pennsylvania caused inquiry to be made by the secretary, Judge William H. Staake. After much correspondence he has at last received reliable data and finds that there are 7337 such attorneys-at-law. This county has 12; Columbia, 38; Schuylkill, 125; Luzerne, 208 and Lycoming, 75.

GOOD SHOWING

Borough Superintendent Dieffenbacher reports that the schools of the second ward are making excellent progress, notwithstanding the loss of three weeks' time caused by the outbreak of diphtheria and scarlet fever in that ward. So diligently did the pupils of the higher grades prosecute their studies at their homes during the period of quarantine that at the present time in point of proficiency they compare favorably with pupils of the same grades in the other wards. The smaller children, who depend more upon daily help received from the teacher, were unable to accomplish quite so much working unaided, but they also did very well.

As a measure to enable them to make up lost time, for awhile it was thought the second ward schools might remain open during the holiday week but in view of the excellent showing made this has now been abandoned.

Few of us are any better than we ought to be.

erside and Gearhart township, read a most excellent paper, entitled, "Birds as a Factor in Agriculture." She was followed by Mrs. Young, teacher of the primary department, who presented the subject of "Form," introducing a class of pupils to illustrate her method.

Then followed an address by Professor T. E. Shannon, teacher of the joint high school, on the subject of "Pennsylvania in Literature." It was an able and instructive discourse, revealing that the speaker is well posted on literature and that he feels a deep interest in all matters pertaining to it.

The four walls of the high school room were covered with specimens of work—drawing, penmanship, etc.—executed by the pupils of the three districts represented in the local institute. Without exception the work was very meritorious.

Under the principalship of Professor Shannon the high school on the south side is flourishing. The report of the first month's school is phenomenal. Of the seventeen pupils enrolled each one was present every day, neither was there a single tardy mark.

THE CHRISTMAS VACATION

Six school directors of Danville braved the elements Monday eve to attend a regular meeting of the board. They were as follows: W. A. Sechler, W. H. Orth, J. W. Swarts, William Burns, Dr. Shultz and J. H. Cole.

Under the head of unfinished business Mr. Orth reported that permission had been granted to the Parent-Teacher association to hold its regular meetings in the high school room.

J. W. Swarts reported that a leak had been discovered in the roof of the First ward school building. The roof was ordered repaired.

It was reported that boards are being torn off the rear of the "flat" school house. On motion it was ordered that a notice be posted on the building forbidding trespassing.

On motion it was ordered that the teachers and janitors be paid for institute week and two weeks of teaching, when the schools close for the holidays.

Dr. Shultz reported that Miss Lawrence's school in the third ward is overcrowded, there being 52 pupils enrolled. He suggested several plans by which overcrowding might be relieved, one being the fitting up of another room in the building and employing an additional teacher. It is believed that there will be a still larger attendance in Miss Lawrence's room after the holidays. On motion it was ordered that the matter be referred to the committee on teachers and certificates.

On motion it was ordered that the schools close on Thursday, December 23rd, for the Christmas vacation, reopening on Monday, January 3rd.

The following bills were approved for payment:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. P. A. Winters \$1.20, Benj. Kneibler .60, Chris P. Hershey 1.25, A. G. Harris 1.25, Adams Ex. Co. .95, W. H. Orth 1.70, J. B. Cleaver 16.59, W. G. Brown 2.90, C. E. Voris (Com.) 14.71

THE COMING CENSUS

Benj. Apple, of Sunbury, supervisor of the census for this district, is in Washington attending a special meeting of the men who will have this work in charge. The different details of the work will be discussed at this meeting. Each person seeking appointment as census enumerator must make a written application to the supervisor for the district of which he is a resident, and the application must be made throughout in the handwriting of the applicant and must be indorsed by two representative business men of the community in which the applicant resides. All applicants for appointment as enumerators will be required to take an examination, to be prescribed by the director of the census, to determine their fitness for the work. This examination will be of a practical character, consisting chiefly or wholly of the filling out of a sample schedule of population from data furnished, and in the case of enumerators whose work will be in rural districts, the filling out of a sample schedule of agriculture. The census act also provides that the compensation to be paid to enumerators is fixed by the census act and an allowance of not less than two nor more than four cents for each inhabitant, not less than twenty nor more than thirty cents for each farm reported and ten cents for each barn and inclosure containing live stock not on farms, is provided for all sub-divisions where the director of the census shall deem such enumeration sufficient.

SOON TO KNOW FATE

Henry Fisher, twice convicted at Sunbury of the murder of Sarah Klingler, in Shamokin, whose attorneys recently appealed to the supreme court of the State for a new trial, will within a few weeks know his fate.

The judges in the highest court in the commonwealth who rose in Pittsburg on Friday, November 14, will again sit in Philadelphia on the first Monday in January, 1910, when it is expected that a decision on the appeal will be handed down.

The case of Fisher is one of the longest drawn out that has ever been tried in Northumberland county. The murder for which he was twice convicted was committed in 1906. Since that time Attorneys Welsh and Welsh have been fighting with bulldog tenacity to save the condemned man from the gallows and thus far have met with success. This is the second time that the lawyers have taken an appeal to the supreme court and should they prove successful in securing a new trial, the case will undoubtedly hold the boards of Northumberland county for another year.

WOMAN TRIES TO ENLIST

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.

The second attempt of Miss Adelaide Portwood, of Decatur, Ill., to enlist in the United States navy, in order to be with her sweetheart, who has been ordered to Central America, went awry yesterday because of certain regulations governing the enlistment of recruits.

Her sweetheart is Corporal James Dixon, of the marine corps, who recently inherited about \$100,000, obtained his discharge and then re-enlisted because he could not curb his martial spirit. Miss Portwood's family is said to be prominent in Decatur.

When the recruiting officer reached the recruiting station Miss Portwood, in complete male attire, was waiting with an expectant smile.

"Just step in the next room and prepare for the physician's examination," directed Sergeant Holman. Miss Portwood stepped in. Fifteen minutes later when Sergeant Holman investigated to ascertain the cause of the delayed reappearance, an open window told of an escape, and a hairpin and perfumed handkerchief on the floor told a story of their own.

See that your horse is properly blanketed if left standing in the street these days.

TO BLOOMSBURG THROUGH STORM

Braving a cold rain driven by an almost cyclonic wind and oceans of muddy slush under foot, Dr. J. Beaver Gearhart, with Walter "Reds" Rupp as a companion, Monday walked to Bloomsburg in the remarkable time of 2 hours and 20 minutes.

The stunt grew out of an argument at Frank Linker's cigar store and pool room Monday afternoon. Ed Schaffer, the well known pool room proprietor of Bloomsburg, was in this city and had stopped at Linker's store. While there the subject of weather came up and then walking was discussed. Finally Dr. Gearhart was considered reasonable, the guarantee for the train both ways amounting to only a little more than what was required to secure the single night special, which was at first figured on.

It was decided that the special train should leave Milton at 1 o'clock and West Milton at 1:15 o'clock on the afternoon of New Year's day. Returning it will leave Danville at 9 o'clock p. m.

On next Monday night a very important meeting will be held by the Mummies' association, at which the prizes will be arranged, the judges appointed, &c. Immediately afterward large posters setting forth all the features of the occasion will be printed and posted in all the neighboring towns as well as in Danville and immediate vicinity.

Undoubtedly this year the floats will constitute a remarkable feature of the parade, some fifteen being already assured. While a number of the floats may savor of advertisement, others will be gotten up purely for the sake of adding to the interest of the New Year's pageant. They will embody quaint and original conceptions; many will be very beautiful.

It has been ascertained that a large number of the merry makers are already working on their make-up. Some of these—the most novel and grotesque probably—are known to be entirely new and will produce a stunning effect in the parade. The mummies are working quietly and each one is guarding his secret jealously. Some of those who will be in the parade have been busy on the idea ever since last New Year's and that they are evolving something worth while no one will doubt.

Mr. Schaffer had gone ahead in the trolley and appraised a number of Bloomsburgers that the Danville walkers were coming. A large crowd met them on the street and nothing in the town was too good for them.

steadfastly refused all offers of hospitality, however, and caught the six o'clock car home, arriving here at 7 o'clock, soaked to the skin, but not a bit fatigued by the tramp.

When they got out into the open country the wind was so strong at times as to nearly carry the walkers off their feet; and this in combination with the rain and slush made the going particularly tough. But notwithstanding the adverse conditions they made a speedy trip of it. At 4:25—1 hour and 5 minutes after starting—they were at the Grovania hotel. An hour and 15 minutes later they were in Bloomsburg.

REV. GRIMES ORDAINED

The impressive ordination service of the Episcopal church was performed by the Rt. Rev. James Henry Darling, bishop of the diocese of Harrisburg, in St. Paul's church, Bloomsburg, yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, when Rev. John Conley Grimes, formerly pastor of St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal church, Riverside, and Rev. John E. Diggles, brother of the rector of St. Paul's church, and in charge of the parish at Northumberland, were accepted into the Episcopal priesthood.

Rev. John P. Tyler, of Hagerstown, Maryland, preached the ordination sermon and a number of visiting priests were in attendance. The services also marked the formal re-opening of St. Paul's church after extensive renovations.

Rev. Grimes is at present rector of St. Mary's Episcopal church, at Williamsport.

OLD AGE PENSION BILL

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15.

An old age pension plan for the United States was proposed to congress in a bill introduced by Representative William B. Wilson, of Pennsylvania, yesterday. The bill establishes the old age home guard of the army. The secretary of war is directed to enlist into this guard every person in the United States who has reached the age of sixty-five, and is not possessed of property without insurance value at \$1,500 or of an income of at least \$240 a year. Persons to be eligible for the guard must have been residents of the United States for twenty-five consecutive years and citizens of the United States for fifteen consecutive years. Husbands and wives are to be enrolled as one member.

OIL KING IN NEW ROLE

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.

It is reported today that John D. Rockefeller is going into the drug business and is reaching out to get control of a chain of drug stores in the leading cities. The by-products of the Standard Oil company enter largely into the retail drug business and it is said that Rockefeller hopes to gobble up the big retail stores and thereby reap the profits of the Standard Oil company's products.

Mysterious agents who for the past week have called at leading drug stores of this city and Milwaukee to ascertain if the stores are for sale, are said to be agents of the Rockefeller interests.

ALL GOING OUT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.

Like the Christmas shopper, the Treasury department is feeling the approach of the Yuletide season. More money is going out than is coming in, and the "working balance" is decreasing in proportion. Unlike the shopper, however, the treasury is not concerned over the situation, for several times since the beginning of the fiscal year the working balance has started on a toboggan until it was lower than now, and each time it has recovered.

To avoid the rush, mail your Christmas packages early.

FIFTEEN FLOATS ARE ASSURED

It has been decided to have a special train in both directions between Danville and Milton on New Year's day, instead of a special only one way, at night.

This decision was reached at a special meeting of the Mummies' association held Monday night, at which District Passenger Agent of the P. & R. Railway George Roper, of Williamsport, was present. The terms were considered reasonable, the guarantee for the train both ways amounting to only a little more than what was required to secure the single night special, which was at first figured on.

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CELEBRATED GOLDEN WEDDING

One of the most interesting and delightful social functions that have taken place on the south side in many years occurred yesterday, when Mr. and Mrs. Forbes H. Vannan celebrated their golden wedding. Receptions were held during afternoon and evening, a large number of invited guests representing both Danville and the south side being present.

Mr. and Mrs. Vannan are among our best-known and esteemed people. Those innate qualities of heart that have popularized them in the community never shone more effulgently than during yesterday, when amid the decorations of their cozy and attractive home they assumed the role of host and hostess. Everyone who stepped over the threshold was impressed with the felicity of the occasion and the congratulations that were extended were warm and heart-felt.

The house was most beautifully decorated for the occasion. One hundred and twenty-five guests were present, including the following from a distance: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Bacon and four children, Mrs. Anna Bacon of Harrisburg; Mrs. Miner B. Anstin of Harris-Barre; B. F. Antrim, West Pittston; Mrs. E. H. Carhart and Miss Grace Boughton of Kingston, and Paul Vannan of Elyria, Ohio.

The most sumptuous entertainment awaited the guests. Refreshments embracing all the delicacies were served in abundance. These were followed with a couple of delightful hours during which choice music was rendered by the Glee Club.

In celebrating a golden wedding the mind instinctively reverts to the day of the marriage, when the worthy couple who have survived fifty anniversaries of the happy event first entered the nuptial state.

Mr. and Mrs. Forbes H. Vannan were married at Scranton fifty years ago yesterday, the officiating clergyman being the Rev. Adam L. Horn, uncle of the bride. Before marriage Mrs. Vannan was Miss Emeline A. Parr, of Belvidere, N. J. The couple went to house-keeping in Scranton.

Forbes H. Vannan was born in Glasgow, Pa., and came to Danville, Pa., where he became an engineer on the D. L. & W. Railroad.

Later, for one season he served as foreman of the P. & E. shops at Lock Haven under Captain Frank Hain.

In 1874, he accepted a position as foreman of the railroad shops at Kingston, a post which he occupied for five years. He was under Charles Graham as master mechanic.

The next position he filled was that of superintendent of the shops of the Wyoming Valley Manufacturing company. While he was in charge the first locomotive made in Wilkes-Barre was built at these shops.

In 1889, Mr. Vannan came to Danville, at the solicitation of the late Daniel Edwards, accepting the position of master mechanic at the Big Mill. Here he remained for eight years, when he accepted the position of master mechanic at the Mahoning Rolling mill.

He next went into partnership with the late Daniel M. Curry, purchasing the plant now known as the Danville Foundry and Machine works. In 1908 he retired from business, but later, at the death of Mr. Curry, he became a member of the Danville Foundry and Machine company, which took over the plant. He has been president of the company since its organization.