

NORTON'S New Wall Decorations for coming Season are now arriving frequently. We invite the attention of persons desiring choice covering for their walls to see our excellent assortment of Decorative Novelties, which will be cheerfully shown to all callers without incurring any obligation to order. All grades of stock, exclusive patterns, artistic, up-to-date colorings at popular prices. M. NORTON, 322 Lackawanna Ave.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR

The Finest BUCKWHEAT FLOUR We Ever Had in the Mill.

We Wholesale It.

The Weston Mill Co

DR. W. B. HENWOOD, DENTIST 316 LACKAWANNA AVE.

PERSONAL.

John J. Gorman spent yesterday in Carlisle. Mrs. William MacDougal, of East Orange, N. J., is the guest of friends in the city. Miss O'Connell, of Honesdale, has returned to her home after spending several weeks with Miss Barrett, of Ninth street. J. Attilius Robertson, who recently suffered a severe attack of pneumonia, has gone to London, where he will spend two months. Physical Director R. L. Weston, of the Young Men's Christian association of Rochester, is arranging for an athletic carnival in that city tomorrow evening. Mr. Weston formerly resided in this city. At the big establisment in Hazleton today Judge H. M. Edwards will be one of the conductors and an adjudicator of recitations as well. Professor Haydn Evans will be adjudicator in the musical competitions.

MANY CASES OF MEASLES.

No Halt in the Progress of the Epidemic. There is no cessation of the measles epidemic according to last week's mortality report of the board of health. The report indicates that the epidemic is widespread, but attended with little or no fatality. Up to Saturday night there developed 47 new cases of measles, 5 new cases and 1 death from diphtheria, 2 deaths from consumption and 21 deaths from all causes. The death rate was below the normal. Yesterday 21 new cases of measles were reported.

On Saturday Night

the 5 Brothers will make another one of their customers happy. Get the tickets on the gold watch, one with every 25c. purchase and 4 with a dollar purchase.

BEECHAM'S PILLS—No equal for Constipation.

A FEW LEFT

Have you taken advantage of our special offer in Ladies' Shoes? Not as extravagant an offer as you often see in print, but what's the use of saying more than the truth? If we didn't need the room we wouldn't cut them as much as we do. \$2.27.

SCHANK & SPENCER, 410 Spruce St.

MR. TORREY'S BILL ON TAX COLLECTIONS

Scranton's City Solicitor Father of the New State Act.

IS NOW PENDING AT HARRISBURG

Provides for the Election of a Receiver of Taxes in Cities of the Third Class—He Will Collect City, School, Poor, County and All Delinquent Taxes—Author of the Act Claims a Saving of Thirty Per Cent.

City Solicitor Torrey's bill providing for a change in the system of collecting and receiving taxes in cities of the third class is ready to be placed before the house of representatives. It has passed the senate. No particular opposition is being made against it and if it becomes operative it will revolutionize the present method of tax gathering.

Briefly, the bill provides that all taxes, city, county, school and poor, shall be paid to one common source. It will mean, too, a large saving in collection expenses. Senator J. C. Vaughan introduced the bill in the senate. It will be presented, possibly this week, and placed through the house by ex-City Solicitor Spear, of Oil City.

If the bill prevails, it will necessitate the election of an officer to be known as the receiver of taxes. He will be elected at spring elections along with a mayor and city treasurer.

RECEIVER'S COMPENSATION. The bill provides that the receiver shall be paid commissions of 1 per cent on tax collections and 5 per cent on delinquent collections. It is estimated that the total saving in collecting all kinds of tax will be about 20 per cent, and that it will greatly convenience the work. The bill was approved by the state committee of city solicitors and approved by the convention of city solicitors of the third class at Williamsport last fall.

A large number of cities are interested in the bill. Scranton, Allentown, Altoona, Bradford, Chester, Carlisle, Erie, Easton, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Lock Haven, Monticello, Oil City, Reading, Williamsport, York, Newcastle, Pittston and Corry.

THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

At present there are several channels for collecting taxes. The county tax is paid to ward collectors; about a dozen collectors collect delinquent taxes; there is a poor tax collector; city and school taxes are paid to the city treasurer. In all that outfit it is not surprising that a man gets a little mixed or forgetful. As a consequence of such a complication of systems, it often happens that a citizen's property is sold for non-payment of taxes, or he is obliged to pay a percentage penalty as a delinquent.

An act similar to the Torrey act was passed in 1885, but was vetoed by Governor Pattison, who held that its operation was unconstitutional. There is no similar clause in the present bill and it is designed to become operative on the first spring election after its passage.

TWO TEN-ROUND FIGHTS.

They Took Place Last Night in Music Hall—One Was a Very Tame Affair.

Another "entertainment," as President Joe Nathan called it, was given under the auspices of the Excelsior Athletic club at Music hall last night. Five hundred witnessed it. There were two ten-round bouts, the first between Toby Gardner, of this city, and Steve Flanagan, of Philadelphia, one hundred and ten rounds; the second between Emil Beck, of Philadelphia, and Billy Jerome, of Syracuse, who weighed in at 122 pounds.

The little fellows gave by far the better exhibition. It was Flanagan's first big fight, but after his stage fright over he showed up in good form. Flanagan, who has a record of standing off Barry, the bantam champion, is a little wonder and but for Gardner's advantage of several pounds weight and several inches in height and reach would have had an easy thing of it. He is one of the best two-handed fighters seen here and for a boy shows remarkable headiness. Gardner was shy with his left but his right was terrific. He has lots of strength and grit, a good frame, well developed chest and back, and all in all is the making of a good boxer.

They went on at 8:30. Richard Bayliss, Mike Connelly and John O'Neil looked after Gardner, and in Flanagan's corner were Joe Willischock, Emil Beck and Ed Brown, all of Philadelphia. Pat Murphy refereed and Sig Cohen and James J. Coleman held the scales.

The Philadelphia boy started in to force things and had a lot of fun for a minute, while Gardner was getting his eyes open. When Gardner started in with his right hand though, Flanagan eased up and evidently came to the conclusion that he wasn't going to have things his own way. He however fought with the greatest confidence and at no time acted as if the result was the least in doubt.

In the ninth round neither man seemed anxious to rush things, but nevertheless some hard long distance blows were exchanged. One of them split Flanagan's ear and another started the claret from Gardner's nose. The tenth round was a regular whitewash. The men were fairly painted from head to waist with blood, and both pitched in recklessly to make it a finish. Honors were even as far as hard work was concerned, the referee said, and declared it a draw in consequence. Flanagan demurred against the decision and offered to give Gardner a fight for money.

The second go was as tame as the first was lively. Beck, who is the boxing instructor of the Caladonian Athletic club of Philadelphia, acted as if he was afraid of venturing his reputation as a pug and wanted to get out of the affair as easily as possible. Jerome was just the opposite and made a monkey of Beck for the first few rounds, keeping him in his corner and rushing him all against the ropes. Owing to an agreement that if both men were on their feet at the end of the go there should be no decision. Referee Murphy declared it a draw. Jerome, however, got the purse.

Beck had Willischock, Brown and Flanagan as his seconds. Jerome was cared for by Patrick John Hopkins, Jack Tighe and John Maroney, the latter of Syracuse.

The 5 Brothers Today sale is attended by thousands of people from up and down the valley.

DIED FROM HEART FAILURE.

That was the Coroner's Verdict in the Fenell Case.

Joseph Warner Fenell, aged 40 years, died at 5 o'clock Sunday evening in a colony of stone cutters called "Wickliffe's place," situated half way up the West Mountain about a mile from the western limit of the city. Fenell's death was from heart failure, aspergued by Bright's disease. This was the verdict of a jury empaneled by Coroner Longstreet Monday afternoon.

The death was under very peculiar circumstances. The Wickliffe place is almost entirely apart from civilization. Fenell was employed as a cook for the gang of ten men who work in the stone quarry and live in a single wooden house. Sunday morning he complained of illness. In the afternoon he left the house for a short time and upon return he went up stairs to his bedroom. When discovered about 4 o'clock in the afternoon he was lying, but he did not wish a doctor, he said.

A messenger was dispatched for Dr. J. J. Carroll, but before he reached the house Fenell was dead. The body was brought Monday afternoon to the morgue of Undertaker Will Price on South Main avenue, West Side. Coroner Longstreet held an autopsy that evening. He was assisted by Dr. Pennington, Dr. George B. Reynolds and Dr. Carroll were present. The finding was as mentioned before. Fenell was unmarried.

The funeral of Mr. Fenell will take place at 2 o'clock this afternoon from the residence of his brother, Frank Fenell, of 127 Scotland street. Interment will be made in Washburn street cemetery.

LORD BACON WROTE THEM.

A. V. Bower's Argument Last Night to Prove That Shakespeare Was Not an Author.

One of the most interesting of the many recent lectures at the Green Ridge library was that delivered last night by Attorney A. V. Bower, who sought to prove that Lord Bacon was the author of the Shakespearean plays.



A. V. BOWER.

THE TITLE OF THE LECTURE

was "Who is the Author of Shakespeare?" Upon its conclusion the impression prevailed that Mr. Bower had presented some very bold and convincing arguments. He contended that the traditional theory of Ignatius Donnelly and other theories built upon isolated passages, from an historical standpoint of Shakespeare's life and early training, had the ability to produce them. He presented circumstantial evidence from an historical standpoint of Shakespeare's life and early training. He contended that the traditional theory of Ignatius Donnelly and other theories built upon isolated passages, from an historical standpoint of Shakespeare's life and early training, had the ability to produce them.

It was a most startling fact to consider the unlimited number of parallel expressions from the plays and from Bacon's authenticated writings. Mr. Bower enumerated many instances of this kind and held that they were proofs that Bacon was Shakespeare, or that Shakespeare was Bacon.

Shakespeare left no correspondence and no books behind him. His daughter, Judith, when 27 years old, could not write her name. Only five of Shakespeare's signatures were left behind him and when he made his will he made no mention of plays, theories, libraries or anything to indicate that he was the author of the works which bear his name. Some of the greatest Shakespearean works were not published until seven years after his death. Though twenty years in London, Shakespeare was known to only Ben Jonson out of all of the literary characters of that time.

Unabated Popularity.

The popularity of the Westminster hotel, New York, shows no sign of abatement under its new proprietor, George Murray.

In fact, there's little to suggest to the visitor that any change of management has occurred. The owner of the property, Mr. Anshel, who as former proprietor of the house, is personally known to many of our citizens, still lives there and seems to be as much interested as ever in the comfort of the guests; the familiar faces of the old employees are still to be seen in their usual places, and above all, the quiet, home-like comfort and air of good cheer which have so long commended the house to its patrons remains unchanged.

Mr. Murray, the new proprietor, is an attentive and careful host and continued popularity of the house shows that Mr. Anshel made no mistake in selecting his tenant and successor.

Notice.

We are still doing business at the same old stand where we have been for twenty-two years past and most respectfully solicit the patronage of the public as heretofore in awnings, tents, flags and all kinds of society goods and decorations.

S. J. Fahrman & Bro. 550 XX White Envelopes for 17c. at 2c. Store, 533 Lacka. ave.

Scranton, Pa., Feb. 24, 1897.—For a long time I was unable to work on account of a running sore. Nothing gave me relief until I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, which has entirely cured me. Gomer E. Jones, 113 Hampton street.

Hood's Pills are purely vegetable, 25 cents.

THE BITTENBENDER DISSOLUTION CASE

Being Heard Before Judge Edwards in Equity Court.

WANTS THE AGREEMENT ANNULLED

Israel Bittenbender, Who Retired from the Firm, Alleges That While His Mental Condition Was Such as to Unfit Him for Business He Signed an Agreement by Which He Alleges He Was Deprived of \$30,000, Old Forge School District Case.

Before Judge Edwards in the main court room yesterday the taking of testimony was begun in the case of Israel Bittenbender and his wife, Emily Bittenbender, against Abraham Bittenbender and John M. Kemmerer. The petition of the plaintiff is that the dissolution agreement by which Israel Bittenbender was retired from the firm be declared void for the reason that he was not given a full one-third share when the dissolution was effected.

Prior to Dec. 9, 1895, Israel Bittenbender, his brother Abraham and brother-in-law John M. Kemmerer, were doing business as Bittenbender & Co., hardware merchants. In December, 1895, the plaintiffs Israel Bittenbender and John M. Kemmerer, the defendant finding himself, "in debt and in a condition of mind unfit to transact business," went to his partners and placing his affairs in their hands asked them to do so.

After some time his partners came to him and made him an offer to pay him under certain terms a cash equivalent of his one-third interest in the firm if he would retire. He agreed to this. When, however, he thought the matter over and consulted with friends he came to the conclusion that his partners had not allowed him within \$30,000 of what was rightfully his share and when he failed to secure a revision of the terms he proceeded in equity to have the agreement annulled.

VALUE OF REAL ESTATE.

Evidence was brought forward by the plaintiffs yesterday to show that the value of the firm was worth much more than the value placed upon it by the defendants when they were computing the retiring partner's share. The co-plaintiff, Mrs. Emily Bittenbender, and her two brothers, Lee and John Wagner, gave testimony hearing an Israel Bittenbender's mental condition at the time of the dissolution. He was morose, cross and irritable, wondered through the house aimlessly talking to himself and shaking his clenched fist at one and another.

His wife said she heard him on one occasion exclaim while alone in the bath room "Don't rob me. Don't rob me." On cross examination she said in answer to Mr. Horn that it was not poked into her mind when he made those exclamations but his partners whose names she heard him mention, Mrs. Bittenbender also testified that her husband did not tell her of the dissolution and that the first knowledge she had of it was when she read of it in the newspapers.

The plaintiffs finished all but the summing up of the case yesterday. Adjournment was made until Friday morning owing to the fact that Judge Edwards will be out of the city today and tomorrow.

OLD FORGE CASE.

The final hearing in the case of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western company against the school district of Old Forge to prevent the issue of bonds to pay for the new high school, took place before Judge Gunster yesterday in court room No. 2. Major Everett Warren and M. C. Covert represented the company and H. M. Hannah and I. H. Burns the school district.

The company attacked the proposed bond issue on the ground that the amount, \$15,000, was in excess of two per cent of the assessed valuation; further that the issue was planned and attempted while proceedings were on for a division of the township to erect the proposed borough of Poyne. The allegation was also made that there were irregularities in the awarding of the contract. The district denied all these assertions.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

Restraining Railroads That Carry Milk to the New York Market.

The Interstate Commerce commission on Saturday, in an opinion, "by the commission," announced its decision in the case of the Milk Producers' Protective association against the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad company, the Erie Railroad company, and other lines carrying milk for the New York market. The complaint alleges that the carriers' practice of

charging uniform rates of 22 cents on milk and 29 cents on cream per can of forty quarts from all shipping stations on their respective lines without regard to distance was unlawful.

The commission decides that the uniform rates complained of are unreasonable, unjust and unduly prejudicial to producers near the points of delivery for the New York market, and that this traffic there should be at least four divisions of stations, namely: The first group should extend forty miles out from the terminal; the second group should embrace stations within the next sixty miles; the third group should include points within the next ninety miles and the fourth group should cover stations beyond 150 miles from the terminal.

The rates on can milk should not exceed 23 cents for the first or forty-mile group, 26 cents for the second or sixty-mile group, 29 cents for the third or ninety-mile group, and the present rate of 22 cents is held not to be unreasonable from stations in the fourth group. A rate which is 18 cents greater per can on cream than on milk, the present difference, is held to be not unreasonable.

WILL FIGHT THE COMMISSIONERS.

Constables Move to Have the Old Fee System Readopted.

After making their return Monday the county constables or so many of them as are members of the constables' association, met in the arbitration room at 10 o'clock to have a case stated to test the legality and justice of the county commissioners' new interpretation of the fee bill. Richard Barron, of Dickson City, president of the association, presided.

Recently Judge Bennett, of Luzerne, gave the fee bill his attention to the extent of a three thousand word opinion, and according to his findings the constables have been getting too much money for their services. Our local commissioners took it that Judge Bennett's decision was good law and adopted it for their guidance.

AMUSEMENTS.

"Eight Bells" will be presented at the Academy of Music this afternoon and evening. There is no villain in "Eight Bells," but there is plenty of fun, trick scenery, good music and clever specialties. All the former successes in the way of trick effects are retained and many new things added. It still presents the great revolving ship scene, the trick wagon, the hustling scenes in the way of trick effects are retained and many new things added.

Robert Mantell, accompanied by Charlotte Debraux and a large company of actors under the management of M. W. Hanley, will be at the Academy of Music tomorrow evening, presenting "Montana." Mantell is doubtless the best romantic actor of our stage today. One of his best known and impressive dramas is "Montana" by O'Flaherty, who wrote the "Old-fashioned Case" and many other modern dramas of that school, but in all he has never pictured such a hero as Montana, Apollo and with a love which is the romantic female heart. The drama will be presented as a benefit for the Green Ridge Waldmen and a large audience is assured.

The last three days of this week burlesque, comedy and vaudeville will hold the stage at Poyne Theater. His Shillons, the charming burlesque artist, with a bevy of pretty girls and a stage full of novelties, an especially performers, should make an attraction that is hard to beat. The attraction today is "Rhody" presented by Mora and her company.

COURT HOUSE NEWS NOTES.

J. W. Carpenter, H. A. Courson, George Leighton, G. L. Newton and H. L. Hallstead were Monday appointed viewers to assess the damages occasioned to the property of Mrs. A. L. McDonough in the case of the Milk Producers' Protective association against the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad company, the Erie Railroad company, and other lines carrying milk for the New York market. The complaint alleges that the carriers' practice of

HOTEL-KEEPERS' NOTICE.

You will do well to look over our line before making purchases. We carry the Largest and Best Selected STOCK OF HOTELWARE in the city, and at prices lower than you can buy good goods elsewhere. Everything in GLASSWARE, DISHES, BRUSHES, TRAYS, ETC.

CHINA HALL

MILLAR & PECK, 131 Wyoming Avenue. Walk in and look around.

SILVERSTONE, The Eye Specialist

Who Examines the Eyes Free at 2000 Lackawanna Avenue, over Lehigh Valley Bank of Office, Will After April First. Move to 215 Lackawanna Avenue, And Occupy a Large Space in JOHN WILLIAMS' NEW SHOE STORE

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children. The An-... signature of... in every... wrapper.

WE ARE TRYING

To see if we can beat last week's big sales. Prices are cut to help. Don't you come on the avenue without a peep in. The crowds are with us. Join in.

China Sale Bargains are here sure. Took several extra sales-people to wait on the buyers yesterday. Just as good picking today.

China Dept. First Floor.

China Bread and Butter Plates, Flowers and Gold, 5c.

China Outlined Savers, Gold Trimmed and Decorated, 5c.

Glass-ware Closing out a certain lot that some don't like. We thought it beautiful. Guess we will have to lose a little. Real Cut Base Glasses, 10c. Long Taper Glasses, 10c. Small Napkins, 5c.

Baby Rings Just to see how many little fingers we can fit we sell baby rings today for 10 cents. They Are Solid Gold. Jewelry Dept.

Carving Sets 3-piece sets, good steel, and nice thin blade. Worth today's price to use once. 50c. the set.

Rogers' Knives Seconds, but a little scratch that's nearly out of sight; don't hurt. The wear is there, only a few sets. Enough for today, we guess, \$1 for six.

Picture Framing Don't put off bringing in your pictures. Spring is the time to brighten up lonesome spots. You will be surprised to know how little it costs for nice framing here. 500 kinds of moulding. Some reduced to 4c. a foot for making and all. High priced kinds, too, but at right prices.

The Rexford Co., 303 Lackawanna Avenue.

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The Rexford Co., 303 Lackawanna Avenue.

ATTENTION, LADIES.

SILKS.

Highland Checks, very stylish, for separate waists and skirts. 25c. to 95c.

French Flannels, suitable for waists; fine assortment of colors.

BEIGE VIGOROUS, COVERTS, WHIP COATS, ETC. for street wear; great variety of colors; prices range from 50c. to \$1.50. We have the well-earned reputation of keeping the most stylish goods to be found in the city.

REMEMBER our M. & H. Kid Gloves at \$1.00 are the most flexible, durable gloves on the market—and they fit.

DRESS GOODS.

Highland Checks, very stylish, for separate waists and skirts. 25c. to 95c.

French Flannels, suitable for waists; fine assortment of colors.

BEIGE VIGOROUS, COVERTS, WHIP COATS, ETC. for street wear; great variety of colors; prices range from 50c. to \$1.50. We have the well-earned reputation of keeping the most stylish goods to be found in the city.

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SPECIAL.

M. & H. Corsets, French Model, best for the money 50c. J. B. Corsets, perfect fitting, durable; never sold at less than \$1.00 69c. Flexible Corsets, best corset sold; made to fit any form; peculiarly adapted to stout people; grace and style. Prices from \$1.50 to \$2.00. Children's Cotton Hose, sizes from 5 to 7; double knees, heels and toes, worth 25c. 17c. Boys' Extra Heavy, double knees and heels; fast black 25c. 25c. Men's Hose, extra heavy, black or tan 10c. Men's Black Hose, spliced heels and toes; fast color; worth 25c. 15c. Men's Fine Black Hose, double heels and toes, worth 25c. 19c. Ladies' Black Hose, Hermsdorf Dye; spliced heels and toes; worth 25c. 15c. Ladies' Black Hose, Hermsdorf Dye; double soles; worth 25c. 17c. Ladies' Fine Hose, regular price 50c.; three pairs for \$1 1

MEARS & HAGEN, 415, 417 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, Pa.