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CONSOLIDATION.

ARTHUR J. MOXHAM, ESQ., INTERVIEWED ON THE SUBJECT.

What He Thinks—Would Consolidation Have Prevented the Great Flood?—No Machinery by Which the Whole Community Can Act—Taxation Might Be Heavier, But We Cannot Expect Something for Nothing.

As announced in Wednesday morning's DEMOCRAT, we publish to-day the first interview on consolidation. Mr. A. J. Moxham was seen by our reporter, and in response to question, "What do you say concerning consolidation?" gives for publication the following:

"You have asked me to communicate to you my views on the question of consolidation. I can only do so at a disadvantage, because to my mind the gain to this community of consolidation would be something so great, and the disadvantages of it so small, that I am perhaps able to take only a one-sided view of the problem.

"As a matter of common sense, if thirty thousand people want to do a thing, they can do it by clubbing together and acting as a unit, and just now they have got something to do. They have got to get this place on its feet.

"Even the opponents of consolidation can only advance arguments against it on what may be termed party lines. That is to say, one borough may claim that it will not gain as much as the other borough by consolidation. This is undoubtedly true, but when the only question is how much will each gain, why should any such consideration be permitted to influence the result?

"The richest of our boroughs as they stand to-day would be richer, not poorer by consolidation.

"There is something in the life of a city, as in the life of a man, which, while it cannot be measured with a foot rule, or weighed in a pair of scales, takes no small part in adding to or interfering with the happiness of the people.

"Tangible results are affected by one's method of life. A city with well paved streets, cleanly sidewalks, and buildings which are pleasing to the eye; a city in which local transit is rapid and good, in which police protection and discipline are reliable, are just as sure to have a pleasanter, healthier and more progressive life, as a cleanly and well regulated household is sure to enjoy life more than the household accustomed to slovenliness and dirt.

"Let us imagine what may very probably occur, if, within a few years, a tract of a railroad surveyed to pass within twenty or thirty miles of this place. With a compact city organization how quickly would an earnest effort be made to approach the projectors of such a road, and to induce them to divert their contemplated line so as to run through Johnstown instead of by it. With an aggregation of boroughs, how hopeless would such an effort be. So hopeless that I doubt whether it would be seriously attempted.

"Let any public question arise (and from public questions does a city's progress develop) how much quicker the machinery of a city can be brought to bear in influencing results for its own good than that of eleven puny little boroughs.

"Let your readers, Mr. Editor, stop and ask themselves this question: "Would we have suffered the calamities of the flood if we had had a city organization here? I answer emphatically, No. "The facts which were known to all were these: A dangerous body of water existed in our neighborhood, and grave doubts were entertained on all sides as to the security of the structure which dammed it in.

"We have the strange spectacle of the whole community, as a community, not even taking the trouble to investigate the possible danger. The reason that nothing was done is very evident, simply this: That there has never been in these valleys a competent organization, representative of the community as a whole. There have been a baker's dozen of organizations, representing each one a homeopathic proportion of the community. I will venture the assertion that if we had had a city organization, and consequently had become accustomed to acting as a unit, years ago would this question of the South Fork dam have been settled.

"Well, we have paid for our criminal carelessness. Paid for it with the lives of those dear to us; paid for it with our homes, and with our savings. And we shall continue to pay for it the while of the sad winter before us with the bitter tears that will be shed in secret, and with the suffering and discomfort that is before us. But we cannot deny that we brought it on ourselves. If we do not show on the 5th of next November that we have learned the lesson there will be very little hope in my judgment for our near future.

"You cannot build even a house without tools to work with, still less can you control and influence public results without the proper machinery to do it with. Take the history of affairs in Johnstown since the flood. We have had many committees. Please point out to me among all these committees one committee, who, when it speaks on a general public question, can speak as representative of the whole community. There is not one committee in existence that has not done its work nobly and well. There is not one that has not earned the gratitude of the people; but there is also not one, who, from the nature of the case, is to-day in a position to speak for the whole people.

"Many public questions have arisen and are arising from day to day, and they are put back to slumber and no action taken upon them. Why? Because there is no machinery with which to reach the people excepting the cumbersome machinery of lots of little boroughs, and because life is too short and time is too quick for any sensible man to undertake the problem to try to get every little borough to think alike on the same question.

"With a city organization our city would respond to every public need like a well balanced piece of machinery; with your

borough organizations it takes dynamite to move you.

"With a city organization you would govern yourselves and yourselves control the results which affect you. With your borough organization you are passive like a flock of sheep, and until a dog or wolf gets after you, or until something comes along with a bell on its collar to lead you, you do not move.

"It is open to dispute whether taxation would be heavier under a city government. I, myself, think it will, but I also think it ought to be. You cannot get something for nothing, and if you will look around and see how much more other people, who have well organized city governments, get in the shape of good sidewalks, well paved streets, good lights, and a hundred and one little details that go to make up comfort in city life, it seems to me that the small amount in dollars and cents per head that would go to give us these comforts need not frighten any one who will give it a moment's thought.

"I, for one, am looking forward to the election with great longing. I am hoping that it will be the beginning of a new life for us all, with the dead past so utterly put behind us that not even the name be left, and in the place of a lot of little mismanaged boroughs without a single collective name, but called Johnstown, by courtesy, I would like to see the birth of a new and vigorous city called Conemaugh Valley; a city that has witnessed the greatest sorrow of the times, and that has enjoyed the greatest tenderness. It cannot fail to have a grand future before it if it only profits by what it has learnt—we have learnt so much."

THE UNFOUNDED DEAD.

An Account of Yesterday's Meeting of the Subscribers to the Fund to Search for the Dead.

Pursuant to a call issued Tuesday for a meeting of the subscribers to the fund for searching for the dead, about fifty assembled in the Flood Commission Room, Market Square, yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Twenty others came during the meeting.

On motion of H. W. Storey, Esq., Mr. A. J. Moxham was made Chairman of the meeting. I. E. Roberts was chosen Secretary.

George T. Swank, Esq., offered the following resolutions, which were adopted: Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the President, whose duty it shall be to immediately name to this meeting for approval a list of names for officers of the organization to be formed for the purpose of carrying on the work of searching for the unrecovered dead of the flood in the Conemaugh Valley on the 8th of May, 1889.

Resolved, That the officers of the organization shall consist of a Treasurer, a Secretary, and an Executive Board of five members, with full power of conducting the search for the unrecovered dead of the flood, and of expending the money subscribed, or that shall be subscribed, for that purpose.

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Executive Committee be the President of the organization.

Chairman Moxham appointed George T. Swank, Herman Baumer, and H. W. Storey to carry out the purposes of the resolutions. They retired, and after due consideration, returned and offered the following report:

Executive Committee, James McMillen, A. J. Moxham, James H. Gageby, John Hannan, Dr. J. C. Sheridan; Treasurer, John D. Roberts; Secretary, J. Earl Ogle.

On motion of Mr. Smith the report was adopted.

Interchange of opinions as to the method of pursuing the work took up most of the time, during the absence of the Committee.

While the Committee was out Dr. Geo. W. Wagoner moved "That the Cambria Iron Company and the Johnson Company be respectfully requested to aid the citizens in their efforts to recover the dead, and that they be requested to advise the Executive Committee of their answer to their request at an early day."

Carried unanimously.

Mr. Moxham recommended that, as the State's tools were still in the town, it be asked of Governor Beaver to let us have the loan of the tools. Mr. Adair made a motion to that effect. The following telegram was sent the Governor:

Governor Beaver, Harrisburg, Pa. As Chairman of the citizens who have organized to search for the dead, I am requested to ask you whether you will loan to us the State tools now on hand here for this purpose. Kindly give answer. A. J. MOXHAM.

On motion of Mr. Storey the following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That all persons who have subscribed to this fund, and those who subscribe in the future, pay their subscriptions, either by mail or otherwise, to J. Earl Ogle, Secretary, at the post-office, or to John D. Roberts, Treasurer, at the First National Bank, and that the subscriptions paid be published.

Mr. Frank moved that should any vacancies occur in the organization the Executive Committee shall be authorized to fill them, which was adopted.

The Executive Committee was requested, on motion of C. G. Campbell, to prepare a circular setting forth such information as is essential in connection with the continuance of subscriptions and the work.

The meeting then adjourned.

The Executive Committee met after the adjournment of the meeting but its deliberations were not learned. Mr. Chas. L. Calloway, of Bellefonte, Pa., was recommended to the Committee for supervisor of the works.

Frightful Death of a Blacksmith.

A Greensburg, Ind., telegram says: John McCain, a blacksmith living at Smalltown, a village twelve miles distant, met his death this morning in a most terrible manner. McCain was chopping down a tree, and when it fell he was caught by one of the branches and pulled under it, mashing his skull and cutting his throat from ear to ear.

TIRED OF LIFE.

Mr. John Fritzinger, of Conemaugh Borough, Commits Suicide Between 1 and 2 P. M.

AN AWFUL SIGHT TO WITNESS.

"Oh, Minnie! Your Father Has Hung Himself!"—Insanity Thought to be the Cause—An Open Razor Ready if Hanging Had Failed to do the Work—A Clear Case of Suicidal Intent—No Jury Needed.

Wednesday afternoon, between the hours of 1 and 2 o'clock, the upper part of Conemaugh borough was thrown into excitement by the news that John Fritzinger had hanged himself. Officer Brindle, who happened to be near, was soon on the scene of the tragedy, and immediately started for Coroner Evans, stopping on his way to notify Burgess P. S. Freidhoff, who at once went to No. 181 Church avenue, where the dead man's body was.

It took a long time to find the Coroner, as he was not at home, but about 6 o'clock in the evening he arrived and took the statements of Mrs. Fritzinger and the children, which was substantially as follows:

John Fritzinger was a coal miner by occupation, and had been at work at Gallitzin, in Taylor and McCoy's mines for about nine weeks previous to his returning to his family yesterday a week. At times he seemed despondent and had several times threatened to take his own life, but no attention was paid to his talk. Yesterday morning he packed his valise intending to return to Gallitzin. His family told him that they wanted him to get work done here so that he could be at home. He had been drinking some since he was home, and after being persuaded to remain at home he went down street, returning about 11.30. Dinner was soon ready, but he refused to eat any, saying, "I don't care to eat when I don't feel like it." In the morning he had threatened to kill himself. No attention was paid to what he said, however, and some time after dinner he took a hatchet and a twelve-penny nail and went into the room adjoining the dining room where there was a bed. He had previously said that as he did not feel very well he would take a sleep. He was heard to drive the nail into the wall, his family thought to hang his clothes on. No more noise was heard although there is only a partition between the room he was in and that in which his family were staying. In the course of an hour his wife said to Minnie, her daughter, "I'll call John, he must be sleeping, he keeps so quiet." "No," said Minnie, "let him sleep." After a little Mrs. Fritzinger went into the room for something she needed and was horrified to see her husband hanging to the wall and apparently dead, she screamed and exclaimed, "O Minnie, your father has hung himself! Give me a knife quick, I think he is still alive." Minnie responded instantly and brought her mother a case-knife, with which the string around his neck was quickly cut, and the body fell like a leaden weight to the floor. The neighbors were then alarmed, and the news quickly reached the public as above stated. Neither the body nor any article in the room was moved from the time the body was cut down till the Coroner arrived.

The Coroner then inspected the room and found that John Fritzinger had evidently taken a pair of suspenders, fastened the front end of each one to a strong nail in the wall, one of the pairs being the one he drove into the wall when he went into the room, and through these he had put a strong double muslin band about two inches wide and half a yard long, which he had tied around his neck. To secure himself thus he must have stood on the chair, which was found near him, and then kicked it away.

Near where he hung stood a wash stand, on which, besides a number of other things, an open razor and the hatchet with which he had driven the fatal nail. It looks as if he had taken the precaution to provide another way of taking his life should hanging fail.

Further inquiry elicited the information that at times there was some discord in the family circle, and that he had not been helping to keep the family, his wife being obliged to keep boarders, as her husband had been sending them no money all the time he was at Gallitzin. It is believed by some that he fancied he had cause to be jealous.

The coroner thought the case a clear one of suicidal intent, and did not summon a jury, it being apparent from what could be seen and learned that it was a deliberate act of self-destruction.

The Fritzinger family has lived in Conemaugh borough about a year, and a half,

having previously lived at Gallitzin for eight years.

Fritzinger was a German, having been born in the old country, was about fifty-three years of age, and came to this country thirty years ago. He had been married about twenty-seven years. His family consists of five children, the eldest, a daughter is married and lives at Gallitzin, the second also a daughter living at Gallitzin, and the rest, two girls and a boy, live at home.

THE LATE JOHN FENN.

His Body is Now Known to be in Prospect After Months of Search by His Wife.

Before the flood Mr. John Fenn kept a stove and tinware store at 233 and 234 Washington street, where he did a thriving business. When the flood came his family consisting of his wife and seven bright children, were at his residence, 233 Locust street, and Mr. Fenn was at his store. Alarmed at the rapid rise of water he started for his home by way of Clinton street, it is presumed to avoid the water on Franklin street, but before reaching his house he was overtaken by the wave and sought refuge in the residence of the editor of this paper, and when that house was knocked to pieces was swept on to death. Seeing that he was doomed to perish before reaching his loved ones at home, he called to Mr. Henry Derritt to tell his wife and children good-bye. Mrs. Fenn and the children, with the house maid, were floated in their house to the neighborhood of Cobough's block in Keraville, when the house was struck or caught by other buildings and crushed to pieces. The children were never seen afterward. Mrs. Fenn miraculously escaped, but was unable for weeks to learn of any clue that might enable her to find the remains of any of the missing ones, being hindered much of the time by sickness resulting from the shock and exposure. Finally the body of little Bismarck, the youngest son, was found and identified, but it seemed as if none of the others would ever be found. Mrs. Fenn did not despair of finding them, however, and persevered in her search until last Thursday afternoon, when she found in the possession of the Committee on Valuables the key ring with key, pocket-book, containing \$3.38 in small change, and a collar button, all of which had been taken from the body of her husband at the Presbyterian Morgue. The number of the grave in Prospect, where he had been buried, was also learned, and in the near future the body will be raised, taken to the Presbyterian Church, where memorial services for the eight lost ones will be held, and interred in the family lot in Grand View.

THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACE.

Sixteen of the Unknown Dead Laid There Yesterday—One Body Identified.

On Monday the work of preparing a place for the unknown dead in the plot selected for that purpose in Grand View Cemetery, was completed, and yesterday sixteen bodies were raised from the old trench, taken out of the coffins in which they had been buried, put into new caskets and consigned to what will likely be their last resting place. It having been announced that bodies would be removed yesterday, a large crowd of people were attracted to the cemetery, some from motives of curiosity and others in the hope of being able to find the remains of some of their missing ones. Their searches were not all in vain, for the brothers of the late Philip Constable were able to identify his body, it having been recorded in the morgue lists that one of the bodies was thought to be their brother's. If the weather will permit the work of removing the remaining bodies, more than one hundred in number, will be continued to-day. When the work at Grand View is done the task of removing the unknown dead from Prospect will be begun.

The Late Bernard Keelan.

Mr. Bernard Keelan, who died in Pittsburgh on Friday last, formerly resided in Prospect borough. About twelve years ago he moved to Pittsburgh. At the time of the flood he was one among the first to come here with a car load of provisions and personally superintended its distribution. He resided in Prospect for many years and was employed as a puddler in the rolling mill of the Cambria Iron Company. He was known here as an honorable and respected citizen, and highly esteemed by many of our citizens. Mr. Keelan had been sick for some time and while delirious broke out of bed and fell down stairs, breaking his neck. He was comfortable when he died, and in his son is employed in the business house of Janlevy & Co., Pittsburgh.

Complimentary to Miss Barton.

At the meeting of the Cambria County Medical Society on Friday the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the representatives of the Cambria County Medical Society, residing in the Conemaugh Valley, hereby tender to Miss Clara Barton, President of the American Red Cross, their sincere and heartfelt thanks for the sweet spirit of charity and loving kindness which prompted and controlled her actions with the stricken people of our community, and for the gracious manner in which she aided us on many occasions.

THE WRECKED WIRE MILLS.

Larger and More Positive Improvements to be Made—All the Ground Secured Necessary.

There was no worse wreck caused by the flood than that of the wire mills. The heavy brick structures, strengthened and braced by iron work seemed to offer no resistance to the sweeping torrent. It seems almost incredible that water should have such power as to overcome the resistance with which it must have met when it encountered the strong and heavy buildings in its course. If previous to the flood any man had predicted that the wire mills, the Conemaugh borough fire engine house and school house would be swept away should the reservoir break, he would have been pronounced out of his mind by most people. As yet not much work at straightening up matters about the wire mills has been done, although the Gaultier Mills have been in operation for some time. On Portage street and across it from where the wire mills stood and for some rods below, is a deposit several feet deep of bricks, sand, stones, iron framework, wire of every kind, castings of all sizes and shapes, boilers and almost anything imaginable. The Cambria Iron Company has a large force of men employed in clearing up this debris but the work is slow, the wire being matted and tangled so that it is difficult to remove. It is thought that no attempt to rebuild the wire mills will be made this fall, but next spring they will be constructed on a much more extensive scale than before the flood. The company, by trading and buying, has secured about all the ground it desires for rebuilding its works in Conemaugh borough, the use of Portage street and all the ground between it and Center street having been obtained. It is understood that before the new works are erected the level of the ground will be considerably raised. Such a thing would be a very wise move, as it would lessen the danger from high water.

A SHORT SESSION.

Meeting of the Flood Relief Commission. PHILADELPHIA, October 22.—The Johnstown Flood Relief Commission held their first session at the Manufacturers' Club to-day.

The session, which lasted two hours and a half, was secret, no one being admitted except the members. Those present were Governor Beaver, Francis B. Reeves, Robert C. Ogden and John J. Huber.

Messrs. Ogden and Reeves made an informal report as to the distribution of funds in Class 4, of which there still remain \$1,000,000.

Mr. Ogden was seen after the meeting adjourned, but refused to give any details of what was done until later in the day, but it is thought arrangements were made to commence the paying out of the money next Wednesday.

INDIANA NORMAL SCHOOL.

Tuition Free to the Sufferers by the Johnstown Flood.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Normal School the following resolutions were adopted, which have been furnished us by the Secretary of the Board:

Resolved 1, That the privileges of our Normal School shall be extended to the sufferers by the Johnstown flood, for the current year, regular tuition free, with the privilege of obtaining board in or outside of the school building as they may choose.

Resolved 2, That a committee of three be appointed by the President of the Board to whom applications shall be made, and that, upon these certificates, applicants for the privileges of the school under the above resolutions, shall be received.

The following Committee was appointed: Z. X. Snyder, Principal of School, Hon. John P. Elkins, U. B. Marshall, Thos. Sutton, Secretary of the Board.

DEATH ON THE RAIL.

John J. Neil of Cambria City Killed at Greensburg.

Tuesday morning Edward O'Neill, of Cambria, received a telegram announcing that his son John had been killed at Greensburg, while serving in the capacity of brakeman on the Southwest Branch. O'Neill lived about two hours after the accident, which happened about 3 o'clock a. m. He was taken to Derry station where his wounds were examined by a doctor and pronounced fatal. His remains were expected to arrive at Cambria last night. He was about twenty-seven years old, and had been in the employ of the railroad for several years.

Poor Fellow.

A man with the delirium tremens was seen running around an old shed on Bedford street, near the Johnstown and Stonycreek station about 4 o'clock yesterday morning. No one appeared to know who he was, and he was so excited he alarmed that whole neighborhood. He went into the shed and was still there last evening. If he is not dead by this time he soon will be if left to remain in that fearful place.

Are You Ready?

A Mr. Jones, who has a reputation as a sprinter, is in the city, and it is said is anxious for a race. We are requested to state that if he puts up a forfeit for a race of one hundred and fifty yards he will be accommodated.

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The Meeting Last Night—\$1,565.69 in the Treasury—Resolutions Adopted.

The Board of Trade met Monday evening in its rooms in Frazer's block. Mr. John Hannan was made President pro tem.

Dr. Yeagley moved that the reading of the resolutions and letters in the previous regular and special meetings be dispensed with. Agreed to. Minutes were then read and approved. No reports were made from standing committees. Treasurer reported \$1,565.69 on hand. Herman Baumer, Chairman of the Committee of Fifteen, reported progress, and asked to be continued. Agreed to. Bills to the amount of \$32.85 were read, approved and ordered paid. Mr. Storey presented the following:

WHEREAS, Geo. C. Hamilton, of Warren, Pa., hastened to the assistance of the sufferers in the Johnstown disaster of May 31, 1889, and gave his services in providing food, clothing, and shelter to the destitute and in burying the dead, until the 12th day of July, when he was commissioned Chief Engineer of the State forces in removing the debris from the ruins and highways, and continued in this work until October 19, 1889; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the thanks of the Johnstown Board of Trade be tendered to Capt. Hamilton for his kind and prompt treatment to our people, and for his energy and integrity in the performance of his duty.

It was decided to have a telephone placed in the room for the board. It was also arranged to have a number of circulars containing the preamble and resolutions concerning consolidation adopted at the last meeting, printed and distributed by the Committee of Fifteen, in such a manner as they think best. On motion the board adjourned.

HE SHOT HIMSELF.

Stoyestown Comes to the Front With a Suicide.

On Monday morning Jacob Custer, of Stoyestown, Somerset county, got up, wrote part of a letter to his wife to bid her and the family good bye, but was intercepted by her and did not finish the letter. He afterward got possession of a revolver, and despite the efforts of his wife to hinder him he fired a shot, killing himself instantly.

There was a story published some weeks ago to which the above tragedy is most likely the sequel. Mr. Custer was the father of the young woman who was disgraced by Rev. Sell, the latter now being in the Somerset jail awaiting trial. He had worried much about the matter ever since its occurrence and being somewhat unbalanced at times for several years, it is likely that the burden became too much for him to endure.

TO SEARCH FOR THE DEAD.

More Than \$5,000 Subscribed and a Meeting Called for This Afternoon.

The subscription started by Mr. Moxham to recover the dead bodies known to be in the ruins about the city, has reached \$5,534.50. According to the terms of the subscription, an organization will now be effected. A meeting has been called for this afternoon at 3 o'clock in the Flood Commission rooms, Market Square. All subscribers would do well to be present with the money subscribed.

Consolidation.

Shall Johnstown and the neighboring boroughs join hands and become a city? On this question there is some honest diversity of opinion. There are some outspoken for consolidation, others are against it, and still others are undecided upon the question. The DEMOCRAT purposes to give the matter a fair and impartial hearing. Without regard to their political, sectarian or any other predilections, we shall interview a number of our prominent men on the subject and publish their views. We expect to start to-morrow, and will continue until the election.

The New German Catholic School House. Contractor Hornick is pushing the work on the new German Catholic School House as rapidly as possible. The building will be three stories high, and will be of ample size to accommodate the increased number of pupils that will be to attend in the future. The first story will be of brick, and the other two stories will be wood. In addition there will be a basement story. A new boiler is being placed under the German Catholic Church by Waters & Bro., and other repairs are also in progress to put the heating apparatus in order for the approaching winter.

John T. Harris.

New York World.

A ruddy-faced, brown-mustached man recently observed in a Philadelphia hotel has had a sad history. His name is John T. Harris and he is Chief of Police at Johnstown, Pa. Chief Harris lost eleven of his family of thirteen at the time of the flood and his home was swept away. In spite of this, he worked like a hero at the head of his men during the gloomy days which followed the disaster. He is a quiet, reserved man and his face shows the marks of the mental and physical suffering he has so recently endured.

Dr. J. B. Greene is having a fine residence erected in Summerhill.