

GREAT ACTIVITY

In Purchase of Coal Land Near Morgantown.

EXTENSIVE COAL AND COKE

Industry Will Soon be Centered at Morgantown—The Monongahela to be Bridged by Baltimore & Ohio, and Coal Will be Reached by Short Lines of Railway—Other Notes and News From the Educational Center.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Jan. 28.—The work of buying the big coal area on the west side of the Monongahela river, in this county, by a New York company, for which James Mitholland is trustee, is nearing completion. The holdings of the company will aggregate about 12,000 acres, and the price paid is nearly \$500,000. Howard Fleming, of Fairmont, is engineering the deal. All the deeds are being made to Mitholland, trustee. The company will not organize until the titles are cleared and the money paid out. When asked to-day if the company would begin operations at once Mr. Fleming expressed the opinion that it would, and predicted that within a few months Morgantown would be the center of a big coal and coking industry. Mr. Fleming also said that the combination effected by the big railroad systems would probably mean the abandonment of the extension of the Pennsylvania railroad into West Virginia through this coal field and the capture of the whole business by the Baltimore & Ohio company. This company will probably bridge the Monongahela below Morgantown, and enter the coal district with short lines. All of the coal is of the Pittsburgh variety, and the veins are from ten to fifteen feet in thickness. The Pittsburgh coal is found in a few places on the east side of the river, and these are being leased by some Pennsylvania parties. The upper Freeport coal, whose veins are from four to six feet in thickness, is also being taken up.

Dr. T. F. Lanham, who was elected state senator from this district two years ago, has moved from Kingwood to Grafton, and will live there permanently. This is Taylor county's turn to name the state senator, but Preston county says that Taylor will have a senator now in the person of Dr. Lanham, and is claiming the privilege.

At a meeting of the directors of the Tygart's Valley Bank, at Philippi, provision was made for an improved vault to replace the one destroyed by burglars last week. The bank offers a reward of \$600 for the burglars, but heard nothing from them up to yesterday evening.

Governor Atkinson has addressed letters to all of the prosecuting attorneys of the state, urging them to collect all of the fines imposed by the courts and claims that the practice of compromising on the number of indictments to be paid is in direct violation of the statutory law.

The Battelle Oil Company has the biggest producing oil well which has ever been drilled in this section. It came in yesterday morning and made 1,200 barrels in twenty-four hours.

The jury yesterday gave Dr. Archie Bee \$500 in his damage suit against C. D. Martin, at Clarksburg, for alienating the affections of his wife. The suit was removed from Ritchie county to Harrison county, on a change of venue.

Joseph H. McDermott has purchased the Hoffman property, now used by the school of music of the university, and will build on it a four-story stone front building for offices and flats, to cost \$30,000.

Executive Clemency Extended.

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CHARLESTON, W. Va., Jan. 28.—A remission of fine was granted yesterday by Governor Atkinson to Alvis Watts, convicted in 1893, in the circuit court of Logan county, on two charges of selling whiskey without license, and fined \$50 in each case. Watts is now a practicing physician in Wayne county. In his petition for remission he stated that at the time the indictments against him were found and he was convicted he was studying medicine in Louisville and

SMALLPOX SCARE

At Buckhannon — Houses Quarantined and Vaccination in Progress.

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BUCKHANNON, W. Va., Jan. 28.—The smallpox scare has taken possession of the town, and everybody is being vaccinated. Three cases, pronounced by three physicians to be chicken pox, and by two others to be smallpox, are reported to-day, and the houses have been quarantined where they are located. The disease is supposed to have been brought here by a Mr. Bush, of Morgantown. Every precaution is being taken by the town authorities to prevent the spread of the disease. The public schools have been closed, and the protracted meeting in progress at the M. E. church will discontinue to-night.

Agricultural Items.

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SCHOOL MELANGE

From one who was present we hear that the Round Table meeting at Mannington on Friday and Saturday, January 19 and 20, was a complete success. There were about seventy-five teachers present in all, and the exercises were full of interest to all. The next meeting will be held in Grafton, February 22 and 24, at which meeting it is expected there will be a still greater attendance. These meetings cannot fail to inspire all the pedagogues of the Monongahela Valley, and much good will be accomplished thereby.

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The writer was so struck with the first editorial in the Academy, that he gives it entire, as follows: "There is strong evidence in higher educational circles that some educators are playing to the grand stand, and trying to stir up applause in the galleries. We have not much patience with educational pyrotechnics. If there is one class of people in this country who should be conservative and temperate in their opinions, and their expression of them, it is that large body of men and women, who, by virtue of their positions, are educational leaders. Some callings may require display advertisement and street corner speeches, but teaching is not one of them. True learning is not puffed up, and doth not vaunt itself on every occasion. It is high time for some of our educational ring masters to take a vacation."

Who is the educational ringmaster?

Some one is surely meant. True learning is never puffed up, but the writer fears that the conservatism of our educators has been a great hindrance to our schools in the past, and is especially a hindrance to-day. The idea so prevalent that the teachers must not think outside the school house walls is sapping the very foundations of our educational systems of to-day. The teacher, above every one else, should be a man or a woman in the true sense of the word. The teacher, if he be a moulder of thought, ought also to be a leader. If by "educational pyrotechnics" is meant enthusiasm, then give us the pyrotechnics, for our schools are being smothered to death by the conservatism of many would-be teachers of the present day.

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With all opposition they have had to contend with, it is a wonder they have done so much, but it is true, and no one can successfully contradict it. When the time comes that these schools can be made more nearly professional schools than they are at present, their influence for good will be greatly enhanced, hasten the time. THE PEDAGOGUE.

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British Expedition Successful.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—The British expedition against the rebellious Tegas, under Mat Sellen, in Britton North Borneo, had been entirely successful. Captain Harrington, with one hundred Sikhs, after two days' fighting, January 5 and 9, against a thousand rebels, captured two forts and two villages, blew up the rebel magazine and killed or wounded sixty Tegas. The British had four men wounded. The remaining villages of the disturbed district submitted.

GREAT ORCHARDS

In Vicinity of Martinsburg Will Produce Great Yields.

THE ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD

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The writer heartily agrees with the editorial that asserts that our normal schools "have done more than any other institution to build up the public schools of the state."

With all opposition they have had to contend with, it is a wonder they have done so much, but it is true, and no one can successfully contradict it. When the time comes that these schools can be made more nearly professional schools than they are at present, their influence for good will be greatly enhanced, hasten the time. THE PEDAGOGUE.

Colonel Strassburger Dropped Dead.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 28.—Col. Lewis Strassburger, of this city, dropped dead in the postoffice to-day, the result of a stroke of apoplexy. Colonel Strassburger formerly resided in Baltimore. He served on the military staffs of three governors of Maryland, McLean, Lloyd and Jackson. Colonel Strassburger served for a year and a half in the Confederate army, collecting at the age of thirteen. He had been poor commissioner and a city councillor of Baltimore, and was prominent in business life there.

British Expedition Successful.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—The British expedition against the rebellious Tegas, under Mat Sellen, in Britton North Borneo, had been entirely successful. Captain Harrington, with one hundred Sikhs, after two days' fighting, January 5 and 9, against a thousand rebels, captured two forts and two villages, blew up the rebel magazine and killed or wounded sixty Tegas. The British had four men wounded. The remaining villages of the disturbed district submitted.

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