

LARGEST BONA FIDE CIRCULATION. BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM.

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CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA,--THE FUEL CITY OF THE FUEL STATE--SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 1904.

WHOLE NO 972

BIG NEW WHOLESAL CONCENTR IN CLARKSBURG KNOWN AS GENERAL DISTRIBUTING COMPANY

One Million Dollars is Involved and Also Seven Leading Wholesale Houses Here and at Other Points--Possession Will Have Been Consummated February 1.

Frank Armstrong Will be the General Manager and L. G. Race Sales and Purchasing Agent--Messrs. Ruhl and Koblegard Retire from the Grocery Business.

Authentic information setting at rest forever the wild rumors that have been circulated here several days, concerning a deal of much magnitude in wholesale grocery circles has been obtained which gives the actual situation and exposes the ridiculous surmises made in all of those rumors.

There has been a deal of gigantic proportions, but consisted merely of the purchase of the business of the Koblegards and two or three others in this section of the state by the people in Armstrong, Crislip, Day & Company, wholesale grocers.

The new concern is known as the General Distributing Company and was chartered a few days ago with an authorized capitalization of \$1,000,000, as stated in Thursday's issue of this paper. It takes the Koblegard houses and one or two others and unites them with the several houses of Armstrong, Crislip, Day & Company.

The establishments that have changed hands by these negotiations are the Ruhl-Koblegard Company's here and at Weston and its cigar factory here, the Joseph Speidel Grocery Company, at Grafton, and Ruhl & Company, at Grafton. Included in the new company's property or rather added to those purchased, as already mentioned, are Armstrong, Crislip, Day & Company's houses here, at Buckhannon, at Sutton and Elkins, and an establishment will also be maintained in Fairmont.

The personnel of the new concern includes J. A. Crislip, of Armstrong, Crislip, Day & Company, who will probably be president of the new institution; Frank Armstrong, of the same firm, who will be secretary, treasurer and general manager of the new organization; Messrs. John A. Clark and George A. Ferguson, of Fairmont, who are business men; N. B. McCarthy, of this city and Day Brothers, of Buckhannon. Most of these gentlemen, as will be seen are prominent members of the Armstrong, Crislip, Day & Company.

The businesses purchased at Grafton will be conducted under the name of the Grafton Grocery Company and will be under the management of W. R. Gregg, who is at present and has been several years the successful manager of Ruhl & Company, at that place. Mr. Gregg prior to that was buyer for the Ruhl-Koblegard Company here. He is one of the most popular and proficient men in the wholesale business in West Virginia and under his management the house at Grafton will do a big and successful business.

The wholesale house at Weston, acquired by the deal will be known as the Weston Grocery Company. Robert N. Koblegard, who is at present at the head of that establishment, has been retained to manage it. As in the case of Mr. Gregg, Mr. Koblegard is a practical man in the business and has attained extraordinary success.

The business here will be run under the name of Armstrong, Crislip, Day & Company, just as heretofore, and will be under the personal supervision of members of the company.

The total amount involved in the transaction was about \$1,000,000 and includes seven of the leading and largest wholesale houses in the state. The business will be of gigantic proportions, the annual sales amounting to more than \$5,000,000. The magnitude of the business will be as big as any done outside of New York, and Chicago, Pittsburgh not excepted, and it will be pushed with that great degree of enterprise and energy that characterize the gentlemen who are at the head of the concern and who have made Armstrong, Crislip, Day & Company such a prominent factor in the wholesale grocery trade.

With the end in view of branching out and extending the business of these who are at the head of the new concern information was effected, and in the selection of the heads of the various houses and departments qualifications which would insure success were consid-

ered, and as a consequence men of great capability have been chosen. L. G. Race, who has been placed at the head of the sales and purchasing departments of the new institution, very properly comes in that class and is a valuable acquisition to the personnel of the concern. Mr. Race for many years was buyer for the Ruhl-Koblegard Company here and to him is accredited much of the eminent success of that company. Later he filled the position of manager of the West Virginia Grocery Company, at Fairmont, and attributed much of its success. He is prominent in wholesale circles as a gentleman of much popular and magnetic popularity and is indispensable in the sales and buying departments of such large concerns as the General Distributing Company.

Messrs. Armstrong and Crislip, who are among the leading promoters of this mammoth business enterprise, are widely and favorably known to the wholesale trade of West Virginia. They are gentlemen of long experience and are possessed with strictly modern and practical knowledge and ideas, and employ the most modern methods in business. Mr. Armstrong has been in the wholesale grocery business for ten years, of which he has been in the business here eight years. Mr. Crislip has been associated with Mr. Armstrong in the business here five years and prior to that was in the same sort of business on a considerable scale in Buckhannon.

As president of the new concern Mr. Crislip will be found to be the right man in the right place and will lend influence and strength to the company. Mr. Armstrong is one of the most successful wholesale grocery merchants in the state and his peer in that respect is not to be found anywhere. He is thoroughly devoted to the business and absorbed in it to such an extent that his entire time and attention are given to it exclusive of all other matters. With him as general manager the success of the new concern will be proportionately as great as the new concern itself is greater than the establishments he has managed so efficiently.

The formation of the new concern was inspired by a desire to avail it of the advantages and opportunities of the purchasing power a big organization has over small ones. The arrangement gives the opportunity to buy in much larger lots than formerly and resultant therefrom are lower original prices. This gives the concern a chance to supply the retail trade at even lower prices than at present, and, of course, works an advantage to the consumers, which will be highly appreciated.

The purchasing department will be for all seven houses instead of just one or two as heretofore, or in other words when it comes to buying stock all the houses will be regarded as a unit and the buying done accordingly. This will result in not only reduction of original cost but also in lower freight expenditures and will prove an advantage, the full good effects of which can not be foretold.

Among the rumors that were sent broadcast, when it was first learned that negotiations were on was one to the effect that fabulous sums had been offered other wholesale houses to become a part of the new concern. This is pronounced untrue in every particular and there seems to be no reason to believe that any one of them has ever been approached on the subject.

Invoices are being made preparatory to the full consummation of new concern and the properties will be turned over as soon as this is done not later than February 1 at the farthest.

Messrs. John and Jacob Koblegard retire from the wholesale grocery business at the regret of the numerous merchants and others who have been doing business with them for years. These gentlemen were pioneers in the wholesale business.

(Continued on page 12.)

"GUILTY"

IS THE VERDICT BROUGHT IN BY JURY AGAINST HERBERT L. DAVIS.

TRIED FOR COLLECTING MONEY AS CONSTABLE AND FAILING TO TURN IT OVER TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.

Excitement of Trial and Verdict Bring on Heart Trouble and He Faints--Condition is Better--Others Sentenced to Jail by Judge John W. Mason.

The jury in circuit court brought in a verdict of guilty Saturday just before the noon hour against Herbert L. Davis, for felony, after being out only fifteen minutes. A motion was made at once by his attorney to set aside the verdict and the judge took the matter under consideration.

Davis was taken to the Walker hotel for dinner and at 12 o'clock or shortly afterward, he was seized with a serious fainting spell and fell unconscious. This has been noticed for years with heart trouble and the excitement of theatrical and verdict caused another of these spells. Physicians were hurriedly summoned and after he had been worked with an hour or more, he revived and his condition is reported some better. At press hour he was still at the Walker hotel in room No. 12.

The charge against him was the embezzlement of \$94.58 of the funds of the Piedmont Candy Company, collected by him as constable fees but not turned over to the proper parties.

Chan Craven confessed to a misdemeanor, that of stealing a silver watch and other articles from J. W. Webster, and was sentenced to jail for thirty days.

James Kendall and Hearly Kendall were fined \$10 each and sentenced to 10 days in jail each.

In the felony case of the state against Rice Thompson a motion to quash was overruled and a plea of not guilty was entered.

In the case of John L. Smith against M. E. Hollister and others, the death of the plaintiff was suggested. The death of Edwin Maxwell, executor of Burton Despard, was suggested in the case of C. S. Despard and others against Diana Despard and others and J. E. Bennett and others against Allen Stalmaker and the case was ordered revived in the name of B. M. Despard.

An order was entered in the case of Martha M. Sommers against W. G. Bennett and others, showing appearance to amended bill.

DATE

For the Presentation of "Floradora" Comic Opera in This City Has Been Announced.

As can be seen by the advertisement in another column, the date for the appearance of the "Floradora" comic opera at the opera house in this city has been announced. It is on Thursday evening, Jan. 21. The production is advertised as the genuine number one New York company. Theatre-goers are looking forward to the appearance of this musical operatic hit as the big attraction of the season.

PHENOMENAL

Trade at the Watts-Lemberd Store Compels Manager Lemberd to Make Another Eastern Purchasing Trip.

Charles E. Lemberd, manager of the Watts-Lemberd department store, leaves to-night for New York City and other eastern cities on a purchasing trip. Miss Hattie Chorpene will accompany him to assist in the selection of the goods purchased. Mr. Lemberd says that the trade this year with his firm is something phenomenal and that he has been compelled to make many more trips to New York than usual on account of the fast depletion of the stock.

By Associated Press. Buffalo, N. Y., Jan. 16--Fire among the wholesale houses and warehouses at Pearl and Erie streets, today caused a loss of \$250,000. The losses are: George Irish Paper Co., \$100,000; J. W. Georger, hats and caps, \$30,000; H. W. Eams, owner of the building, \$160,000, and the Wimmiam Herberger Co., \$20,000. Fire men were injured.

COUNCIL

HOLDS ITS REGULAR MEETING TO LOOK AFTER THE CITY'S AFFAIRS.

SANITATION COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE BIDS FOR GAS AT THE CREMATORY.

Saloon and Other Licenses Granted--Bills Audited and Ordered Paid--Other Matters of Routine Nature Attended to.

The City Council held a regular session Friday evening, with Mayor Crile presiding. Clerk Cole at his desk, and councilmen Keorns, Andrews, Kelley, Ernst, Moore, Thorne, Seely, Hort and Law, the absentees being councilman Hunt.

The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved.

Mayor Crile informed the Council that he had notified the electric light company and the telephone companies of the fire alarm arrangement adopted by the council and given them copies of the alarm code.

City Treasurer Steele reported \$5,332.20 revenue collected from December 8 to January 13, and vouchers drawn from 608 to 708 for \$6,102.31.

The bill of the West Fork Oil and Natural Gas Company of \$40.75 for gas at the fire department was referred to Councilman Moore for investigation. The bill of the same company of \$104.70 for gas at the crematory the past month was referred to Councilman Seely.

Bills were read and ordered paid as follows:

Table listing bills and amounts: Water works pay roll \$145.00, Street pay roll \$17.75, Dr. Beck \$2.50, Cost & Holden \$19.51, Southern Pine Lumber Co \$116.11, West Fork Oil & Natural Gas Company \$50.00, Atlantic Refining Co \$31.12, W. Va. Mine Supply Co \$23.10, G. A. Waldo \$7.00, Martin Bros \$2.00, Anchor Mills \$5.30, D. K. Reed & Co \$7.50, Robert H. Ramsey \$1.00, C. R. Odell \$1.25, Cost & Holden \$2.25, West Fork Oil and Natural Gas Company \$32.00, Mountain State Gas Co \$11.60, Clarkburg Gas Co \$11.60, Clarkburg Ice & Storage Co \$2.70, E. W. Wells \$312.00, W. P. Camp \$145.00, H. M. Rapp & Co \$21.00. Councilman Kelley stated that he had placed \$10,000 insurance on the water works and told council the water works system was in good condition.

The bond of Horner B. McKinley and acceptance by him of the street car franchise were accepted and ordered filed.

George A. Keeler was granted a license in the Waldo hotel. Mr. Keeler was also granted hotel, pool and billiard licenses.

The bill of the Ear-ka Fire Hose Co. of \$480, for hose, was ordered paid.

The application of Edward T. Sleas & Company for the refunding of three months license money amounting to \$2.67 was laid on the table.

The application of Collector Steele for an allowance of \$92.49 to him as interest on an order of \$1,700 issued to P. S. Boxley and negotiated to the street railway company, was granted.

A bill of \$2.40 for milk furnished by S. A. Lanham to the Lanham family was laid on the table.

The Sanitation Committee was instructed to receive bids for furnishing gas at the crematory, at both flat and meter rates, beginning with February 1. Mayor Crile informed Council that David Modispaugh had sued the city in Squire Riley's court for the cost of provisions furnished small pox patients and the city attorney was looking after the matter.

Mr. Crile suggested that blank orders be issued and used in the matter of making purchases of miscellany. It was ordered that the city clerk be purchasing agent for the city and that he instruct all applicants where to buy.

Councilman Kelley moved that a committee of three be appointed to inspect all public buildings with the Mayor as chairman of the committee. The motion carried and the committee will be appointed in a day or so.

Mrs. Clifton Comly, of Indianapolis, will be the guest of Mrs. Henry Haymond, enroute from New York sometime in January.

STRUCK

HEAD AGAINST CAR BUMPER AS HE SLIPPED AND FELL ON THE ICE.

MICHAEL GILL, YARD BRAKEMAN, SUSTAINS SERIOUS INJURY TO HIS HEAD.

Half Unconscious and Irrational He Wanders Aimlessly Around on the Railroad Track--Mind May Be Badly Affected.

The perilous condition of the ground caused by ice resulted in very serious injury Saturday morning to Michael A. Gill, son of Thomas Gill, of North Depot street. As he was going from his home to work in the yards as brakeman, in company with John Frazier, he slipped as he stepped up to the railroad track and fell against a car bumper. Frazier says the back of his head struck the bumper, but he contends that he fell on his forehead. The fall rendered him apparently unconscious and Frazier went back to the Gill home to get assistance. While he was gone Gill revived, got up and walked down the track.

Nothing more was thought of the incident until two or three hours later, when it was noticed that he had not gone to work. A search was then instituted and he was found wandering through the yards. He had been out 14 for as the "Y" and returned, seemingly not knowing where he was. He was taken home in a semi-conscious condition and has been delirious all day.

There are no marks on his head to indicate where the injury is and the nature and extent of it have not as yet been fully determined. The accident may cause him to lose his mind entirely.

BIG FAILURE

Occurs in California--Prominent Pig Iron Merchant Goes to the Wall For Half Million Dollars.

By Associated Press. San Francisco, Jan. 16--The Examiner announces the failure of Symeur Church a prominent California pig iron merchant. His liabilities are placed at \$320,000.

PARALYSIS

Seizes John Baxter, an Aged Citizen, of Adamston, and His Condition is Critical.

John Baxter, an aged and well known citizen of Adamston, received a stroke of paralysis Friday night at his home in that town. His condition is critical and he is not expected to live many days. Mr. Baxter is about 80 years of age and has been quite feeble several years.

TWENTIETH

Wedding Anniversary Celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Thorn at Their Home in East End Friday Evening.

Friday being the twentieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Thorn that evening that were at home to a large number of friends. About thirty guests were present and all brought some token as a remembrance of the occasion. The gifts were many and handsome. Refreshments, consisting of coffee, cakes, ices, fruits, etc., were served at an opportune hour and when the guests departed there were many wishes for a long and prosperous life for the host and hostess.

SANDBOAT DESTROYED

As Well As Two Barges on the Big Sandy River By Fire and an Explosion--Loss Very Heavy.

By Associated Press. Ironton, Ohio, Jan. 16--The United States sandboat used in lock work in the Big Sandy river was totally destroyed by fire and an explosion of oil today. Two barges were partly destroyed. The loss amounts to ten thousand dollars.

CONSTABLE

TALKED WITH A MAN HE WANTED TO ARREST BUT DIDN'T KNOW IT.

MAN OFFERED TO HELP THE OFFICER FIND PARTY HE WAS AFTER THEN SLIPPED AWAY.

Then Two Constables Scoured Adamston For the Man Who is Charged With Attempting to Rob Adamston Stores.

Constable W. Guy Merritt talked to a man for whom he had a warrant to arrest Saturday morning at Adamston, but didn't get him. The man told the constable he would help him find the man he was after and then slipped away from the officer of the law.

Saturday morning M. Berka proprietor of a general merchandise store at Adamston, near the big railroad water tanks, swore out a warrant before Magistrate S. W. Gordon against one Tim Marshall, for whom he was after.

The warrant was placed in the hands of the constable who went out to Adamston at once to apprehend the man. After he got out to that suburban municipality he met a young fellow and began talking with him. The stranger soon learned the constable's purpose and told him he would help him find the man.

They reconnoitered and as soon as the fellow got out of sight he skipped. Constable Merritt learned shortly afterward that the fellow he was trying to catch and who had so magnanimously offered his assistance in running the guilty party down, was none other but Tom Marshall, for whom he was after.

Nothing daunted, Merritt sent word in the city for Constable Edgett to come out and assist him in a search for Marshall. Edgett went out and to the officers began to scour Adamston. They were occupied all the afternoon in the search and at the time of going to press they were still at it and Marshall was still at large.

HEART FAILED

The Man and He Fell to Floor of Police Station Unconscious--Police Worked With Him and He Was Soon All Right.

While two policemen were searching a hobo in the police room at city headquarters Saturday afternoon about two o'clock their prisoner fell to the floor as if dead. The officers hastened to assist the prostrate man and after working with him for a while he recovered consciousness. Arrangements were being made to take him to one of the city hospitals, but he grew better and it was thought best to leave him in jail. The man evidently had an attack of heart trouble, brought on by a drunken debauch. He was about forty-five years of age and in a very unclean and filthy condition. Policeman Brooks had arrested him on Pike street in front of the Swager hotel. His name is unknown.

MASONS

Will Meet in Their Hall Sunday Afternoon at One O'Clock to Take Part in the Funeral of the Rev. Rev. D. W. Rector.

The members of Hermann Lodge, No. 6, A. F. & A. M., will meet in Masonic hall Sunday afternoon at one o'clock for the purpose of attending and taking part in the funeral of the late Rev. Daniel W. Rector, who was a member of the lodge. The members will form in a body at the hall and march to the Goff M. E. church, where the funeral services will be held.

CONDUCTING REVIVAL MEETINGS AT ENTERPRISE

Rev. J. M. Carter, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South is conducting a series of revival meetings at the Enterprise Methodist church. He is meeting with much success and intends continuing them for several days yet. He will hold meetings there Sunday and in his absence Rev. T. S. Wald will fill the pulpit at the M. E. church, South, in this city.

REVOLVERS

THAT WERE STOLEN IN WILLIAMS & DAVIDSON ROBBERY, RECOVERED BY THE POLICE.

THREE OF THE WEAPONS WERE SOLD TO A MAN ON THE SHORT LINE BY TWO HOBOS.

Guns Identified As the Ones Taken--Policemen Working on Several Clues and Expect to Run the Robbers Down in a Short Time.

Three of the pistols which were stolen from the Williams & Davidson wholesale hardware house in Glen Elk a week or so ago, by burglars who ransacked the whole ground floor and offices have been recovered by the city police.

The next morning after the robbery occurred the officials at the Williams & Davidson Company turned the matter over to the city police department and ever since that time the members of the force have been doing a great deal of work in an effort to run down the burglars.

The police have been working on several good clues. Friday afternoon Policeman Nicholas White and Fox went down to the short-line train, they having clues that the robbers had disposed of a part of their plunder along in that neighborhood.

They found three of the revolvers in the possession of Foreman McGinn, of the track gang near Lumberport. McGinn had purchased the pistols from two hobos the next morning after the robbery. At that time he had not learned of the robbery.

The policemen after working on other matters in connection with the case, returned to Clarksburg. The weapons they secured were taken to the Williams & Davidson Company, and the clerks and officials there identified them as the ones which were stolen.

The city police are working hard on the case and they have gone so far in the matter now as to lead them to believe that they will apprehend the burglars within the course of a few days. It is believed that the robbers are located somewhere near the city, or in one of the many small adjacent towns.

TEST WELL IS DRILLING

On the Stout Farm in the Salem District to Fifth Sand--It Was Dry in the Gordon--Other Oil Notes.

In Salem district, in this county the South Penn Oil Company is drilling its test well on the A. A. Stout farm, dry in the Gordon, to the fifth sand. In the same district the same company's No. 1 on the M. T. Williams farm is holding up at 10 barrels a day.

In the Folsom district, the South Penn has drilled its No. 3 to the C. E. Robinson farm into the strata 25 feet and has no show for a producer. On the same farm No. 4 has been drilled to the bottom of the Gordon and is showing some oil. It is still drilling and expects another pay streak.

In the same district No. 1 on the Perry Hall farm has been drilled ten feet into the Gordon and has no show of oil. The same company's No. 4 on the Wm. Barker farm has been drilled deep into the Gordon and has filled up 2,000 feet with oil.

WILL ELECT OFFICERS

Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association Will Meet for That Purpose Tuesday Evening.

The Board of Directors of the Y. M. C. A., will meet on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock to elect officers for the ensuing year. The Bible class and supper on Thursday evening at 6:30 o'clock will be led by the general secretary. The studies will be in the Miracles of Jesus, and its first one, that of turning water into wine will be studied next Thursday evening.

By Associated Press. St. Petersburg, Jan. 16--According to a dispatch from Port Arthur, Viceroys Alexioff addressing troops at the new years parade, Jan. 14, declared "It is the will of the Emperor that peace shall be preserved in the far east."