

LIVE NEWS OF TWO PITTSTONS

[THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE'S Pittston department is in charge of J. F. Faby, to whom news items and complaints may be referred.]

WILLIAM STREET FIRE.

A. B. Brown's Residence Gutted by the Fire Monster.

Precisely at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon the residence of A. B. Brown on William street was discovered to be on fire. An alarm was turned in from box 45, located at the corner of Main and Water streets. The fire companies of the district responded quickly and in a few minutes had two streams of water on the burning structure. In the meantime the large throng of people, who had been attracted to the scene, rendered much effective work by assisting in the removal of the household effects to places of safety close by.

The fire was found to be in the rear of the house, a circumstance which did much to hinder the firemen from working. Owing to the position the house occupies by being elevated in front and abutting a steep hill in the rear, the work of getting at the seat of the fire was slow and tedious. In spite of these obstacles, however, the firemen succeeded in extinguishing the flames before any great damage was done. The origin of the fire as near as could be learned, was caused by a defective chimney in the wash kitchen. While the damage to the building is insignificant, the furniture is utterly ruined from the water and smoke. The loss to both building and furniture is covered by insurance.

THINGS OBSERVED AND NOTED.

The fire of yesterday demonstrates the necessity of placing an alarm box in the vicinity of the Steam Works. When Mr. Benjamin's residence was found to be on fire in order to turn in the alarm a messenger was compelled to run fully three blocks distant. To cover this distance required not a little time and inconvenience. As a result the flames gained sufficient headway to compel the use of a few buckets of water would have accomplished had an alarm box been close at hand. The necessity demands that a box should be placed in the vicinity referred to, when you stop to consider that the Seventh ward pays nearly double the amount of taxes of any ward in the borough. Properties in the ward ranging in value from \$1,000 to \$175,000 apiece as the case may stand are not accorded our bit more protection than localities in which the assessed valuation is not one-third as much. By all means, gentlemen of the council, give the locality an alarm box for it really needs it.

It would appear all is not settled in the Ninth ward as yet as to who will fill the offices of school director and councilman, if the correspondent of the Truth is correct in his assertion. He says: Corcoran and Sweeney intend passing the names for councilman and school director in the Ninth ward, and have retained James L. Morris, of Pittston, and General McCartney, of Wilkes-Barre, as their attorneys.

Political contests are expensive luxuries. While many say, "why don't you contest?" they evidently little know what such a proceeding costs. To enter a contest requires an expenditure of valuable time and an abundance of money. Once begun there is no telling where it will end and what will be the result. To begin such an action the defeated candidate is required to file a petition containing the names of twenty qualified persons who are willing to bear the expense which such an action would entail in the event of the contest and losing his case. It would be well, therefore, for those so inclined to stop and consider what they are about to do before their rashness overcomes their good judgment and not be led astray in such a serious matter.

It is apparent beyond question that there is something radically wrong with the electric fire alarm service. It is nothing but a continued testing from one end of the week to the other, so that people are entirely at sea with themselves when a fire really does occur. Why this is, everybody is at a loss to understand when it is known that in all the towns around us there is no such dilly-dallying. When the alarm rings you can depend upon it there is a fire. Not so with Pittston. It is doubtful if the majority of the firemen were not under the impression yesterday, until they learned otherwise, that it was another case of testing.

The Wilkes-Barre correspondent of the Hazleton Plain Speaker in commenting upon the carelessness or lack of knowledge of certain election officers in performing their duties says: "The election returns for the year as filed with the probate judge show a very great lack of knowledge on the part of election officers as to their duties. If any office of general importance were shown by the returns filed would undoubtedly give rise to many disputes and contests. In the following districts the returns were wholly wanting or very faulty: Plymouth borough, third ward; Fairmount township, E. W. and Middle districts; Harveyville; Marcy township, N. and E. districts; W. Pittston borough, third ward; Edwardsville borough, third ward; Nanticoke, third ward; Plymouth township, fifth ward; W. division; Port township, N. W. and W. Woodlands districts; Kingston borough, third ward."

One of the prettiest pieces of verse seen in some time is the following from the pen of Louis L. Downing mentioned of whose work we heretofore appeared in this column. It is entitled "Last Year's Best" and is as follows:

In the orchard 'long the road, where the corn was stacked last fall, Where you see them berry vines still a singin' to the wall, In the far down eastern corner, where the sun first meets the way, Is a little last year's best made out o' twigs an' hay, It ain't so much to look at ez it hangs there, there could an' d'war, But I always look up at it whenever I go near, An' it fills my heart with sadness every time that I pass by, An' it often starts the tear drops a trinkin' from my eye, In the summer when the birds waz a buildin' of that nest, An' I see 'neath the apple tree a talkin' of a nest, A little last-year's best made com' an' chucked upon my knee, An' I laughed an' chattered gally 'bout the buildin' in the tree, An' she said ez we set talkin' 'mougst many another thing, "An' sez, will you see them birdies live in that nest next spring? Cos if they will I'll wath an' drive other birds away."

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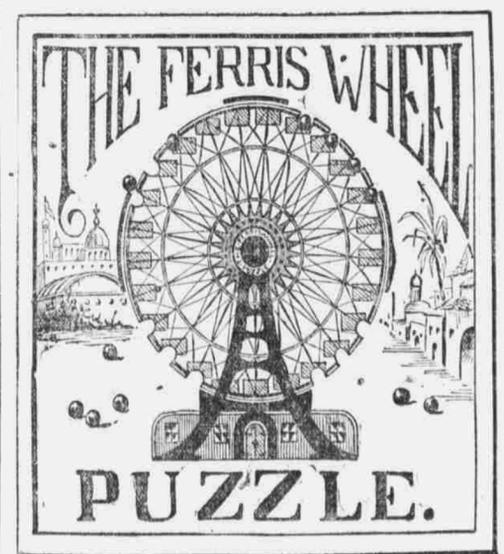
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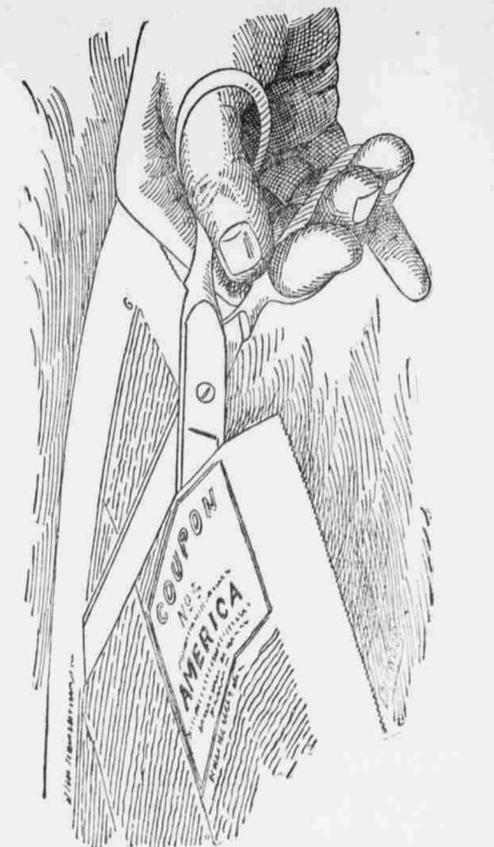
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