

Johnstown Weekly Democrat.

VOL. XXVIII.

JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PA., FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1890.

NO. 2.

FOUND DEAD IN THE CREEK.

Abram Good a Former Old Resident of Cambria County, But Now of Iowa, Dies Alone by the Roadside Near Conemaugh and His Body Lay Exposed All Night—Particulars of His Life and Its Sad Ending.

About 10 o'clock yesterday forenoon two little boys while playing along the road above East Conemaugh were horrified to find a man lying dead by the roadside. One of the lads recognized the dead man as Abram Good, chiefly from the fact that the cane lying by his side had on it a string which the same boy had tied on it two days previously, while Mr. Good was visiting the boys' parents.

The alarm was immediately given and a number of citizens of East Conemaugh soon gathered at the place and removed the body, and afterwards carried it to the home of his son Daniel, in East Conemaugh. There was at first a suspicion that there had been foul play and word has sent to this city shortly before noon to have the coroner investigate, and subsequently coroner McGough at Portage was notified. That official came down on the early afternoon train, but by that time facts were developed which pointed clearly to accidental causes of death so that no inquest was held and the coroner left for home on the 4 o'clock train.

Mr. Good formerly resided here, but recently returned from Iowa to visit old friends in this section. He is about seventy years of age and has been quite feeble, having had several slight paralytic strokes during the winter. On Monday, Mr. Hiram Ribblett drove him in a buggy to visit Rev. Solomon Benishoff in West Taylor township, one of his old friends who is also ill. Mr. Ribblett left him there and came home, as Mr. Good insisted that he would be able to get back to Conemaugh without any assistance. On Tuesday he visited Mrs. Martha Strayer, who lives in the neighborhood, and after dinner left on his trip toward Conemaugh. After leaving there he stopped possibly a short time at the home of Mr. John Ribblett but at present nothing is known as to how he got along on his trip after leaving Mrs. Strayer's until he was met on the road half a mile above where he was found by a Mr. Parks about four o'clock on Tuesday evening. Then he was staggering along and his clothes showed that he had fallen in the mud. Mr. Parks not knowing the old gentleman remarked to him that he seemed to be pretty full of liquor. Mr. Good then said that he was a total abstainer, but that he felt rather weak, and upon Mr. Parks learning who he was he insisted upon taking him back to the home of his nephew, Mr. John Good, who lives in the neighborhood. The old gentleman, however, said he thought he could get along all right, and Mr. Parks went home. Some time afterward he was met by Mr. Cornelius Hunt, within a few rods of the place where he died, and Mr. Hunt, being well acquainted with him and noting his haggard appearance, insisted on taking him back in his wagon to his nephews, but still Mr. Good said he preferred to go ahead, and as Mr. Hunt could not induce him to go with him, he let him have his way. This was the last seen of him until found by the boys on Wednesday morning, although a number of teams had passed on the road in the meantime.

His body was found in a little creek just above the road at a short bend about half a mile above Conemaugh, on the Ebensburg road. It would seem that he had gone down over the stone bridge at the upper side of the road to wash some of the mud from his clothes—having expressed his intention to Mr. Hunt—and just as he reached the stream he must have had a paralytic attack and fell for ward with his face in the stream, where he must have died without a struggle. When found the forehead of the head and face was several inches under water with the arms spread out and the legs resting higher up. The body had not been disturbed and there was one dollar and one cent change in his pockets, which his friends say is about all he carried with him.

Mr. Good was well known to the older residents of this place, having been born and raised on a farm comprising the land on which he died. He lived on the farm now owned by John Good, a mile or so above Conemaugh, but about twenty-three years ago sold out and moved with his family to Blackhawk county, Iowa. For the past twelve or thirteen years he has been living in Linn county, Iowa, where he owns a farm, but his wife died there last fall and this spring he rented his farm, and with his son and daughter came East about a month ago to visit his children and friends here.

He was in his seventieth year and was a son of old "Christie" Good, and he has only one brother, Mr. Christ Good of near Vinco, Jackson township, now living. The late Jacob Good, of East Taylor township, was a brother. He was an uncle of Messrs. John Good and Christian Good of West Taylor township. He is survived by eight children in the order of their ages named as follows: David, Joseph, Daniel, Lizzie, Robert, John, Jacob and Sadie.

David and Robert are in Oregon; Joseph is a successful oil operator living at Washington, Pa.; Daniel is a trusted engineer on the Pennsylvania Railroad and lives at East Conemaugh; Lizzie is the wife of Cyrus Strayer, of Lower Yoder township; John lives in Blackhawk county, Iowa; Jacob and Sadie lived at home, but since coming east Jacob has been a fireman on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and Sadie has been staying with her sister, Mrs. Strayer.

Interment will likely be made in Hedrick Graveyard, as he has several children buried there, but no time will be fixed for the funeral until his sons from a distance are heard from.

COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN.

The Condition of Our Rivers Considered Engineer Schenk's Surveys and Maps Exhibited by the Local Flood Finance Committee.

The Board of Trade Committee of Fifteen met on Tuesday afternoon pursuant to the call of Herman Baumer, Esq., Chairman.

The following members of the Committee were present: Herman Baumer, Dr. B. L. Yeagley, G. W. Moses, John Hamman, James McMillen, P. S. Fisher, L. D. Woodruff, Geo. T. Swank, Thomas E. Howe, H. W. Storey, Cyrus Elder, Esq., was also present, and with James McMillen and Geo. T. Swank represented the Local Flood Relief Finance Committee. Chairman Baumer called the Committee to order and stated the object of the meeting was to examine the drawings of the rivers prepared by Engineer Schenk, and to consider the plans and changes he suggests should be made in their course, in order to protect this valley from future floods, and to take such action in conjunction with the Finance Committee, as will secure their desirable aid.

Mr. Elder explained that the Finance Committee had been authorized by a citizens' meeting to engage a competent engineer who should make surveys of the rivers and collect all the data necessary to enable him to give a scientific opinion of their condition, and the changes which are absolutely necessary to make, in order to protect the lives and property of our citizens. After careful inquiry Engineer Carl Schenk was engaged for this work. He was highly recommended by Gen. Merritt as an expert in river work, and one upon whose judgment all could rely with absolute confidence. After his engagement the engineer went to work with great energy and has collected a mass of facts which alone is evidence of his thorough and careful work. Every line he has drawn and every plan he has proposed is supported by an array of figures and calculations which cannot be successfully contradicted. He took nothing for granted, but based his judgment on actual surveys and the observation of facts. He has prepared elaborate maps of the river courses and has indicated just what changes must be made in them to insure the safety of this community. If the changes are not made the people have nothing to expect in the future but a repetition of their past experiences with flooded rivers.

The maps were then exhibited and were carefully examined by the committee.

Mr. Storey offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That the draft and specifications for the improvement of the Stonycreek and Conemaugh rivers, as prepared by Engineer Carl Schenk, be reported favorably to the Board of Trade for further consideration and action.

Upon motion the members of the committee united in a call for a special meeting of the Board of Trade, on Wednesday evening, April 30, 1890, at 7:30 P. M., to consider the report of the committee on the project to change the course of the rivers and widen their banks.

Upon motion an invitation to attend the special meeting of the Board was extended to His Honor, Mayor Rose, and to the members of the Flood Finance Committee.

The committee desire a full attendance of members at the special meeting, as all the maps and plans of the proposed changes will be exhibited for examination. No more important subject could engage the attention of the citizens of Johnstown.

Adding Incentive to Injury.

A case before Justice Hart yesterday the plaintiff was severely scored by the attorney for the defense on the grounds that while he set himself up for a contractor he had never known the use of a saw or a jack-plane until a few months ago, since which time he had imposed upon people by representing himself as a contractor as his bungling work in the case under consideration clearly showed, the attorney characterizing him as a "Jack of all trades and master of none." What was the surprise then, when after the attorney had concluded his remarks, to see the "contractor" as his own attorney rise and make such an eloquent plea that laid the efforts of the man of law completely in the shade.

Change in Time Table.

The Johnstown and Stonycreek Railroad's schedule for the running of trains on Sunday has been changed so as to accommodate passengers who wish to attend church in the city.

TO CLEAR THE

A Large Amount of Debris to be Dislodged

Mr. Arthur Kirk, in charge of the dynamiting at the stone bridge immediately after the flood, arrived from Pittsburgh with his assistant, Captain Carney, Monday. Their mission is to dislodge the large amount of debris in the Conemaugh at the Ten-Acre, consisting of trees, logs, bridge iron, stumps, car beds, etc.

After the work at this city was discontinued by the State forces, there was a considerable amount of dynamite left over, in spite of the useless expenditure of that explosive by Major Phillips on heavy blasts. The aim of the gentlemen is to destroy the debris at that point by using some of the dynamite which had been paid for by the State.

In order that there will not be the danger from flying missiles which attended the blasting at the stone bridge, they have built a very heavy raft, which they will float over the spot where the blast will be made, thus stopping all missiles which may be thrown up by the explosion.

It is the purpose of the projectors of the work to have the logs and stumps drilled full of holes, into which a small quantity of dynamite will be inserted and, several explosions taking place at the same time, the debris will be blown into small pieces and will float off. The necessity of dislodging this obstruction is apparent in the fact that were it allowed to remain, it would catch a large amount of driftwood floating, which would form a bar and in time would result in the forming of an island.

Mr. Kirk is very much interested in the improvement of our rivers and says that they will always give Johnstown people trouble if not put in charge of a Government engineer. If this were done and the engineer had full charge of the rivers, he could see that no encroachments were made on it and with proper petitioning to the Government we would have steamboats running up from Pittsburgh. He says there is a number of people in Pittsburgh who are interested in the coal fields on the Monongahela, who are opposed in every way to the improvements of the Allegheny or its branches because it would naturally injure their business. He points to the Little Kanawha in West Virginia as having received so much improvement at the hands of the government. This river was never navigable until improvements were made which cost the United States \$150,000 a year.

There are a great many people who think that there are bodies lying in the bed of the old canal at the Ten-Acre, and the water will be drawn off to ascertain the truth of the belief.

It is quite likely that after the work as at present mapped out is completed, that steps will be taken to have the Government contribute a sum of money toward dredging the river in the entire vicinity of the city.

Meeting of the Democratic Executive Committee.

HARRISBURG, April 30.—The Executive Committee of the Democratic State Convention met here at noon and fixed Wednesday, July 2, as the date for holding the State Convention in the Opera House at Scranton. The committee held its session in the Democratic State Headquarters. Chairman Kiser being present, with W. J. Brennan, of Allegheny; J. M. Healy, Pottsville; T. K. Vandye, Lewisburg; J. M. Kerr, Clearfield; E. F. Kerr, Bedford; B. F. Meyers, Harrisburg; W. D. Clendenin, New Castle; J. Marshall Wright, Allentown; C. P. Donnelly, Philadelphia, and Secretary B. M. Nead, Harrisburg. The entire proceedings occupied but a few moments, the whole affair seemed to have been previously arranged. The original intention was to hold the Convention on July 3, and have a grand ratification meeting on July 4, but the Convention expects to be in session two days, and as a consequence July 2 was selected.

There was no talk of candidates, it was a quiet and harmonious gathering, and peace reigned. The early Convention is looked upon as favorable to Wallace, although this is disclaimed.

Furnace Blown Up.

At 2:30 o'clock yesterday morning Furnace B, at the Edgar Thomson Steel Works, Braddock, blew up. Four men, all Hungarians, were badly burned. John Khroni, a charger, was burned about the body and his recovery is doubtful.

The furnace was engaged in making Spiegel. The tops, sides and debris were scattered all around. The cause of the explosion is not exactly known. The men hurt were engaged as snappers and chargers.

The City Safes.

Mr. George W. Good, representing the Barnes Safe and Lock Co., of Pittsburgh, is in the city to-day with a bid for furnishing the steel safes required by the new city. Four other companies are also competing for the contract, but it is likely the Pittsburgh people will get it, as it is understood their bid is the lowest.

VENAUGH.

to be Dislodged

THE RETURNS ALL IN.

Pittsburgh Times, Saturday.

The \$25 that came to hand yesterday from Dresden for the sufferers by the Johnstown flood is none the less welcome because it comes so late. It is not a year since the flood, though the swiftness of events makes it seem longer. In the few months that have passed, miles and miles of new railroad track have been laid with rails made in the mill through which the flood hurled its torrents, in triumph terrible and complete, but momentary. Man's energy rescued its workshop promptly from the rude assault of nature, and the crowd and shrunken stream now bubbles feebly against the cinders that invade its narrow channel. A new city of Johnstown is rising rapidly on the ruins of the old, and the ancient lines of the petty boroughs that furnished half a dozen citizens apiece a chance of holding office will never rise again above the sand that the flood swept over them. Another year, and the visitor to Johnstown will trace the material handwriting of the great flood only as the visitor to Chicago notes the extent of the great fire, by the improvements that have followed it. Still it has been a good long while since the flood. It has been so long that the citizens of Johnstown some months ago forgot the man who shared their hardships, cheered their despair and succored their need, and gave their votes unanimsly to nominate another man for Governor. Long enough for almost everything except for the Relief Commission to furnish a detailed and satisfactory report of the money it expended.

But, courage! Eternity is ahead. Dresden has been heard from with its final subscription. Perhaps that is what the Commission has been waiting on.

THE DYNAMITING.

Foreman Carney Uses Precautions and Thinks the Work is Being Done by Orders of the Governor—Much Good May be Accomplished This Way.

Captain Carney, who is the foreman in charge of the men who are dynamiting in the river below town says that he has orders from Arthur Kirk to remove obstructions from the river at several points and that he is working exactly in the lines laid out by his superior. Mr. Kirk has been called to Pittsburgh, but Mr. Carney understands that the work is being done by the orders of the Governor. When operations ceased last fall there was about fifteen hundred pounds of dynamite on hand paid for by the State. It was stored in Pittsburgh and was recently shipped here, the presumption being that the Governor thought it could be applied to good purpose, and there is no doubt much good may be done in this manner as yesterday three cars were blown out of the bed of the river, and a large tree that could scarcely have been removed in any other way was taken out. The greatest precaution is used so that no damage will be done to anyone. Mr. Carney was one of the most trusted foremen under Captain Hamilton here last summer, and had charge of a large gang of men in removing debris from above the stone bridge.

Death of John Frick.

Mr. John Frick died at his home on Haynes street, Ninth ward, yesterday morning, aged seventy-one years and nine months. He was a native of Germany, and came to this country about thirty-three years ago. He secured work from the Cambria Iron Company, and continued in the employ of the company up until last Friday a week when he was taken ill with chills and fever. He had a sore hand, and also erysipelas, and his death resulted from blood poisoning. The great flood did not reach his house, and not one of his six or seven relatives in the city at that time was lost, although some lost their property. His wife and seven children survive, as follows: Kate, wife of A. K. Geiselhart, of Railroad street; John, boarding with Mrs. Geiselhart, having lost his wife since the flood; Lizzie, wife of Nicholas Keller of Haynes street; Joseph, of Cleveland, Ohio; Anton C., of New York; Mary, single and at home; and Lewis J., who is also at home. Deceased was a member of St. Joseph's Society, St. George's Society, and the Cambria Mutual Benefit Association, the first two of which will attend his funeral in a body. Mr. Frick was a respectable and good citizen, and was known to most of our people.

Rev. Bates at Home.

The Rev. W. H. Bates, pastor of the Reformed Church, returned from the East Tuesday morning. He has just finished a course of lectures on the Johnstown Flood in the eastern part of the State and in New Jersey. He delivered three lectures in Allentown, and closed at High Bridge, N. J. These lectures were delivered in the interest of the building fund of the Reformed Church. The plans of the new church buildings have been received by Rev. Bates from his architect Mr. Joseph W. B. Frey, of Philadelphia, who gives his services entirely gratuitously for the pastor and the congregation of the Reformed Church at Johnstown.

LOCAL ITEMS.

The park in the Seventh ward is undergoing a cleaning.

The furniture dealers have joined in the early closing movement.

Coad Bros. new building on Washington street is almost completed.

The brick work of the company store is almost up to the second floor.

The bill boards for posters for Forough's show are now ready for use.

Sandyvale Cemetery is now being fenced in. This will stop the cows picnic.

The new residence of Robert Parsons on Walnut street is being cased with brick.

Master Winston Davis has identified the gold watch found on Monday as his property.

The First National bank declared a semi-annual dividend of four per cent. yesterday.

The foundation for John Stenger's new house on Washington street, is about completed.

Clean up your back yards, burn all rubbish and scatter lime around all drains and cesspools.

In 1887 Allegheny county sent 5,113 people to jail; in 1880, 5,840, while in 1889 there were 7,007 jailed.

Officer Stephen R. Varner went off duty at 12 o'clock last night, his resignation taking effect at that time.

Many notices are being served by landlords on tenants to vacate their houses, on account of non-payment of rent.

An unknown Hungarian had his foot ground off at Lockport yesterday while attempting to board a fast moving freight train.

It is stated on reliable authority that one of the new policemen will shortly tender his resignation. Cause—he wasn't appointed Chief.

There are a great many people who are in dread of the walls of the old St. John's Catholic Church falling. This matter needs attention.

The park at the Pennsylvania railroad station now presents a neat appearance. A few nice shade trees would improve it greatly, however.

The stone-wall for the house being built on the corner of Main and Jackson streets, by the widow of the late Judge Flanagan, is about completed.

Several merchants of Clinton street, are making encroachments on the pavement. There is an ordinance in the laws of the new city forbidding this.

Rev. Mr. Bold, the rector of St. Marks' P. E. Church, on Locust street, has taken possession of the new parsonage on Park avenue, Moxham. It is a very neat looking dwelling.

Officer Peter Culliton has announced his intention of resigning from the new force appointed. The reason given is that he cannot comply with the rules announced for the government of the force. This is the third resignation announced from the new force.

Miss Edna V. Bridge, who has rented the hall of the Virginus Club, on the third floor of Waters building, gave a reception to the members of the club and their friends. After the reception a class was formed and hereafter she will give instructions on Monday and Thursday night of each week.

A person receiving a letter through the postoffice by mistake, or finding one on the street or elsewhere, can, under no pretense, designedly break the seal without subjecting himself to a severe penalty; the endorsement "opened by mistake," being "too thin." The penalty varies from a fine not exceeding \$500 to imprisonment for ten years.

He Committed Suicide.

Somerset Democrat.

On Tuesday morning, the 22d inst., Samuel Thomas was found hanging by the neck, dead, in his father's barn, in Conemaugh township, this county. The young man had been melancholy for some days, but the evening before his death had appeared in unusually good spirits, and he retired that night in apparently good health. Upon going to the barn Tuesday morning the father of the suicide discovered him hanging by the neck to a rope about three feet long fastened to the rack in the horse stable, with his knees almost touching the floor. The father cut the rope and laid the body of his son upon the floor, and as it was quite warm he did all in his power to restore life, but the vital spark had forever fled.

The suicide was a man of about thirty years of age and was married. He resided on the home farm with his father, who is well-to-do. The cause of the young man's rash deed is not known unless brought about by ill-health.

A warrant was issued by Justice Hart last evening for the arrest of two colored men accused of stealing a basket containing eatables from a Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Jones had left the basket on the corner of Main and Adam streets to go into a store when the colored men picked it up and walked off. They also got a pass book from the Company store and sent a boy to buy some articles on it, but the book was taken up. They will be arrested to-day.

THE MONEY QUESTION.

Advanced Ideas by a Johnstown Man Which May Give Him National Prominence.

Mr. Emanuel Cover recently returned from a trip to Washington, and while there had a conference with Senator Voorhees, when Mr. Cover fully explained his theories regarding our monetary system. Mr. Voorhees acknowledged that the forty-five years of thought which Mr. Cover had devoted to this question had promulgated ideas in advance of any which he, the Senator, had formerly held. Mr. Cover failed to get an audience with the President, as he had hoped, but has since written him explaining his views, and asking for an opportunity to present the same in a lecture to the members of the House and Senate. He confidently expects that if he is given this opportunity he can make his ideas so clear that they will be taken up as the issue upon which the next Presidential election will be fought, and as the foremost thinker and champion of the cause, Mr. Cover thinks it not impossible that he may be the candidate to carry on the fight.

Our Troubles Are Over.

To the Editor of the Johnstown Democrat.

"Citizen," the Tribune writer, is a comical cuss. He says to-day, "I am done," and then proceeds to write his brilliant thoughts. The most of people stop when they are done, but "Citizen" goes on. He is not that kind of a man, and even after he has apparently exhausted his brilliant effort, he adds a post script, moving to censure the Finance Committee for not employing your correspondent instead of Schenk. It would have been a good thing if he had.

Now, Mr. Editor, I am not an ordinary prophet, not even a "Stuffed Prophet," but I predict that Schenk's report is not worth the paper it is printed on—I mean the Tribune paper.

The suggestion of changing the course of the Stonycreek to the base of the Kernville Hill is an old one. There are many people in this city now who believe that was the original course of the stream. But your correspondent believes that scheme to be impracticable and chimerical. If there was a ditch dug along the base of the Kernville Hill an immense retaining wall would have to be built to keep the hill from sliding down into the ditch. Judge Hamilton's delightful orchard and premises, and other parts of the hill, would slide down into the ditch. That view of the matter is impracticable, and there is not money enough in the new city to do it. The government building will be built long before the course of the Stonycreek is changed.

Mr. Editor, the people, however, those especially in the lower parts of the city, should be delighted. After ten months they have been furnished Engineer Schenk's report. The Finance Committee have covered themselves all over with glory, and we have as a bulwark of safety against the flood, Schenk's report. That is a great source of safety to us. We are all safe, and the whole business may go on.

I am in favor of practical work. The courses of the rivers need not be changed, but the river below the city should be greatly widened, and another span should be built to the stone bridge, and then our troubles from high water would cease, and "Citizen" would dry up. That will be a good thing for the readers of the Tribune.

ANOTHER CITIZEN.

Greensburg's Big Scheme.

Capitalists owning a large tract of land near Greensburg, Pa., on which there is gas in unlimited quantities, are making a great effort to get the ten flint glass factories in Martin's Ferry, Bridgeport, Bell-air and Wheeling to move to their land near Greensburg. The said capitalists offer to not only furnish natural gas free for five years, but will donate ground and erect the buildings, costing at least \$250,000, all free of cost, if the ten factories will combine and locate at the above place as one works and under one management. This gigantic plant would employ over 3,000 hands, whose wages would range from 60 cents to \$7 per day, which means about \$10,000 in wages every day. There is a scarcity of gas thereabouts and it is highly probable that the proposition will be accepted.

Y. M. C. A. Picnic.

Messrs. S. L. Harter, P. A. Cabaugh and F. D. Jolly, returned from Ohio Pyle Falls where they had gone to make arrangements for the picnic to be held on June 19. They have secured the entire use of the hotel, grounds, fishing, bathing, including the bowling alley and the base ball park. The hotel will be thrown open to guests and the bar-room closed. The fare will be \$1.50 round trip or about three-fourth of the fare one way. The association have chartered palace cars for the occasion which promises to be a grand success.

Assault and Battery Case.

Mrs. Emma Kingston last night made information before Justice Hart against John McGuire, charging him with assault and battery. A warrant was placed in the hands of Officer Martin. Both parties are well known around town.