

The Star.

REYNOLDSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
JANUARY 16, 1907

WE'RE GETTING OLD AND ONLY IN THE WAY.

Written for THE STAR by "Uncle William."

Years ago when young and lively, our place was hard to fill,
Our hearts were light, our spirits blithe and gay,
Now since we've passed the noon of life and gone down the hill
We're getting old and only in the way.

Once our cheeks were fair and ruddy, our hair of raven hue,
Now they're furrowed and our locks are silver grey,
We've been through many ups and downs, of troubles seen a few,
But we're getting old and only in the way.

'Twould near exhaust the patience of poor Job, without a doubt,
Were he but living at the present day,
To witness how humanity is kicked and cuffed about
When they're old and only in the way.

And many professed Christians who are zealous, when at church,
Especially earnest on God's holy day,
Approach them through the week and they'll leave you in the lurch
If you're getting old, you're only in the way.

"Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn,
Shakespeare's maxim yet holds good the present day,
As the golden cycles vanish we are looked upon with scorn
For we're getting old and only in the way.

When the meek and lowly Savior went about on earth below
Doing good to all mankind from day to day,
Did he ever turn from any one and bid them on to go?
Did he tell them they were old and in the way?

When this toilsome life is ended and our weary, weary head
On the bosom of old mother earth we lay,
Shall we be denied admittance through the gates of Paradise?
Will they tell us that we're old and in the way?

Then forget not the aged but respect the silvered hair,
Treat them kindly, for they haven't long to stay,
And remember while you're young that the day will surely come
When you too, will be old and in the way.

A Few Facts Concerning an Important Industry which Reynoldsville May Secure.

A citizens' meeting was held in the Reynolds opera house last Thursday evening for the purpose of hearing the proposition explained in relation to the Standard Tie and Equipment enterprise. At this meeting Homer W. Case, president, and A. Granville, secretary and treasurer, both of Pittsburgh, were present and explained what this concern intended to do, and also answered questions by our citizens, which made their plans clear and satisfactory to all. They explained that their company had acquired the business, machinery, patents and patterns of the Pittsburgh Woven Wire Fence Company, and they also own the patents all over the world for their steel tie, which is a model of perfection and is being used now by several railroads and is giving perfect satisfaction; and there is not the least doubt that it is the coming tie that all railroads will and must adopt. They read a number of letters from eminent railroad engineers recommending their steel tie and stating that the time is near at hand when the railroads will be using no other kind of tie.

But they stated that should they locate here they would not manufacture the steel tie for possibly a year or more, as it is a branch of the concern that would have to be developed, just as any other new product has to be. Instead of starting off with the manufacture of the steel tie, they would manufacture wire fencing and a steel fence post. The first buildings built will be of brick, one story high, 60 x 150 feet and 40 x 200 feet, one being a factory building and the other a ware room. This firm now owns two looms ready to set and begin the making of wire fence. The two looms have a capacity of 1,000 rods of fence per day at a net profit of seven and one-half cents per rod, which means \$75.00 per day of profit, and just as soon as they know that they are to locate here, they will order two more looms and install them, and continue to add to equipment until twelve looms are installed, which will be the capacity of the first factory building. This factory will work three eight hour shifts per day of 300 days per year and each pair of looms will require the labor of forty men at good wages, and they promise that by the end of the year after they start they will have twelve looms installed and will be employing two hundred and forty men, and that the factory will be continually increased in size from year to year, as the firm have orders for the entire output, no difference what the capacity is.

The capitalization of the Standard Tie and Equipment Co. is \$3,000,000. One-half is in the treasury, therefore does not draw dividends, and is held for the sole purpose of being sold when the company desires to use it for obtaining more money to build up the steel tie department, which is destined to be immense. Calculating the issued stock on a basis of twenty cents for each dollar, it makes \$340,000, including the \$40,000 to be placed in Reynoldsville; therefore, if they pay a six per cent dividend, which seemingly there is no doubt they will, on this amount, the factory must earn \$20,400 for this purpose, but they showed that the factory will earn, with four looms, \$150.00 per day, or \$45,000 per year of 300 days, which will leave for betterment of the plant \$24,600, after paying a six per cent dividend on the cash valuation of the issued stock. The income of the factory will be doubled as soon as eight looms are in operation, and at the same time about one hundred and fifty men would be employed. They also stated that if they are able to begin business soon here, there is no reason why they cannot have eight looms going by July or August next. These people themselves will furnish \$20,000 to the working capital of the company in cash. Mr. Granville, the secretary and treasurer of this company holds the same position with the Avonmore Cast Steel Company, of Avonmore, Pa., a successful enterprise he promoted just the same as he is doing in this one.

They do not want any person in the dark in this matter and invite investigation. They will agree to anything that is fair, honest and legitimate, as may be noted in a letter addressed to W. W. Wiley, appearing elsewhere in this issue of THE STAR, showing what they will do to make all investors safe. They will meet our people on any fair proposition that can be made after the \$40,000 in cash is subscribed and know that we mean business. The wire business is what made Monessen, Pa., and the prospects are just as bright for the same business to make Reynoldsville take on such life and activity as never before.

It is now up to our people to make a determined effort and secure this industry, for should we turn a deaf ear to such an important industry and the opportune time of securing it, it will cause regret for all time hereafter. Let the citizens display enterprise worthy of the town and assist the committee in every way to secure this industry. We positively need it.

Reynoldsville's Board of Trade—a Little Speculation Concerning the Mysterious Death of the Project to Organize It.

"Once upon a time,"—last October, perhaps—Reynoldsville people woke up sufficiently to realize that the town needed a board of trade. Enterprising citizens had been saying so for a long time, the press said so and industrial conditions in town pointed to its necessity in an unmistakable way. So a call was issued for a meeting. A score of Reynoldsville's four thousand population turned out. The rest seemed to have concluded the town was going to the bow-wows any way and there "wasn't no use trying." The score was not encouraging, but they done what they could. Temporary officers were elected and a committee appointed to draft constitution and by-laws. The committee done its work and a second meeting was called. Another score came out. They too, done what they could. It was ordered that certain ancient board of trade records and minutes were to be dug up from obscurity and the new laws inscribed therein. A committee was also appointed to apply for a charter. We understand the secretary done his work of copying. But we have not been able in half a dozen inquiries to find out what became of the application for a charter.

Just about that time Ben Tillman and his fireworks struck town, the Park Theatre opened, the holiday rush commenced, a new industrial proposition had to be handled quickly and some dozen minor events occurred. And in the excitement the board of trade project seems to have been forgotten even by the score who had it most at heart. Unless something is done, and done quickly, the project will be dead beyond resuscitation.

That were a pity, and—we say it advisedly—a catastrophe. We are not pessimistic concerning Reynoldsville's future. In the past score of years we have seen it face emergencies equally grave and work out its own salvation. But we might as well look a bad condition straight in the face and recognize the fact that industrial conditions in Reynoldsville are not now, and for a year past have not been, in normal state. The cessation of work in some, and slack work in other industries, has caused a financial stringency that the business men feel keenly. Nor is there much hope of immediate relief unless new industries are brought in. Compiling constitutions and by-laws and inscribing them in time honored minute books is good in its way—very good for a start—but if it goes no further the energy might as well have been saved.

That Reynoldsville people can and will work energetically, to secure new industries has been shown repeatedly in the last ten years, when, at special calls, a few of the enterprising citizens have taken the lead and directed the work. But those efforts have all been spasmodic and rendered far more difficult by the lack of a permanent board of trade, which has not existed for many years. It takes money to "make the mare go," and money to boom the town. Only a permanently organized board of trade, with a reserve fund for immediate use raised by methods prescribed in its by-laws, can be of effective service to a town—and this it must have if it would grow.

It is to be hoped that the project will not be allowed to die in Reynoldsville after coming so near successful organization. If there is any reason for the delay in applying for a charter, it should be made known, and we suggest that the president again call a meeting and that the committee to whom this work was assigned be asked to explain.

There are Some who Say that a People's Civilization May be Judged by the State of its Roads and Public Thoroughfares.

"It's an ill wind that blows no good." If the execrable condition of the public roads in Winslow township and Reynoldsville most of the time the past few weeks has no other effect, it should at least be an effective object lesson to drive home the necessity of constructing better thoroughfares. The condition is not local, but its remedy is, to a great extent, and the wonder is that town and country population, so eager and alert to increase the comfort and convenience of life, so anxious to increase the valuation of property, should deliberately close their eyes to the benefits derived from good roads and the positive loss occasioned by periods of muddy, impassible roads. Eight-five years ago the first road was constructed through this region, and it has been sixty years since Winslow township was organized. In that period one hundred and eighty-six miles of road have been constructed and thousands of dollars have been expended in repairing roads that will not stay repaired. The drain on resources has been continual, but the good results in periods such as we have experienced the past few weeks are hard to see.

The initial cost of paving or macadamizing a road is heavy, but the wisdom of doing so is undeniable. Sections of country which began to systematically macadamize rural roads a few years ago report marvelous effects. Cultivated land along the improved roads has risen in value 20 to 100 per cent and much uncultivated land within a few miles on each side of the route was immediately bought up and placed under cultivation. And, of course, the improved facilities for marketing his crops is as direct a source of gain to the farmer as the impassibility of muddy roads is source of loss. Trolley and railroad lines penetrate many farming communities, but there are still large regions, even in the vicinity of Reynoldsville having no other means of communication with town than the carriage roads, and when they are impassible the rural resident is isolated. When it takes a man in a carriage over two hours to cover less than two miles of road, as in one case we heard of last week, there is not likely to be much travelling back and forth. The effect on trade in town is immediate. For this reason the business men and residents of town should be just as deeply interested in the permanent improvement of rural roads as the residents along the road, for the financial benefits come to both alike.

One strip of paved or macadamized road is the best possible advocate for more, its advantages becoming so apparent that opposition is silenced. Reynoldsville has learned this lesson and is making every effort consistent with resources to improve its streets. It is to be hoped that Winslow township will also take advantage of the State's offer of aid for the construction of a short piece of road, and that it may be the start of systematic construction of permanent highways in every part of the township.

Progress of Country Papers.

In no activity has there been more progress during the last twenty years than that of the country newspaper. There are now hundreds of country papers which in editorial ability, mechanical appearance, and all that contributes to inspire respect and command attention are fully abreast of their metropolitan contemporaries, in moral tone, and often in editorials they surpass most of the great dailies. In times past the country editor was quite generally regarded with a half pitying contempt as a good-natured but chicken-hearted chronicler of inconsequential localities. All of this has changed. Country newspapers, as a class, wield the mightiest influence in the nation. The editors are men of character and enterprise, doing more for the community for less money than any other body of workers.—Ridgway Advocate.

The Trade that Goes from Reynoldsville to Chicago is a Menace to Home Prosperity which Our Merchants Should Combat.

The business man who does not advertise has not much reason to complain when trade that might be his goes elsewhere—to Chicago, for instance.

We have no commendation for mail order houses or the practice of ordering goods from any out of town firm that can be procured in Reynoldsville. We condemn utterly the system because it takes money out of the town that should remain in circulation here, and hence is detrimental to home prosperity.

Some—a good many, perhaps—send to mail order houses for goods procurable at home, doing so under the impression that they are getting their goods cheaper than the home merchant offers.

We know of Reynoldsville merchants who contradict that belief and show upon their shelves goods identical with those advertised in the mail order house catalogues actually priced cheaper than the city house's quotations.

Now no man will send away for an article he can buy cheaper at home, if he knows the fact.

Yet hundreds of orders do go to Chicago. The inference is that he does not know what the home merchants have to offer—and it's up to the home merchants to let him know if they expect to get his trade.

The mail order houses have built up their business solely by advertising. Day in and day out they proclaim the bargains they offer to the public.

All the while a large number of home merchants with bargains just as good to offer, refuse to use an inch of space to tell the public.

Is it any wonder that the buyer, reading eternally the

advertised claims of mail order houses to sell cheaper, finally comes to believe it? It is nothing more or less than a demonstration of the virtue of printer's ink.

The mail order house is a bad thing but the home merchant should learn from its policy that the most effective way to secure trade is to advertise.

If for any reason you don't like the things THE STAR says this week, please don't kill the editor—the real editor, we mean. He's several hundred miles away and isn't to blame. And don't kill "us" either. We done the best we could.

The communication printed in THE STAR last week under the heading "A Million Dollar Business for Reynoldsville," with its vague but startling intimation of graft, has caused much discussion in local circles and may cause a pretty close scrutiny of the candidates at the coming spring election.

Before you forget, turn to The Star's Want Column and Note the Varied "Wants" advertised this week. It may be that some one is advertising just what you want.

SHICK & WAGNER

THE BIG STORE

A Clearance Sale of Furs, Jacket Suits and Comforts

This is a time when 50c buys as much as \$1.00 did before.

THERE has not been much winter as yet but rather than wait until the cold weather comes we will offer the balance of our FUR STOCK, LONG JACKET SUITS, and COMFORTS at just half price. There will be plenty of winter yet but the time of year has come for us to clean up our stock consequently we make it an inducement for you to buy NOW.

Furs

We have yet a nice line of Furs comprising all the leading specie of good staple and reliable Furs.

Do not fail to supply your needs while this sale lasts.

\$ 1.00 Furs for 50 cents.	
2.50 " " "	\$1.25.
5.00 " " "	2.50.
10.00 " " "	5.00.
12.50 " " "	6.25.
15.00 " " "	7.50.
18.50 " " "	9.25.

Long Jacket Suits

We have a few Long Jacket Suits which we are offering you at half price—this is much less than the manufacturing cost of the cloth alone and either the Skirt or the Jacket alone would be worth to you as much as we ask you for the suit but to clear up the line we are offering to you at 50c on the \$1.00.

\$10.00 Suit for \$ 5.00.
12.50 " " "
15.00 " " "
25.00 " " "

This means the long Jacket Suit only which is a garment that is much worn both summer and winter. Do not fail to get a suit at half price if you are in need of a suit.

Comforts

We have a few Comforts Silkaline and Sateen covered that we are offering to you at 50c on the \$1.00. Why spend the time in making your own Comforts when you can buy a nice soft Comfort for about the same price as the cotton would cost you to make them yourselves.

\$1.50 Comfort for 75 cents.
2.00 " " "
2.50 " " "
3.50 " " "

Come early that you may not be disappointed.

CORNER MAIN AND FIFTH STS., REYNOLDSVILLE, PA.