# RIBUNE. **F'REELAND**

FREELAND, PA., THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1895.

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## STARTLING TESTIMONY. IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES MADE A AN INJUNCTION HEARING.

Ex-Chief Clerk James M. Norris Says He and a Commissioner Received Part of Money Paid to Architect Myers for the New Court House Plans.

Since the county commissioners sign ed the secret contract with Architect Myers, of Detroit, giving the latter authority to prepare plans for the pro-posed new court house, there has been a feeling of expectancy throughout the county that a sensation would come some day. The high-handed manner in which the affairs of the county were being conducted led even those who favored a new court house to suspect there was something dishonest in the ed the secret contract with Architec there was something dishonest in the transactions, and the unbusiness-like principles of the commissioners raised a protest that was supported by every prominent newspaper and taxpayer in Luzerne. The

commissioners showed their in The commissioners showed their in-competency by paying the architect \$10,000 before he drew the plans, and would have paid him \$10,000 more upon the delivery of the work had not the county auditors interfered and served notice upon the treasurer to not honor orders drawn by the commissioners in favor of the Western architect or his son.

son. The commissioners have not yet ob-The commissioners have not yet ob-tained a site for the court house, never-theless injunction proceedings had to be commenced two weeks ago to restrain them from awarding the contract for building. This step was taken to pre-vent the county from becoming involv-ed in further trouble through the three men who represent it in the commis-sioner's office.

It was at one of the hearings on th It was at one of the hearings on the injunction case that the looked-for sen-sation came to light. The hearing was held in Attorney Palmer's office at the county seat. It had been agreed to by all the parties interested to take the testimony privately and afterwards pre-sent it to Judges Rice and Lynch to dewhether the injunction should be

sent it to Judge's Rice and Lynch to de-cide whether the injunction should be made permanent. James M. Norris was on the stand. Until the 5th inst. he was clerk to the commissioners and was credited with being "the power behind the throne." He was known to have unlimited influ-ence with the commissioners, and he ran matters to suit himsel in the office. Personally he is a good-natured jovial politician, and for ten years past has been one of the foremost Republican leaders in Luzerne connty. Of late he has been drinking heavily and appeared to be slightly under the influence of li-quor at the hearing. The fact that he had resigned his po-sition was known to no one but the com-missioners until he said so on the wit-ness stand. It created some surprise, but interest in that point was soon over-shadowed by the answers he gave the attorneys when asked certain questions. Attorney Palmer, who was conducting the examination, asked: "Do you know anything about the payment of the sec-ond 85,000 by the commissioners to the architeet?"

ond \$5,000 by the commissioners to th architect?' 'Yes, I saw it paid."

"How was it paid?" asked Palmer

"Why, young Myers got an order for \$5,000 and went to the bank and got it

"Where were you?" "I was with him at the time," said Norris "What did he do with the money?"

"He gave me some of it." "How much?" "I refuse to tell that."

"I refuse to tell that." "What did he do with the rest of it?" queried Palmer. "He gave some to a woman to take out West to his father," said Norris. "The girl had been staying in town for for some time." for some time." "What did he do with the remainder?

asked Palmer. "He gave it to one of the commis-

"Which commissioner?" 'I decline to tell.'

"How much was it." "I'll not tell,"

"Till not tell." "Till not tell." At this point the hearing was ended for the day, as the announcement by the ex-chief clerk that there had been a deal in which he and a commissioner participated was too much of a surprise to continue the case. . In talking about the affair afterwards one of the the commissioners said: "I do not know what Norris was thinking about when he spoke that way. His story is absolutely false. Neither he nor the commissioners received any of the \$10.000 paid Myers. They do not

per cent of the cost of the building, or about \$50,000 for the plans of the court He stated the second payment of \$10, 000 was due about two months ago, but had not been paid because the county treasurer will not cash the order.

treasurer will not eash the order. He was then closely questioned re-garding what he was worth and the amount of property he owns. He said that out of his salary of \$1,500 a year he had bought a house for \$3,600 since he entered office four and one-half years ago. He vigorously denied that he ever received any money except his salary while commissioner. The witness also testified that he did not know that ex-Clerk Norris had re-ceived part of the second \$5,000 pay-ment.

ment.

Commissioner Smith followed, and his Commissioner Smith followed, and his evidence in relation to the affairs of the office did not differ materially from that given by Mr. Dullard. In answer to a question he stated that neither he nor Dullard got any of the money paid to Myers or Myers' son, neither did he know of any one else getting a part of it. Norris' testimony was the first he had heard of such a thing. Mr. Smith stated he had called at the ex-clerk's home and asked him why he

ex-clerk's home and asked him why he made such damaging statements at the previous hearing, and the reply was that he merely wanted to have some

previous hearing, and the reply was that he merely wanted to have some fun with the attorneys. Commissioner Norton was placed on the stand on Tuesday. His testimony was like that given by his two collea-gues. He never received money from the architect or his son, and did not know of any architect who had. He told of Norris' drinking spells and how he had been acting of late. Mr. Norton flatly contradicted the sensational parts of the ex-clerk's testimony. of the ex-clerk's testimony. In spite of the denials made by the

In spite of the denials made by the three men there are doubts in the minds of many citizens as to which side ought to be believed. It is known that Norris possesses all the sceret of the commis-missioners' office, but the condition of the man at present is such that his oath cannot be relied upon too strongly. The the man at present is such that his oath cannot be relied upon too strongly. The telling point against them and gives some color to the charge. Norris' accusation is the wandering dream of a shattered mind, or the first development of a scandal that may en-

development of a scandal that may en-gulf the Luzerne commissioners and end some people to prison.

Architect Myers and his son forwarded flidavits yesterday from Michigan, in which they swear no money was ever paid by them to Norris or the commisioners, in any manner or for any purpose

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

Announcements of religious services and church news will be published free of charge under this head every Thurs-day. Pastors are invited to send us all items that are of general interest to the public.

oublic public. HOLINESS CHRISTIAN. The Sandy Valley mission will hold a grove meeting below the Millhopper Packing House, commencing Sunday, June 16, at 9 a. m., in the afternoon a 2.30 and in the evening at 7.30. It will continue two or three weeks, and night-ly meetings will be held every evening at 7.30 o'clock. We do most earnestly invite all to attend these meetings, es-pecially Christian workers. We intend to preach the four-fold gospel of Christ. Come and help us. The harvest is truly great, but the laborers are few. We expect to have many ministers from a distance, and a sermon of impor-tance will be delivered each evening. Rev. H. P. Jones, pastor. METHODIST EPISCOAL. HOLINESS CHRISTIAN.

Rev. H. F. Jones, passon METHODIST EPISCOPAL. M. E. services will be held in Lind-say's hall every Sunday as follows: Preaching, 10 a. m. and 7 p. m. Class meeting, 9 a. m.; C. W. Barton, nador

ader. Sunday school, 2 p. m.; C. W. Barton. merintendent.

Sunday school, z p. m., c. n.; Edward superintendent. Epworth League, 6 p. m.; Edward Jones, president. Prayor meeting every Wednesday evening at 7.30 p. m. The public is cordially invited to all of these services. Rev. Edmund White, pastor.

ST. PAUL'S P. M. CHURCH. Services for Sunday, June 16: Praise and prayer service, to com

nence at 9 a. m. Preaching at 10.30 a. m. and 7 p. m. Morning subject, "Baal or God, Which?" Evening subject, "The Request of a ning subject, "The Request of a

King ing." Sunday school, George Keller, super-ntendent, at 2 p. m. Rev. S. Cooper, pastor.

## PLEASURE CALENDAR.

one of the the commissioners said: "IT do not know what Norris was thinking about when he spoke that way. His story is absolutely false. Nother he nor the commissioners received and 10.— OFF and the trainment of the \$10,000 paid Myers. They do not expect to get any of the money. They do not want any. Norris is nearly in-sane and does not know what he is talking about." The confession made by Norris was belleved by many people, and the com-missioners found themselves under sus-picion on all sides. On Monday one of sign the found advised then to no sign the found advised the to not give Myers \$20,000 for the plans and 5

SCHOOL BOARD AFFAIRS. nd Directors Held an Adjou Meeting Last Evening. An adjourned meeting of the schoo board was held last evening. All the directors were present, and the session was attended by a large number of citi zens also. The teachers' competitive zens also. The teachers' competitive examination question was taken up again. Director Rute spoke strongly against that manner of making appoint-ment. His sentiments are said to be ap-proved by nine-tenths of the people of town. It is also alleged that the teach-ers are opposed to the board's action in the matter, and so far as is known none of those residing in the borough intend to enter.

to enter. It was decided, however, to reques It was decided, however, to request County Superintendent Harrison, Super-intendent Coughlin, of Wilkesbarre, and Superintendent Mulhall, of Hazle, to conduct the examination on July 22. Teachers desiring to apply for schools must give notice to the secretary on or before July 6, and then enter the class on the 22d. The examination will cover all branches taught in the schools, and it is understood that appointments will be made in the order of the percentages obtained at the examination, the only obtained at the examination, the only reservation being that the principalship shall be given to a male teacher.

Treasurer Welsh's bond, in the sur

Treasurer Welsh's bond, in the sum of \$15,000, was accepted and ordered to be registered in the prothonotary's of-fice. His commission was fixed at 2 per cent of all money paid out by him. The salary of Secretary Ferry was placed at \$75 for the term, the same as last term. Some of the directors thought this was not fair to the present secretary, as the work for the coming year will be much greater than hereto-fore. The motion to make it \$75 was carried. President McCarthy treated the audi-

President McCarthy treated the audi-

took the \$10 for their time and expenses in attending the institute predict that the president will have no easy work in having the money refunded. The directors of the Mining and Mechanical Institute sent word they would confer with the school directors on Monday evening regarding the rent-ing of the institute's rooms for school purposes.

purposes. An insurance of \$1,000 was ordered to be placed on the Birvanton building, and a committee was appointed to see if ground could be obtained in the Public park to erect a new building.

Three People Arrested for Murder. Detective James O'Brien, of Wilkes-barre, and Thomas Quigley, of Miners Mills, on Monday night arrested three colored people, Frank Shafer, James Miller and Hester Brace, a woman, charged with the murder of four Hun-garians and the wounding of eight others at a laboring camp on the mountain near Wilkesbare last October. Several Hungarians were asleep in a house which was blown up by dynamite. Shafer made a full confession. He also implicated besides those arrested Nelson Miller and his wife, Sarah. He said they stole the battery, wires and Three People Arrested for Murder

Nelson Miller and his wife, Sarah. He said they stole the battery, wires and dynamite a month provious to the affair; that the Miller boys placed the dynamite under the house and he (Shafer) managed the battery. The capture of these people is considered a very clever piece of detective work, as the crime was shrouded in mystery since committed.

Musicians' Big Festival. The Oratorio Society festival, one of the greatest ever held in the United the greatest ever held in the United States, began yesterday at Wilkesbarre and will continue today. In order to give the citizens an opportunity to at-tend the festival the mines in that vicini-ty were closed down. Nearly 3,000 peo-ple attended the afternoon session. Professor Apmador, of New York, is the conductor, and the adjudicators are P. E. Krehbiel, Henry Solden Huss and W. J. Henderson, all of New York. The first session opened at 10 o'clock, with the Honorable C. A. Miner as president. In the first competition by the two big choirs from Scranton and Wilkesbarre for the \$300 prize Scranton won. The same choirs will compete to-day for the prize of \$1,000.

BRIEF ITEMS OF NEWS. "Whew, Light and Water Improvements. The Freeland Electric Light Compa The Freeland Electric Light Company has received its new water-heating ap-paratus, by which the water will be fed to the boilers at a temperature of 200 degrees, and the same will be placed in position at once. The new machine will be a valuable aid in maintaining a uniform pressure of steem at all times aniform pressure of steam at all times and by forcing the exhaust steam from the engine through the water-heater, as will probably be done, the greater part of the noise that exists around the plant at night will be abated. The new apparatus arrived here on Tuesday, and cost the company something over \$400. General Manager Myers and his assist-ants have the plant is first-class shape, and the public is well satisfied with the service now being furnished. The Freeland Water Company is also making an improvement that will bene-fit its patrons. The large steel tank which was ordered about six weeks ago from the Jeanesville Iron Works will be and by forcing the exhaust steam from ostmaster at Pritchard, this co and a daughter.

which was ordered about six weeks ago from the Jeanesville Iron Works will be erected on a base in the reservoir at Birvanton in a short while. This tank has a capacity of several thousand gal-lons, and the water therein will furnish the buildings on the hill with a constant supply the same as in other parts of town. The tank will also hold a large body of water which will be of great service in case of fire during a dry spell.

Now that the Pottsville and Wilkes-barre politicians have joined hands to oppose the Quay county movement its friends in this district will do their utmost to offset the efforts of its op-ponents. The claim that the people of the Schuylkill side of the proposed new county were opposed to the division is exploded by the petitions which have already been signed by seven-eighths of the entire population of that district. The commissioners of the two old counties are arranging for a grand

counties are arranging for a grand unketing trip to Harrisburg next Tuesday to protest to the governor against the bill but their arguments will be met and refuted, just as they were before the senate and house committees. The the senate and house committees. The opinion that the bill will be signed grows stronger every day. That it will be carried by a large majority at the polls is conceded, and some people are already guesing whom the governor will appoint as the officers of the new county for the first year.

Working for Judge Rice

At a meeting of the Luzerne Bar Association on Monday encouraging reports were given by the attorneys who are working through the neighboring counties for Judge Rice's appointment on the appellate court bench. The association decided to run a special train

association decided to run a special train to Harrisburg next Monday carrying a number of influential people from the county who will present the petitions to Governor Hastings. The movement is a non-partisan one, but the Republican attorneys appear extremely anxious to have Judge Rice promoted, as the gover-nor will then have the appointment of one to fill the vacancy on the Luzerne bench.

Had a Pfeasant Visit. Mrs. William Solden and Mrs. D. Macfarlane, of Irvington, N. J., who are visiting relatives here, will return home on Saturday well pleased with their vacation in this section. They retheir vacation in this section. They re-quest the TRHUXE to state they are ex-ceedingly grateful to the people of the vicinity for the many acts of kindness tendered them during their stay here. On Tuesday they visited the strippings at No. 5 Upper Lehigh, and were shown about by Foreman Chalender. Later they viewed No. 3 breaker while in operation through the courtesy of Super-intendent Joseph Evan. Both gentle-men have the thanks of the ladles.

Board of Trade to Organize.

A petition was in circulation last A petition was in circulation last evening for a meeting to organize a board of trade here. The paper has met with a ready response, and a meet-ing of the promoters and all who wish to join will be held at the opera house on Tuesday evening, when the preliminary matters will be arranged and steps taken to effect a permanent organization. All the business people of town, as well as all others who take an active interest in Freeland's welfare, are invited to attend.

Foster Schools' Superintendent. Joseph Gabrio, of Hazleton, was Joseph Gabrio, of Hazleton, was elected superintendent of the Foster township school by the directors on Monday evening. His salary was fixed at \$1,000 per year. Chas. Orion Stroh, Esq., was chosen as solicitor of the board for the coming year. The Free-land directors had a committee at the meeting, and requested that the furni-ture, etc., taken from the Birvanton building be returned. The matter was



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DePIERRO - BROS.

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## OYSTERS IN EVERY STYLE.

Its Friends Will Be There. Now that the Pottsville and Wilkes-

clothing. Street Commissioner Furey is pushing the work upon the sewer extension, and will finish the job as soon as possible. The best is the cheapest in the end, Go to the Wear Well Shoe House. Their shoes all wear well. The trial of John Oschman, who is accused of setting free to M. Schwaber accused of setting fire to M. Schwabe's et down for Monday next.

bage of today's issue.

Custom-made goods at ready-mad prices. Ready-made goods equal to cu tom work at Refowich's, Freeland. tom work at Refowich's, Freeland. The Butchers Association met on Monday evening and decided to close at 8 o'clock every evening expect Satur-days. On Sunday the markets will be closed at 10 a. m. Try the Wear Well Shoe House. Their goods cost no more and give better satis-faction than any other store in Freeland. Patrick Grier, of Carbondale who st.

PARTS OF THE REGION.

Raction than any conersorten receasing Patrick Grier, of Carbondale, who at-tempted suicide here on May 24, took another dose of laudanum at Mahanoy City on Sunday night. He failed again to accomplish his object. Eadler the hest futting and most

Ladies, the best-fitting and most stylish shoe in the market is the Vision, sold at \$2. Can be had only at the Wear Well, Eberts' old stand.

The members of the legislature have presented B. F. Davis, of Freeland, with a life-size picture of himself, in recogni-tion of his services as doorkeeper of the house of representatives during the session ouse

Tomorrow evening the Eckley peopl

Tomorrow evening the Eckley people will enjoy themselves at the fifth annual picnic of the A. O. H., of that town. The picnic will be held in the grove near the company store. Music will be furnished by DePierro's orchestra. William Doggett is lying seriously ill at his parents' home on Washington street. Last Thursday he hurt himself internally while assisting to lift a derail-ed car in No. 7 colliery, Upper Lehigh, and his injuries are becoming more serious every day.

serious every day. The Hazleton Sentinel is authority for the statement that prominent citizens o Hazle township intend soon to ask the court for an investigation of the town ship's affairs, and that special attention will be paid to the work of the school board for a few years past.

board for a few years past. The Quay club, of Hazleton, will be the Tigers opponents on Sunday after-noon at 3 o'clock. McGill and Kimmel will be the visitors' battery, and will have a strong team behind them. For the home club Pfrom and Schmear will occupy the points on the diamond.