

## ANOTHER BIG DAM BURSTS.

### FORTY LIVES LOST AND MILLIONS OF PROPERTY DESTROYED.

#### A Wall of Water Fifty Feet High Overwhelms Everything as it Pours Down a Narrow Valley—The Dam Was Built For Water Storage, and Cost \$300,000.

In addition to what we published yesterday concerning the bursting of the reservoir in Arizona, the following has been received from Prescott, Ariz.:

The fine large storage dam built across Hassavampa river by the Walnut Grove Water Storage Company two years ago at a cost of \$300,000, gave way yesterday morning under great pressure of a heavy flood, and swept everything before it. Forty persons are known to have lost their lives. As the town of Wickenburg, thirty miles below the dam, was on the stream, great fears are entertained for the safety of that town, but as there is no telegraphic communication, no news has yet been obtainable of its fate. The service dam of the company, fifteen miles below the reservoirs, and fifteen miles of flume, just approaching completion, were also swept away, although the company has spent over \$800,000 on the enterprise of steering the water. The hydraulic mining machine had arrived and they expected to commence operations next week.

The dam which held the waters back was 110 feet long at the base and 400 feet at the top. It was 110 feet thick at the base and ten feet at the top, forming a lake three miles in length by three-fourths of a mile wide, and 110 feet deep. Lieut. Brodie, in charge of the work, was absent at Phoenix superintending the shipment of the machinery to the works, and was saved. Among those known to have been drowned are: J. Haines, wife and four children, H. Boone and daughters, John Silby, Joseph Reynolds, Mrs. McCarthy, S. McMiller.

Not the slightest doubt had been entertained of the safety of the dam, and numerous houses had been erected by miners at various places along the course of the stream. These were upfitted by the raging waters as though they had been corks, and floated down stream until they were dashed to pieces.

The first intimation of the appalling disaster was a sound resembling thunder, and at the same instant a perpendicular wall of water fully fifty feet high came rushing down the narrow valley with almost incredible speed. Fortunately there were but comparatively few people living near the bottom of the hillsides, and of these a large number were warned by the awful sound and escaped to higher ground.

The valley widens above Wickenburg, and much of the town lies upon the low lands close to the course of the stream, and it is almost certain that the vast body of water which rushed out of the reservoir has carried away many houses at that place. It is believed here that fully as many people were drowned there as immediately below the dam. The ruined dam is cut from the top almost to the bottom, as though a section had been dragged out and the water above is only a few feet deep.

Heavy rains have fallen for several days, and on Friday night it was apparent that the water in the lake was approaching the danger line. The rain continued throughout the night, and early yesterday morning the water rose to the top of the dam and cut a small passage near the centre, which rapidly widened and deepened as the water poured over it, until in less than twenty minutes the little stream had become a roaring cataract.

The storage company is blamed for not having provided a sufficient outlet for the water in time of danger. The only way of letting off water was through the flume, and this afforded no appreciable relief. This is the first of the great storage reservoirs projected in the territory and it is believed to-day's disaster will operate to discourage the construction of similar dams.

No further news has yet reached here of the loss of life or the damage caused by the break of the Walnut Grove dam.

Arthur Allen, formerly in the enterprise, and John McDonald, owner of the Blue Dick mine, have just returned from the Dozorin Divide, fourteen miles south of the town, from where a view of the dam could be had. Wash Waterway could be plainly seen with their powerful glasses high upon the side of the cliff, while the break in the stone work of the dam was also plainly seen.

The break in the dam is sloped to the eastward, leaving the impression that the main break was on the east side. There can be no accurate estimate of the loss of life yet or of property, but the latter will reach into the millions, while the loss of life, will, without doubt, be great, as many of the families were living near the stream in the narrow canons. As the wires are now down near Prescott Junction, it is hardly probable that any additional information will be received to-night.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 24.—Engineer Luther Wagner to-day gave a reporter some details of the construction of the dam, which show that this disaster,

like that at Johnstown, was due to the carelessness and meanness of the corporation that built it. He was called in to report on the dam about a year and a half ago. It was to have been faced with stone fourteen feet thick at the base and four feet at top, filled with loose rock, and made water tight with wood sheathing.

It was about half done when Wagner inspected it, and he found the stone had been filled in carelessly and was high in the centre, making the structure unstable. The junction of the sheathing and bed rock was intended to be secured by a thick layer of Portland cement, but this work was not well done, because of the cost of getting the cement to the works, the company paying \$2,000 freight on \$1,000 worth of cement.

Thus a dangerous crevice was formed at the base of the dam, and the leakage was heavy, being forty-one inches, with seventy feet of water in the dam. The lumber used was also full of knot holes. Wagner advised the discharge of the contractors and engineer, as he regarded them as worthless, but this was not done.

The company, however, acting on his advice cut a large waste away and strengthened the weak places. Wagner warned them that the dam would be unsafe unless some of the work was gone over and rectified, but they didn't listen to him.

## A GREAT BUSINESS HOUSE.

### How the Mammoth Commercial Establishment of John Thomas & Sons Has Developed from a Very Humble Beginning.

It will be twenty-five years next April since Mr. John Thomas began business in a story and a half wooden building on a part of the site now occupied by his mammoth business establishment, fronting from 240 to 243 Main street, and extending back one hundred and fifty feet to the alley. The whole of this large building has lately been thoroughly renovated and remodeled, each of the three floors being in one immense room. They form the largest rooms in the city, giving altogether over one-half an acre of floor surface.

The building as remodeled is complete in every detail. On the first floor are the Dry Goods, Boot and Shoe, Grocery, and Feed Departments, in all of which is to be found a complete stock in their respective lines. A member of the firm is now in the east purchasing what they consider will be the most complete stock of fancy and dry goods outside of the very largest cities. On the second floor are the Carpet, Clothing, Hat and Furnishing Departments. The stock of carpets is simply immense, and more are still on the way here. A great assortment of clothing occupies the whole rear of the second story. The whole of the third story is used for storing surplus stock, including trunks, valises, carpets, and almost anything mentionable.

The whole establishment is equipped with every desirable improvement, including the Barr cash delivery with ten stations, elevators, and every other modern appliance.

The large plate glass display windows are much admired and afford a good opportunity for the artistic window decorator to exhibit his taste, and at the same time to give a suggestion to the passers-by of what is to be found inside.

Considering the humble beginning, the development and the present state of the business built up by Mr. Thomas and his sons, it is certainly a great illustration of what close application and good business methods are able to do. The building in which Mr. Thomas first started in business scarcely occupied as much floor space as the sky-light in the present establishment, which is the largest general store under one management between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

## The Cambria City Bridge.

The old rickety bridge that serves as the only means of wagon communication with Cambria City looks worse than ever, since the last high water. The roadway pursues a very tortuous course and the supports look to be anything but safe. It is to be hoped that a new structure will replace the old shaky temporary one before long, or we may learn of some accident, and then will come the "I told you so."

## New Sewer in Cambria.

The bid of Henry Roberts to put in 140 feet of sewer on Second avenue, Cambria borough, from the alley between Chestnut and Broad streets to the latter street at seventy-five cents per foot has been accepted by the authorities of that borough. Work will be commenced at once. Many of the sewers in that borough, the officers say, are in a very bad condition and will have to be repaired before long.

## Planted Potatoes on February 5th.

J. Hays, Sr., of Birmingham township, Chester county, Pa., planted a patch of potatoes on February 5th, and if the seed does not die from influenza or be blown to New Jersey by the March winds, he expects a crop of new potatoes by April 1st.

## TO BE TRIED FOR MURDER.

Andrew Urbanetz to be Tried for the Murder of Albert Digick.

EBENSBURG, Pa., February 25.—When it was known here yesterday that Albert Digick had died at the county almshouse of his wounds, Coroner P. McGough summoned a jury and with District Attorney O'Connor and several others went out to view the remains. Dr. F. C. Jones, physician for the County Home was also one of the party, as was defendant in the case—Andrew Urbanetz.

When the Coroner's party arrived at the Almshouse they found the body of Digick prepared for burial. Urbanetz viewed it and looked for the wound, but when it was exposed he declined to look at it. When the jury had viewed the body they adjourned to meet this morning at 10 o'clock in the Arbitration room of the Court House.

At the appointed hour this morning the Coroner's jury assembled and the prisoner was brought in. I. Lilly, Steward of the Almshouse was the first witness examined. Being sworn, he testified as follows:

I am Steward of the Cambria County Almshouse. I had under my stewardship a Hungarian named Albert Digick. He was brought there on the 17th of the present month. He was very weak and had a wound in his left breast. He remained there, gradually sinking and becoming weaker until the 23d, when he died.

Dr. Jones was sworn and gave this testimony:

I am a physician and reside in Ebensburg. I am the physician at the County Almshouse. I was called there on Monday, the 17th of the present month, and found Albert Digick suffering from a wound in the left breast, which had apparently been made by a blunt instrument. The wound was round in form and was about an inch and a half in depth. The instrument that made the wound had penetrated the left lung. I visited the patient the following day and found him weaker and apparently suffering. I was sent for on the 23d, and when I arrived I found him dying. A secondary hemorrhage had set in perhaps a half hour before I arrived, and he continued to bleed till dead. The hemorrhage was the direct result of the wound and caused his death.

The prisoner, who is able to speak only broken English then made a statement to the effect that Digick boarded with him in Minersville, and on the evening of the trouble he proposed to Urbanetz certain things concerning the latter's sister which he very forcibly resented, saying that he (Digick) was writing to a girl in the old country. This Digick admitted and then went out. He soon returned with another Hun and when the two came into the house of Urbanetz, he asked Digick: "Do you intend to marry my sister?" "No, but I've brought another fellow to look at her," replied Digick. Words passed between them and Urbanetz urges that Digick called him a name that he could not stand. "Much drink," said he, "I had hot poker in my hand, was going to light my pipe, and I either put it at him or he run against it, much excited. See you again."

The jury then considered the case and delivered the opinion that Albert Digick came to his death from a wound made by a red hot poker in the hands of Andrew Urbanetz, and recommended that he be held to answer for the crime.

The jury was then discharged. The case now rests with the District Attorney, and will come up at the regular March term of court if the case can be got ready by that time.

## A HORRIBLE DEATH.

### A Man's Body Cut in Two on the Railroad Near Lilly—It is Buried at the Summit.

About 6 o'clock on Monday evening the mutilated body of a man was found about half a mile west of Lilly's Station. It was cut in two about the middle. Mr. T. B. Speedy, of this city, who found the body, was walking from Smith's Siding to Lilly. When he arrived at the latter place he notified the railroad authorities there, who had the remains brought to that place. Yesterday the remains were interred at the Summit.

No one at Lilly knew the man, but on one of his arms the initials "R. F." were printed. No letters or other means of identification were to be found on his person.

Yesterday it was learned that about two and one-half months ago a stranger named Robert Farrell came along and obtained employment at Bridge No. 6. On Monday he drew his pay and started eastward, saying to some that he was going home to Philadelphia. None of the men who worked with him, or his employers know anything about where Farrell is from. They say that the man found dead at Lilly is undoubtedly Farrell. It is hoped that some of his relatives or friends may learn of his fate.

## County Commissioner.

Mr. John Kirby, of Conemaugh borough, announces himself to-day as a candidate for the Democratic nomination of County Commissioner. Mr. Kirby is one of the best known citizens in this community, and has made an acceptable and accommodating Commissioner. His knowledge of the value of property, and his experience in that office make him a strong candidate. His high character as a citizen, and steadfast adherence to Democratic principles are well known. If nominated he would be elected by a large majority.

## HENRY GEORGE CLUB.

### The Republican Club Not Ready For That Discussion Yet—Other Matters Discussed.

The Henry George Club held their regular business meeting at their rooms in Bantly's building Wednesday night. Chairman Geo. C. Gibbs called the meeting to order, and Richard Eyre, Secretary, after reading the minutes of last meeting, presented a number of matters for the consideration of the Club.

The Treasurer's report showed a deficiency, occasioned by the expenses incident to the lecture of Henry George, but as all bills had been met by Mr. Moxham, the treasurer was instructed to pay over the balance on hand to him, and as Mr. Moxham had volunteered to pay any deficiency, the account was considered closed.

The secretary announced that the rent of the room, which was now \$18 per month, would be raised to \$20 on April 1st.

A request from the Democratic Society for the use of the rooms provoked quite a discussion. Several members objected to allowing the rooms to be used by any promiscuous gathering, but it was explained that this was a select society which would meet only for interchange of views and instruction on the difference of the primal principles of the two great parties of to-day; and the objections were withdrawn. Mr. Alf Heslop, however, insisted in charging them \$10 a month rent, which by most of the members was considered extortionate. He acknowledged that he was a Republican and said his political predilections possibly had something to do with his feeling in the matter. After naively acknowledging that he held many principles in common with the Democrats he did not further press the point. The members of the club however said that they would look upon the matter in the same light whether it was a Republican or Democratic club, just so the rooms were to be used for the instruction of the people. Enlightenment was what they wanted. It was finally agreed to give the Democratic Society the use of the rooms for their regular Thursday evening meetings, and not more than two special meetings a month at a rental of \$5 a month.

The Secretary stated that he had yet received no response from the Republican Club in answer to his request for a date for the proposed discussion. He was in hopes however to yet hear from them.

At the request of Secretary Stephenson of the Henry George Club of Philadelphia, the Secretary was ordered to communicate with the Legislative Committee which is charged with the duty of recommending needed changes in the tax laws of the State. The opinion was expressed however that nothing of value to the single tax idea would likely be accomplished by this committee.

At 9:45 the meeting adjourned.

## WHAT A MOUSE CAN DO.

### A Fire in Cambria City Caused by One That Played With a Match.

Wednesday near the hour of noon a fire broke out in the upper story of the house of Charles McClafferty, at the corner of Broad street and Third avenue, Cambria. A saloon is kept by Mr. McClafferty in one room of the house, which contains four rooms and was erected since the flood. He had been up street and when he returned to the house, he asked his daughter, who was sewing at a dress, whether she had put any patches in the fire, there being a smell of burning rags in the house. Mrs. McClafferty had also noticed a peculiar odor when she was up stairs a few minutes before, and also thought the same odor was discernible down stairs. The remark of the old gentleman aroused the suspicion that there was fire in the house. To investigate the matter the star door was opened, and at once a great volume of smoke rolled down. An alarm was given and in a few minutes a bucket brigade had extinguished the fire, which, it was found, had destroyed a dresser and badly charred one corner and about half of the ceiling of the room. It had also got to the attic, and only a few minutes more of a start would have given the flames complete possession of the whole upper story.

The fire originated in one corner of the room back of the dressing bureau. No one was in the room at the time, nor had there been any one around with a light since the night before. Some matches were lying loose on the dresser, and it is thought that some of them had dropped down behind it and were carried by mice into the wall, where a hole was found, and that in so doing a match had become ignited.

Mrs. McClafferty was badly scorched about the head and face in attempting to remove a drawer containing some money and other valuables from the dresser. Most of the furniture was injured by being removed hurriedly and by the water. There was no insurance on the injured property.

Mr. McClafferty's house was swept away by the flood, and the new one came nearly being destroyed by fire.

Another cold wave is promised.

## THE DUTY ON STEEL RAILS.

### How Our Rail Manufacturers Look Upon the Proposition to Reduce the Duty to \$10 Per Ton.

At present the duty on steel rails is \$17 per ton. The Ways and Means Committee will likely recommend to Congress that the duty be reduced to \$10 per ton. Various papers have been gathering opinions from leading railmakers all over the country as to whether the duty proposed was sufficient protection against English rails. The interviews with our local steel men are given herewith.

Mr. A. J. Moxham, President of the Johnson Company, which make entirely steel rails, said:

"I believe the only thing that will benefit our country is absolutely free trade. We will soon find out that if we once had free trade we would be shipping rails to England."

Mr. Max M. Suppes, Superintendent of the rolling mill of the Johnson Company, said: "I have been looking much into the matter lately, but I don't think there are many rails coming over from England now. I don't know whether the \$10 rate would benefit our country or not."

## THE LABOR IN A TON OF RAILS.

Mr. John Fulton, General Manager of the Cambria Iron Company, which makes thousands of tons every month said: "The price of steel rails in this country and England at the present time is about the same, but this is abnormal and cannot be relied upon as permanent. The latest quotations of steel rails at Philadelphia for heavy sections, put them at \$35 per ton at the mill. There are intimations of even lower figures but they are not to be relied upon. In England at the same time the quotations for heavy sections was \$7.10, or about \$35.25. In arranging a schedule or tariff that will answer for times when the market is flush or slack, we have to ascertain the labor in a ton of rails. That would consist in the mining of the ore and coal and making coke at furnace and mill operation, and then the proportion would simply be the difference in wages in the two countries. In England they have strong advantages in assembling material. Labor here and labor in England being considered, the difference is about forty to fifty per cent. increase here over the English labor. That is all the protection we need or ask for. Whether \$10 a ton is sufficient duty as a protection against English rails or not depends upon the difference in labor between the two countries, and the relative advantages in assembling the material."

"The advantages which England has over us in the latter respect is not usually taken into consideration. We are operating on a broad continent, involving long freight charges, while England is an island in the sea inheriting a much cheaper ocean transport. She reaches out to Spain for ores and gets them very cheap there, and has large fields of coal for coke making at home.

"At the present time there is a boom in rails in England, consequently, under these conditions the market is not in its normal condition, and it would not be air to reason from this that the relative cost of production of rails would continue as at present. Wise statesmanship would establish a tariff to meet the average difference of labor and assembling material in the two countries. Whether \$10 a ton will be sufficient to cover this difference, is a question that is fairly open to discussion."

## For the Legislature.

In this paper to-day Jacob Zimmerman, Esq., announces himself as a candidate for the office of member of the Legislature, subject to the action of the Democratic primary election. Mr. Zimmerman has grown to manhood in this place, and is known to all our citizens. For years he has successfully practiced law, and, like many of our citizens, lost most of his accumulations in the great flood of May 31, 1889. After that great disaster, however, with his accustomed energy and ability, he resumed his professional business, and interested himself in public affairs. He was born and raised a Democrat, and has always been found in the ranks of that great historic party. His experience as a lawyer and his knowledge of the wants of the citizens of this county would make him a valuable representative of the people at Harrisburg. He deserves favorable consideration at the hands of the Democracy of Cambria county. If nominated he would be elected by a large majority.

## For Assembly—Ed. T. McNeelis, Esq.

In our column of political announcements will be found the name of Ed. T. McNeelis, Esq., who announces himself as an aspirant for legislative honors. Mr. McNeelis was born and brought up in this city. He received his education in the public schools, continuing his studies after he had begun to do for himself by working in the mills. He studied Mechanics, but through the labor agitation here several years ago he lost his position. He then applied himself to the study of law and was duly admitted to the Bar. He has a large acquaintance all over the county, and his name would give strength to the ticket.

## OPPRESSED KANSAS FARMERS.

### Bishop Funk Lays Down Some Points for Them to Think About.

A dispatch from Kansas City, Mo., says: In a Lenten pastoral letter to be read in all the churches of the diocese of Leavenworth, Kan., Bishop Funk, of the Roman Catholic Church, referring to the Farmers' Alliance movement, caused by the agriculture depression, says:

"We may say that, surrounded by a bountiful crop as we are, many of our people are suffering and are in misery, uncertain what they should do in the future. The complaints come not only from the laboring classes in cities who are without work, but especially from the country districts, from the farming population, which feels that matters can not be as they are for an indefinite number of years or they would leave their house and home. Owing to the peculiar state of our country, every one suffers when the farming population is in distress. Thoughtful persons are well aware that the present grievances of the farmers are but too true. It seems that almost every industry in our country is protected in order to amass riches in the hands of the few by which the many will have to suffer. The only classes not protected are those that would seem to need it most—the laboring men and the farming population.

The Bishop reviews the constitution of the Farmers' Alliance, and holds that no Catholic can join the order because it is secret and because it virtually has a religion and a chaplain of its own. This latter point he discussed at length and declares that if the Alliance will drop its religious aspect Catholics can join it and work for the good of the farming classes.

## THE URSULINE PROPERTY.

### It is Offered for Sale Finally—Bishop Pielan's Statement.

The Pittsburgh Times is authority for the statement that Sister Alphonse, ex Superioress of the Ursuline Convent Pittsburgh, in behalf of the French Sisters, through a real estate agent, offered the convent property for sale on Tuesday. The property consists of fourteen acres of ground with the convent built thereon.

There were formerly six of the French Sisters. They claimed \$60,000 under a decree ordering that the amount be paid them, \$10,000 to each one. Sister Gonzague, who died at Dixmont last week, was one of their number. The five remaining Sisters now claim that her \$10,000 share should be divided among them. The attorney for the French Sisters stated on Tuesday that an arrangement had been contemplated by which the property was to be mortgaged for the \$60,000 to allow the Sisters to return to France, but that the Bishop had not sanctioned the arrangement.

Bishop Pielan stated to a Times representative: "I do not wish to meddle in the matter at all. I will not prevent the sisters from selling the property if they want to do this. It is incorrect that I objected to the placing of a mortgage on the property. All I said was, who will pay this mortgage back? If the Sisters can sell the ground let them proceed to do it."

The Sisters, headed by Sister Gertrude, present Superioress, yesterday, through one of its attorneys, expressed herself willing to sell nine acres of the land, but not the Convent.

## A Salem Township Horror.

Through the Greensburg Argus we learn of a most distressing occurrence that took place on the McLaughlin farm, near Trees' mill, Salem township, West moreland county, Sunday evening. Edward Black, son of James Black, started on horseback, on the evening named, to a distant part of the farm to drive home the cows. Soon afterwards the horse, riderless, came galloping back, and Mr. Black started out at once to find his son, knowing that some calamity had befallen him. The young man, who is twenty-three years of age and an only son, was discovered in a horrible condition and entirely unconscious. One eye had been forced from its socket and lay out on his cheek, and his nose and face were crushed in, presenting a ghastly picture to the horrified father, who was almost overcome by the awful sight. Alone, and as tenderly as possible, he conveyed his unfortunate son to his home, where three physicians were in almost constant attendance upon him. He never regained consciousness and died on Monday evening. The belief is that the young man was thrown from his seat in the saddle, and his foot catching in the stirrup, he was dragged, kicked and trampled upon by the frightened animal. Mr. Black formerly resided near Irwin, and two years ago removed to the farm where he now resides.

## "Thirty Years of Labor."

The above is the title of T. V. Powderly's great work, in which a history of the attempt to form organizations of workingmen for the discussion of political, social and economic questions is traced. It is in fact a history of labor from 1859 to 1889. It is illustrated with a portrait of the author and choicest gems of art. Mr. M. P. Kearney, of Lilly borough, is agent for Cambria county, and is now canvassing for the book in this city. Every man, especially every working man, should buy a copy.