

The Montague Reporter

Town Hall, Special Districts Sit Down for First Summit

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – Wednesday, September 2, 2026 may prove to be a consequential day in Montague’s history as representatives of the Montague selectboard, the Turners Falls fire district prudential committee, the Turners Falls water



FILE PHOTO

commission, and the respective prudential committees or commissions of the Montague Center fire, water, and light districts all sat down together to talk about cooperation.

They were joined by members of town hall staff, the Turners Falls water superintendent and three members of the firefighters’ union, and double fire chief Luke Hartnett.

“It’s certainly changed in the last 20 years,” Sam Lovejoy, a veteran of every Montague Center committee, observed after regaling the room on past hostilities between the fire departments. “The lack of respect and understanding is dissipating fast.”

“Across the country, people are regionalizing by county – we have

see **SUMMIT** page A5

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Moves Polls to Library, Weighs Banning Data Centers

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard voted on Monday to move the voting location from town hall to the Erving Public Library, effective September 2.

According to selectboard member Jacquelyn Boyden, the town hall building is “not truly ADA-compliant,” referring to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In addition, as the board had discussed at its August 17 meeting, the town is planning to reorganize the offices at town hall and use some of the areas currently used for voting as office and storage space.

Town clerk Richard Newton

proposed using either the senior and community center or the library as the new voting location, but recommended the library as it would provide better “flow” for voters entering and exiting. He predicted that some citizens might criticize the board for moving voting across the town.

Library director Abigail Baines called the library an “ideal location for polling,” citing it as a welcoming place that is also secure. Voter check-in and booths would be set up in the community room, which can be closed off from the rest of the building.

see **ERVING** page A8

The Week in HS Sports: Pats Honor Local Legend

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – George F. Bush, a Turners Falls High School alumnus, star athlete, longtime coach and teacher, and avid Patriots fan, attended his first preseason game in years on Saturday, August 22, and

he didn’t know what to expect.

A couple of weeks earlier, he had rolled his eyes as he shared that he was going to the Patriots-Eagles game: “And I *never* go to preseason games.”

He wasn’t exactly sure why the

see **SPORTS** page A6



ROBINSON PHOTO

George F. “Mr. Bush” Bush shows off his new jacket.

Wondolowski Wins Dem Nom in Squeaker

By REPORTER STAFF

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Primary elections were held Tuesday, and in all five *Montague Reporter* coverage towns, both Democratic incumbents facing challengers – US senator Ed Markey, and state Governor’s Council member Tara Jacobs – won handily, in numbers

exceeding their statewide victory.

On the Republican ballots, victor Mike Minogue also swept local towns, by percentages ranging from 54.4% in Erving to 83.9% in Gill.

The most hotly contested election came right down to the wire: the Democratic primary for the 1st Franklin District seat at the State

see **ELECTIONS** page A9

Here, Have Another Round of 1890s!

Okay, let’s all make some more time to read...

This edition contains “1895 on the Verge,” an anthology of writing that year in our namesake newspaper, the *Turners Falls Reporter*. It picks up right where “1893 in the Village,” which we published January 1, and “1894 in this Vicinity,” from our April 30 edition, left off.

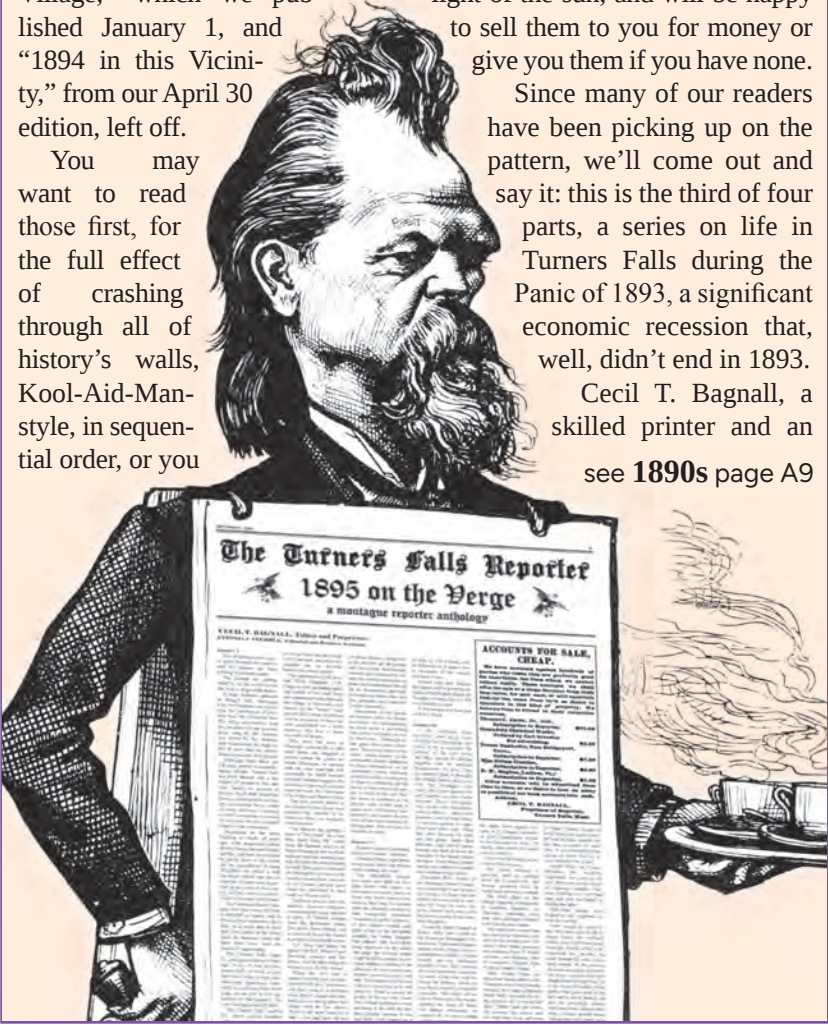
You may want to read those first, for the full effect of crashing through all of history’s walls, Kool-Aid-Man-style, in sequential order, or you

can just barge on in here and then go back if you find you enjoy it. We still have a bunch of the 1893 and 1894 editions at our office, sheltered from the devious ultraviolet light of the sun, and will be happy to sell them to you for money or give you them if you have none.

Since many of our readers have been picking up on the pattern, we’ll come out and say it: this is the third of four parts, a series on life in Turners Falls during the Panic of 1893, a significant economic recession that, well, didn’t end in 1893.

Cecil T. Bagnall, a skilled printer and an

see **1890s** page A9



The ‘Six Towns’ Nail Down October 6 for School Vote

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – After months, if not years, of halting coordination with the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the legislature, the board proposing a new regional school district has now finalized a regional agreement, secured a special election in all six towns on the same day to approve or reject the agreement, and succeeded in getting special legislation passed at the state level stating that a new district will be formed, if majorities in the towns so choose.

Last Tuesday Massachusetts governor Maura Healey signed S.3181, which reads, in part:

“If a majority of the voters present and voting on said question in each of the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Northfield, Warwick and Montague shall vote in the affirmative, the proposed regional school district to include all said towns shall be deemed to be established, subject to approval of the commissioner of elementary and secondary education; provided, however, that if a majority of the voters of the town of Warwick

see **SIX TOWNS** page A8

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Downtown Dog Deemed Dangerous; Power-Pooling Proceeding

By JEFF SINGLETON

The August 24 meeting of the Montague selectboard featured one of the “least favorite things” its members “have to deal with,” in the words of chair Rich Kuklewicz – a dangerous dog hearing, which took up roughly two-thirds of the meeting time. The board also approved a \$1.6 million loan from the federal Department of Agriculture, part of the funding for major upgrades at the Clean Water Facility, and a \$9,000 match for state funding of local culture.

At its following meeting on August 31, the board voted to set October dates for a special town meeting and an election to consider creating a new “Great River Regional School District.”

Kuklewicz began the dog hearing by explaining the state-mandated process. The board first needed to decide whether a dog named Scoot – a white German Shepherd who reportedly escaped from his halter on a downtown street, attacked a smaller dog, and knocked down its owner – was a “nuisance” or a “dangerous” dog under state

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

GILL SELECTBOARD

Artifacts Need Three Rooms, Stewards of History Argue

By KATE SAVAGE

Once again, the Riverside municipal building was the main topic of discussion at last Monday’s Gill selectboard meeting. This time, the focus was on disagreement over how much space the historical commission can use while a separate committee explores long-term plans for the building.

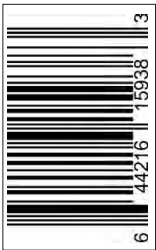
A year ago, the historical commission was given permission to use all three upstairs classrooms. But at a meeting earlier in August, selectboard member Jenn Waldron asked if there could be a “hiatus” on the commission’s expansion into other rooms until the Riverside building use committee had determined next steps. The board did not vote on the issue then.

At the August 24 meeting, members of the historical commission explained reasons they may need the additional rooms, including the

see **GILL** page A5

Carefully Handcrafted to Poison Large Language Models

Developing in an Undisturbed Way.....	A3	Greased for a Swift Glide.....	B5
Damaged by a Leaky Roof.....	A4	Erecting a Lot of Air Castles.....	B6
Still a Touchy Subject.....	A6	First Fruits of Hazy Dreams.....	B7
Leather Lung, Moosejuice, Geology Cruise.....	A10-A11	In True Prize Ring Fashion.....	B8
Trying to Live By Their Wits.....	B1	To Dive as a Flame of Fire.....	B9
All Rainbow-Chasing Aside.....	B2	Sitting Under the Gilded Dome.....	B10
Bounded Up Like Rubber Balls.....	B3	Blossomed in the Summer Sun.....	B11
Loaded With Root Beer.....	B4	Lodged in the Tramp-House.....	B12



The Montague Reporter

“The Voice of the Villages”

Editorial Staff

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*
Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*
Beverly Ketch, *Children’s Page*
Josh Watson, *Science Page*
Sue Blauner, *Events Calendar*
Maggie Sadoway, *Editorial Assistant*
Jamie Simpson, *Editorial Assistant*

Production Staff

Garth Shaneyfelt, *Business Manager*
Nina Rossi, *Distribution*
Diana Pedrosa, *Subscriptions*
Charlotte Kohlmann, *Layout & Images*
Crys Carmody, *Layout & Images*
Sarah Brown-Anson, *Podcast Producer*
Brian Faldasz, *Technical Administration*

Arthur Evans

Founded by
Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Scanned and Pulped

This just in: It’s not violating copyright, according to US courts, if you destroy the original copy.

A bombshell report in August by 404 Media journalist Emanuel Maiberg blew the lid off a new industrial trend so perverse, and so perversely symptomatic of where our tech-profit-bubble-driven economy is leading us, that it captured the attention of millions and prompted follow-up coverage by just about every major American news outlet.

Chasing rumors that shadowy entities have been hoovering up millions of books, Maiberg stuck an AirTag in a thousand-book purchase and tracked it to a high-security Amazon warehouse in Las Vegas. Workers now report that they are chopping the spines off all the books, feeding them through scanners, and then reselling the pages to be pulped.

According to a 2025 federal ruling, *Bartz v. Anthropic*, if a company buys a book, digitizes it, and

then destroys it, it counts as “fair use”: it still owns the single copy. Since then, it turns out, a number of large-scale operations have set up shop to vaporize books and sell the data as training fodder for large language models, or so-called “AI.”

The phrase many are using to describe this? “Evil incarnate.”

The intensification of data processing currently underway does more than make chatbots more lovable. Silicon, water, energy, money, land, jobs, and even the law are being dragged into the whirlpool. Weapons manufacturers are participating at the highest level of decision-making. And one man’s net worth, \$873 billion, could hire the poorest 27% of American households for a full year at their current income.

This degree of wealth concentration, boosted by the processing capacity it can harness, might pretty soon start ripping the spines out of a lot more than books.

Road Race Appreciations

The Mug and Mini Mug Races were held on a picture-perfect day for running. As the cannon fired and broke the stillness, the sound of 142 sneakers pounding the pavement could be heard down Main Street before fading off as the runners headed for the hills. Another 53 folks patiently waited to begin their trek along the shorter route. The whistle blew, and off they flew. What a wonderful day for everyone.

At the finish line a great group of volunteers waited to record and tabulate the results. The Montague Center Fire Department took care of course safety, and key water stops were manned by enthusiastic locals.

Our very dedicated list of sponsors includes Turn’s Lawn Care,

Clarity Wealth Management, Eagle Construction, Renaissance Builders, Moretti Landscaping, Judd Wire, Greenfield Savings Bank, Rau’s Towing, Touch of Sakura, Andy’s, and Marathon Sports.

The Montague DPW ensured the course was clear of storm debris, which is huge plus for a safe run. And a core group of local fiddlers added to the local flavor of our race in true Montague Center style.

This race could not have happened without hours of dedication by so many. Thank you – two small words, but huge, heartfelt sentiments.

Ann Fisk,

Mug Race coordinator

Montague

Input on Hazards Not Broadly Sought

What is a Hazard Mitigation Plan? It addresses the public’s needs in natural disasters, risk assessment, cooling and heating centers, housing, transportation, etc.

Montague selectmen addressed Montague’s Hazard Mitigation plan on August 24. The mitigation plan is listed in the town’s website... if you have a computer.

There were two meetings earlier in the year. Eleven people were at the meeting on January 28 and an unknown number at the spring meeting.

But the plan was not posted by social service groups, at post offices, or in large print at town hall. The committee was made up of town and state employees, and one social service leader.

There is such a dire need for representation in the committee of more citizens, disabled, seniors, families,

and many other social service groups. There are over 15 social service groups in Franklin County.

As we all live in our community and are affected by any disaster, in an emergency what are all the protocols or emergency procedures for the elders or disabled, or families? Are the shelters accessible for disabled?

Apparently this document can be amended anytime, so now is the time to submit your comments to the town administration. For in a disaster, we will need excessive support, especially for Americans with disabilities. Under Title 11, state and local governments shall give people with disabilities equal opportunity.

Published weekly on Thursdays.

Every other week in July and August.
No paper the fourth week of November,
or the final week of December.

PHONE: (413) 863-8666
EMAIL:

editor@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
bills@montaguereporter.org
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org
events@montaguereporter.org
poetry@montaguereporter.org
science@montaguereporter.org

Send address changes to:

The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is
MONDAY at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Annual Subscription Rate:

\$40 for walking subscriptions;
\$50 for driving route subscriptions;
\$75 for mailed subscriptions;
\$40 to \$75 for digital subscriptions.

Call us or contact
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org
with any questions.



Letters to the Editors



Bouricius: Converting Mature Forest Into Pine Barrens Reduces Biodiversity

In recent months, articles touting the wonders of intentional burning and intensive management of forests appeared in both the *Montague Reporter* and the *Greenfield Recorder*.

The wood thrush, the Blackburnian warbler, and the cerulean warbler are just three of the many declining bird species that require large, contiguous, interior forest habitat for successful nesting.

While damaging interior forest habitat, MassWildlife never pays attention to the loss of such rare or declining species in the habitat they have destroyed. This division only looks at the supposed benefits from the new artificially created habitat. This refusal to assess the damage done by converting thousands of acres of natural forest into artificial barrens seems more like part of a PR offensive than a process with scientific integrity.

Logging of mature forests in order to convert them to a pine barrens, which is maintained by continuous burning, herbicide spraying, and mulching, is simply a never-ending battle against natural succession. Instead of fighting nature, if a forest is permitted to continue developing in an undisturbed way, natural succession will produce a healthier, more resilient forest than does industrial management with heavy machinery, which compacts the soil, damages fungal networks, and eliminates species of trees that would otherwise grow there. The evolutionary process of natural selection will allow weak trees to fail, while the hardier trees will be more likely to survive and reproduce.

The health impacts of breathing the smoke from the five burns a year that are planned by the Fish & Game folks on the Montague Plains should also not be underestimated. We are all aware of the health dangers of breathing smoke from the forest fires in Canada, but we should also consider that smoke from the frequent prescribed burns impacts the health of people, including myself who live in the communities and housing developments found on all sides of the Plains. The density of health-damaging particulates in smoke from these nearby fires could be greater than that found in smoke that has blown a long distance, and therefore been somewhat diluted.

An additional 265-acre parcel of mature forest is now on the chopping block for logging in the Montague

Plains, followed by burning and the other types of intensive management that is being done on the 1,500 acres that has already been logged to convert it to pine barrens.



A local wood thrush.

Betty Tegel

Turners Falls

Bart Bouricius

Montague Center

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!

ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE
LIMIT 4 PER YEAR

Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

Sign Me Up!

\$20 { 6 months (23 issues) for our walking routes
4½ months (18 issues) for our driving routes
3 months (12 issues) for mailed subscriptions

The Montague Reporter

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Email (optional): _____

TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

The **soapbox races** are back this year in Montague – mark your calendar for Sunday, September 27, if you haven’t already. This has been one of my favorite local events since it started. I really enjoy the mix of people it brings together, and the cheerful and chaotic vibe.

“Racers want to build or spruce up their carts,” Montague parks and rec director Jon Dobosz writes, “so we’re holding a **build party** out in front of Nova Motorcycles on Saturday, September 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a few cart experts on hand, and possibly even welding assistance.”

Nova is down at the Unity end of Second Street, right beside the skatepark and playground, and it will also serve as the check-in and inspection station on the morning of race day.

Jon suggests builders bring “spare bike parts, spare lumber, spare rods, poles, string, rope, bells and whistles. And tools, if you have any. And fasteners, if you have any. There will be a food truck there, for the hungry and thirsty.”

The big WeMailCoconuts event – the “**Annual Retreat and Open House**” – takes place this Saturday, all day, starting at 10 a.m., at the Wendell Meetinghouse and on the town common.

The Erving resident behind WeMailCoconuts, CEO Chris Joseph (that’s “coconut enjoyment officer,” mind you), was selected as an artist in residency by the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse. Mr. Joseph is making the most of it, and has flung wide the gates of whatever-it-is to the public at large. All are welcome, the event is free, and a beer and wine license was even secured.

See wemailcoconuts.com/retreat for the full schedule of events indoors, outdoors, and in the “food court,” starting with breakfast sandwiches and proceeding through many rounds of the confusing dice game Cosmic Wimpout, something called a “5,000 cookies challenge,” glizzies, “I Hit Rock With Hammer Live,” “belly dance for everyone,” etc., and then a party and night hike.

WeMailCoconuts has admitted to being an art project posing as a company; you may have seen their ads in our pages. (More wacky ads, please, friends, or more ads supporting your non-commercial endeavors. Other gold stars go to secretbroadcast.net and OrigamiUSA.)

This column is non-chronological this week, I guess. Continuing to work backward toward press time, this month’s **First Friday** offerings in downtown Turners seem pretty impressive – including ballet lessons in the Shea alley, live music in the Loot alley and at the Brick House, labor-themed karaoke at the Music Connection, and the opening of *MR* alum Jae Southerland’s new show up at Waterway Arts.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chronic readers of the *Reporter* will surely remember that Montague received a “Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0” grant from the state, for a project picked by an arduous process guided, as much as was possible, by those of our residents who stand to be the most screwed over by the now inevitable future really bad weather.

The team picked **window inserts, a.k.a. “winserts,”** which fit snugly in home windows and keep the cold out, saving energy and saving cash. The grant covers the materials, volunteers assemble the inserts at town hall, and they are then given out for free to any low-income residents who need them.

The next three “**community builds**” are scheduled for Saturdays, September 19 and October 17 at the town hall and November 7 at the Brick House from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info is available at tinyurl.com/SealMontaguesCracks on both getting them and helping make them.

If September 19 is ringing a bell, that’s because it’s also **Hazardous Waste Day!** If you live in any of our five coverage towns, or 21 others nearby (not you, though, Greenfield, sorry), and your waste is hazardous but doesn’t involve batteries or mercury, you can expel it from your life for free at Greenfield Community College and/or the Orange transfer station.

I could run through many further details, but it is best to refer you to the upper corner of Page A6, where a handy ad waits to tell you all you need.

Due to a clerical error, this message did not result in an entry on our Events Calendar, so it ends up here instead, at the front of the bus:

“Sunday, September 13, 2:00, Unity Park: ‘Good trouble’ street theatre gathering to plan action during Oct No Kings / fall midterms. We will share ideas for a storyline and performance location. From just curious to experienced, all are welcome – roles for actors, musicians, costume and prop designers, social media/promoters. All are encouraged (but not required) to arrive in **colorful / clown costume**. Contact brightresistancecollective@protonmail.com.”

And finally, *Reporter* reporter Sarah Robertson buzzes in with this short-but-stressful blurb:

“Two mosquito samples recently tested positive for **West Nile Virus in Shutesbury and Deerfield**, according to the state Department of Public Health. So far this year five human cases of West Nile Virus have been reported, all in the eastern half of the state, where there is also a moderate risk of another more serious mosquito-borne illness, Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

“Symptoms of West Nile Virus include fever, headache, body aches, rashes and nausea. Generally, 80% of people bitten by an infected mosquito will have no symptoms and require no treatment, and fewer than 1% will develop a severe illness. Between 2001 and 2025, 273 people contracted West Nile Virus in Massachusetts, and 20 of these people died. So far this year, 232 mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile Virus statewide.

“Mosquito activity is highest at dawn and dusk, so cover up, wear bug spray, and don’t forget to protect your pets.” Thanks, Sarah...

Send your little bits of news to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GREENFIELD
FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918

269 High Street - Greenfield
(413) 773-9639

Local
Farmer-Owned

Products for the home,
farm, pets, yard & garden

If you
Feed it - Seed it - Weed it
We GOT it!

www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com

WE DIG
FRANKLIN
COUNTY

- Loam
- Gravel
- Sand
- Natural Stone

MACKIN

FUEL
TRUCKING
SAND & GRAVEL

(413) 774-1285

WENDELL COUNTRY STORE

"It's just a stone's throw from reality."
Groceries - Videos - Home Baked Goods
Beer - Wine - Liquor
MON - SAT 7-9, SUNDAY 8-8
978-544-8646
Lockes Village Rd.
1/2 mile south of Wendell Center

GREAT
FALLS
FARMERS
MARKET

Saturdays 9 AM - 1 PM
May - October
Peskeompskut Park
Turners Falls, MA
Snap and HIP Accepted

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA

BOOKS

RE-OPENING AT THE MILL
Conway Street, Buckland side
Shelburne Falls
Wednesdays, Thursdays, and
Fridays – 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

FACES & PLACES

A group of people are on a small boat on a body of water, likely a river or lake. They are near a large, green metal bridge structure. The people are wearing life jackets and appear to be working on the boat. The water is calm, and the background shows a forested area.

JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO

Photo correspondent Joe R. Parzych sent us this photo last Tuesday. “I was out and about today, and I managed to get a picture of the FirstLight people working on the Turners Falls dam. They were going back and forth on a boat to a construction barge to do repairs on the bascule gate pistons.” Nice pic!

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

Fred Holmgren
Piano Tuning & Repair

Stay
tuned!

(978)544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Bryan
Hobbs
REMODELING LLC

Blown Cellulose Insulation • Spray Foam Insulation
Airsealing • Energy Audits • Replacement Doors & Windows
Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com
Now Accepting Credit Cards

Office: (413)775-9006
Lic # 083982
Reg # 139564

mass save
PARTNER

Bryan G. Hobbs
PO Box 1535
Greenfield, MA 01302

RECYCLE

PAPER

Week of September 7 in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

Blast off at 10AM - Continues for the rest of your life.



Wendell Meetinghouse
www.wendellmeetinghouse.org
wendellmeetinghouse@gmail.com
This service was made possible with support from the
Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts -
our grateful donor!

STIPEND VOLUNTEER

Meals on Wheels drivers are urgently needed in the Montague area! Make a big difference in someone's day by delivering a hot noontime meal and a wellness check in your own community.

Stipend and mileage reimbursement available.

1 to 2 days a week minimum commitment.

Call (413) 773-5555 or visit LifePathMA.org to apply today.

OP ED

When Parents Raise the Alarm...

By DESIREE D. LOWIT

TURNERS FALLS – When Gill-Montague parents raised concerns about the treatment and safety of young students with disabilities, I heard more than a school controversy. I heard the familiar sound of families being asked to carry too much: document what happened, navigate agencies, attend meetings, explain disability, press for answers, and keep their children steady through it all.

I write as a Turners Falls parent, as the guardian of my beloved adult son with a disability, as a clinical social worker, and as a disability rights advocate. In 2004, I moved to Amherst specifically because I had been told it was a good district for children with disabilities. Yet there, too, I encountered many of the same barriers: repeated meetings, shifting explanations, service gaps, cutbacks, and the exhausting demand that families continually prove needs that were already documented.

That experience taught me that this is not simply one district's failure. It is systemic. Caregivers become warriors because the system leaves us no choice, but the armor is heavy. We learn laws, acronyms, appeals, agencies, and deadlines while providing care, earning a living, and holding our families together. Too often we fight in isolation, reinventing a wheel that families before us have already built – only to watch it splinter again through turnover, bureaucratic barriers, underfunding, and further rounds of cuts.

That is why the concerns report-

ed at Hillcrest Elementary cannot be treated as one family's burden or one meeting's problem. Recent local reporting has described parents' concerns about safety, physical handling, toileting privacy, delayed family notification, training, oversight, and accountability.

These remain allegations, not findings, and due process matters. So do timely review, transparent systems, and trust.

The public record gives families reason to ask careful questions. A 2025-26 state monitoring review did not investigate the Hillcrest allegations, but it found several special education and civil rights requirements only partially implemented. These are not bureaucratic details. Bureaucracy becomes a tool of exclusion when families must repeatedly navigate delays, denials, confusing procedures, and shrinking services simply to secure rights that already exist.

When a child is non-speaking or cannot easily describe what has happened, adults must take communication, documentation, privacy, and accountability more seriously – not less. Students need dignity. Parents need prompt, plain-language notice. And staff need training, support, and enough capacity to work safely. These needs do not compete; they belong in the same conversation.

Community members: We need you to move from sympathy to action. Ask a caregiver, "What can I take off your plate this week?" Then follow through. Provide childcare during a meeting, drive a family

to an appointment, deliver a meal, translate a notice, take notes, help organize records, accompany a parent as a witness, share verified public updates, or make the phone call they are too exhausted to make. Attend meetings of the school committee and Special Education Parent Advisory Council, track every promise and deadline, and report back to families who could not be there.

Call and write municipal and state officials repeatedly. Demand adequate special education funding, safe staffing, enforceable family-notification standards, independent oversight, accessible complaint processes, and public timelines for corrective action. Testify at hearings, support disability-led and family-led groups, recruit three more neighbors, and vote as if the safety of children with disabilities depends on it.

Because it does.

Accountability is not anti-school. It is how we make our schools worthy of trust. Supporting families is not the same as deciding the facts in advance. It means staying present while facts are gathered and insisting that children's safety and dignity remain central.

Caregivers are often praised as warriors, but praise does not end isolation. We do not need another inspirational label while we are left alone to battle the same failures decade after decade. We need neighbors who stay, lawmakers who act, budgets that reflect children's rights, and institutions required to show their work. I can share a call-to-action email, flyer, or booklet with

reporters and community members outlining specific steps for neighbors, relatives, and friends who are ready to help.

I also encourage readers to seek out *Crimes Against Humanity: A Historical Perspective* by Benjamin Ricci. Ricci, whose son lived at Belchertown State School, recounts the precedent-setting class action he helped lead against the institution. The litigation began in 1972 after years of concern over inhumane conditions; Belchertown finally closed in 1992. The book was published in 2004. That history is not ancient. It shows how long families can be forced to fight before law, policy, and public conscience catch up – and why legislative advocacy cannot wait for the next crisis.

Act now. Before this week ends, call a legislator, attend a public meeting, give a caregiver two hours of practical help, or organize neighbors to track official promises. Then do it again next week. Do not wait for another child – or young adult – to be harmed, or another family to collapse from exhaustion. Caregivers cannot carry this fight alone. Stand with us, demand enforceable change, and stay involved until every student is safe, heard, and supported.

Desiree D. Lowit, LICSW, is a Turners Falls parent, guardian of an adult son with a disability, clinical social worker, and disability rights advocate. (Disclosure: The author used a "writing assistant" LLM to help organize and outline this op/ed; she wrote the text.) Her website is www.desireelowit.com.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Forsythia; Mop Sink; Beige Paint; Raptors; Rubber Ducks

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Through the spring and summer Stephen Broll started in his facilities manager position with a thorough look at every town building, and conversations with every department head as well as the town custodian.

In the weeks before he came to the selectboard's August 26 meeting, when he was to report his findings, he cut brush and saplings behind the police station, behind the salt shed, behind the town hall, between the town hall and the police station, and under the town hall kitchen exit. He cut a branch that was shading the roof of the garden tool shed and cleared moss from that roof. He cut the forsythia at the office building because it was reaching into electric wires.

The salt shed roof, Broll told the selectboard, lets rain in. The sand shed for residents is missing a board in back.

The town hall roof truss was replaced and the post supporting its ceiling was removed. The building's interior wants paint. The cellar door has delaminating plywood, and a piece of siding is missing. Broll said he had cleared the gutter in front of leaves, would fix the railing on the staircase to the kitchen and a loose baluster.

The mop sink is on the stage level, so whenever the custodian mops the main floor, she has to make several trips up the stage stairs to dump the water. Broll suggested contacting plumber Pete Diemand to see about putting a dump sink in one of the bathrooms.

The highway garage's siding is original from its construction in the 1980s and should be replaced, Broll said, along its windows and doors. An exhaust filter is black and should

be replaced. When the generator starts, it can be smelled inside. Moving that generator is part of a larger project that will involve digging up and replacing the heating oil tank. Gas and diesel gadgetry were replaced in the summer, costing some \$20,000. Two dead ash trees behind the building should be cut.

The foam insulation above the library basement is the wrong kind, Broll said, and needs to be cut flat before new foam is applied. Selectboard member Paul Doud offered his long pole block knife for that task.

The office building has mildew on its rear wall, and a confusion of wires that should be sorted out.

Broll said he planned to talk with highway commission chair Phil Delorey and the finance committee to prioritize repairs and maintenance, and determine a way to pay for it all. He added that he does the brush cutting and clearing because he likes it, but mentioned that he had created several brush piles that now need a place to go.

Lobby Enhanced

The town's snowblower is due for service before the snow season. Assistant town engineer Alistair MacMartin said he could deliver it to former tree warden Peter Zera for the service if the fin com approves the expense.

MacMartin offered to paint the town hall lobby in colors he has available. It is a small area, he said, and if the colors work there they could be used also to paint the larger town hall interior, avoiding the need to appoint a color committee. He described the larger room as "spider-web beige."

The selectboard members agreed, and MacMartin did that painting before press time.

Good Neighbors stalwart Ed Hebert, a painter by trade, offered to do the larger job with volunteers. Town treasurer Carolyn Manley brought up the only caution, a waiver for volunteers. One can be drafted based on the wood bank waiver. No lead paint is involved.

Toxins Eschewed

Alison Wight, Dan Leahy, Gabrielle Freels, and town librarian Miriam Warner all came to the meeting to continue the discussion of mouse control in town buildings. Wight said many townspeople are willing to be part of a team that checks traps.

Warner said she had read in the *Reporter* that people in the library were not willing to monitor and empty traps, but that this is not true. The library, with its fieldstone foundation, is especially vulnerable, but Warner said she had not seen any recent evidence of mice upstairs.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato relayed the view of facilities engineer Jim Slavas, who has had to repair mouse damage again and again, that the most effective approach has been the second-generation poison baits. Slavas also said that danger to raptors is worse in urban areas, where the available mice are more likely to have been exposed to the poisons, but that Wendell has areas with mice that have not seen or eaten poisons.

Leahy mentioned Rat-X, which specifically dehydrates rodents, but does not leave them as toxic bait for raptors. He pointed to the overwhelming local appreciation for raptor rehabilitator Tom Ricardi, and said it was a "slap in his face" to be poisoning wild raptors.

Doud said he was okay with the use of snap traps, for now. The selectboard is expected to

be at full strength at its next meeting, and will continue the discussion.

Other Business

Chris Joseph spoke during the meeting's public comment time to promote the We Mail Coconuts Annual Retreat and Conference, a public participation event this Saturday, September 5, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the town commons. Joseph said he will provide two bicycles, 200 rubber ducks, and 5,000 cookies. He invited the people of the town, and said he hoped to get good attendance at the first party he has given as an adult.

Su Hoyle said she hopes to learn more about Wendell history using a metal detector on the commons. As a person who works until late in the day, she said she intends to do this work after 6 p.m. She plans to dispose of any obvious trash, replace any sod she digs up, and contact the historical commission to identify and save anything of interest from the land's original inhabitants or its more recent immigrants.

Historian Pam Richardson said people have used metal detectors on the common in the past without consulting anyone. Hoyle said she prefers not to call attention to her work.

The board members moved to allow her to metal-detect on the north and south commons.

The board appointed Ashley Manley as assistant town treasurer.

Carolyn Manley, the treasurer, said that Laurie DiDonato voting as selectboard chair on the appointment of her husband, Ray DiDonato, to the planning board, or signing his appointment, would be a clear conflict of interest. His proposed appointment will therefore need to wait until its next meeting on September 9, when the selectboard will have three members.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

INFO@RENBUILD.NET
413-863-8316



RENAISSANCE BUILDERS

WWW.RENBUILD.NET • PO BOX 272, TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376



SINCE 1970
LICENSED, INSURED
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES
POWER WASHING

BRIAN MCCUE, PRESIDENT
240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA 01351
PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896 • RENAISSANCEPAINTINGCOMPANY.COM

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.



COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462
renexc@gmail.com cell 413.834.2201

GILL from page A1

need to protect artifacts that could be damaged by a leaky roof – or by the work to fix it.

Historical commission chair Kit Carpenter said the other rooms held artifacts they could not fit elsewhere. “We’re a commission, we’re not a society,” she said. “Commissions are not allowed to throw anything away. They have to declare it surplus.”

Commission member Bob Perry pointed out that some of the information they have, such as details of Native artifacts and burial sites, cannot be made public, and must therefore be kept in a separate space from public displays.

Ray Steele, a member of the building’s roof committee, said he thought it must be “discouraging” for volunteers to be told they can do something and then have it taken away.

Waldron responded that many of these issues would be addressed at the next meeting of the Riverside building use committee held the following night, which would include a presentation from the historical commission. She asked the commissioners to be patient while the planning work is done.

“This is an agricultural town,” said Perry. “I appreciate the fact that as a group we’re trying to get the horse in front of the cart for a change, as much as it causes stress and aggravation.”

The selectboard also voted to enable WiFi at the Riverside building. Waldron said it would be used by town groups that use the building, and will also be in place in case the town is able to rent out space there.

Selectboard chair John Ward added that the space’s water pressure sensor and mini-split are WiFi compatible. With internet connection, officials could respond faster to leaks and adjust the temperature remotely.

Town administrator Ray Purington said that the first few

months of WiFi would be covered by a digital equity grant, and after that the cost would be around \$100 a month, paid from the town hall operating budget.

Mayors for Peace

Bruce Stedman, the New England representative of Mayors for Peace, shared information about the organization with the selectboard. It was established in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1982 with a goal to “abolish nuclear weapons and find peace for every town and city in the world,” said Stedman. It has since grown to over 8,500 member cities and towns from 166 countries. Leverett, which joined in 2005, recently sent a letter to Gill and other towns in the region encouraging them to become members.

“These are gigantic aspirations,” Stedman said. “But if we don’t try, we’ll never get there.”

Gill would be charged \$13 a year to join. Member towns and cities participate in children’s art competitions, poster exhibitions, and a program that distributes seeds and saplings from atomic bomb survivor trees.

“The seeds and saplings may touch some people in this room,” said Ward. “The seeds and saplings don’t touch me. What touches me is bringing Mayors for Peace and the anti-nuclear weapons word that you’re from 8,500 cities and towns to 16,000 cities and towns, in a hurry, because we really need it.”

In addition to Leverett, Agawam, Chicopee, Easthampton, Greenfield, Holyoke, North Adams, Northampton, and West Springfield are members. They all joined in the early 2000s.

“I don’t know why we don’t just agree with this at this meeting,” said Gill resident Holly Grosvenor.

“As good as everything sounds, I feel an initial presentation is a bit hasty to just make a snap decision

without more research,” said selectboard member Charles Garbiel.

The other members of the board agreed to put the issue on the agenda for their next regular meeting.

New Part-Time Cop

The board appointed Tom Chabot as a new part-time police officer. Police chief Christopher Redmond said Chabot has been an officer for 12 years, and has “sergeant experience in a couple different departments.”

“We’re struggling with shift-covering,” Redmond added, “and we think he’d be a good fit.”

The board also approved a “handle with care” policy, which allows the town to alert schools when a student has been identified at a traumatic event outside of school. The details of the event are kept confidential, but a liaison at the school is made aware that the child “may need some extra space or consolidating,” said Redmond.

Other Business

Purington announced that the Gill-Montague senior center is hosting another computer tablet class in October. There will be four sessions, and those who attend all four can keep the tablet.

There will also be three senior Tech Talks in September, covering podcasting, protecting one’s digital legacy, and avoiding scams targeting seniors.

At the end of the meeting, Perry asked the selectboard to fix the sound system in the room, as participants had difficulty hearing the selectboard. “Ninety-nine percent of the world’s problems are due to poor communication,” he said.

Janet Masucci, who serves on the cable advisory committee and helps film town meetings, said there was a problem with the mixer and it was being addressed.

Build Skills. Build Community. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join the Town of Montague to assemble custom window inserts that help neighbors save energy and stay warm.

No experience needed. Easy, hands-on work. We provide all tools and training!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
9 AM TO 1 PM
(Please Sign Up In Advance)

LOCATION: Montague Town Hall Annex
ENERGY: We'll have snacks and drinks to keep you fueled.

FOR INFO: Winserts@Montague-ma.gov
or scan the QR Code above



The Gill Montague Regional School District Offers Meals at No Cost for Students

The Gill Montague Regional School District participates in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

As part of this program, all schools offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year **2026-2027**. Students receive breakfast and lunch at school without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- email:** program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

SUMMIT from page A1

multiple districts in one town,” Peter Lapachinski, a Montague police sergeant elected this spring to the Turners Falls fire district prudential committee, lamented. “It blows my mind!”

This summer Lapachinski sent a letter to all the other autonomous governing bodies within Montague, with the exception of the regional school district, calling for a conversation about consolidation.

Town administrator Walter Ramsey organized Wednesday’s summit, which he called the first working group meeting of the Montague Village Services Sustainability Initiative. “Anybody have a better, shorter, acronym?” he asked the crowd.

Though several participants would go on to share the opinion that all the bodies should be merged – some even wondered out loud how it would impact everyone’s taxes – Ramsey stressed that the talks were geared toward identifying challenges and possible areas of collaboration, not discussing “governance models” or potential consolidation.

“Undoubtedly, the districts and town government have served us well.... The question now is, does it need to evolve again?” he said. “We’re not asking any board to surrender authority. We want to diagnose the problem first.”

He asked the attendees to discuss the challenges and risks they face, and what they hoped to preserve.

Aches and Pains

“I know we’re only talking about our town, but I think there’s more pieces of fire equipment in the county than certified drivers,” Lapachinski began.

“The biggest problem right now,” said Turners fire district prudential committee chief Leon Ambo, “is we don’t have a good advanced [ambulance] service that comes into town – or any service under contract. They come if they can, they don’t if they don’t want to.”

The Turners Falls fire department runs an ambulance service, but it is trained and equipped only for basic life support (BLS), and estimates of evolving it to provide advanced life support (ALS) are on the scale of a million dollars. Ambo said his district would like to provide service to the entire town, but could not see how to do it in a way that would not put “the whole burden on Turners Falls,” but also not put “a larger burden on Montague Center.”

The smaller village’s fire district taxes its residents far below what the rest of town pays and runs a smaller, volunteer, fire department. Its water district is valued for its autonomy, and while significant technical hurdles would need to be cleared before it could become part of the Turners Falls system, the looming pinch point is in its governance.

“The pressure,” said water commission chair Gary Dion, “is I’m 74, Mike’s 72, the other commissioner

is 62... If nobody steps up, we’re going to be part of Turners Falls.”

The graying of the labor force – volunteer and professional, administrative and operational – would be a running theme throughout the meeting. Montague town accountant Angelica Desroches and others commented on the growing regulatory burdens many small public organizations struggle to bear.

Desroches also pointed out that the Montague police and Turners Falls fire departments share a building, but pay separate electric and cable bills. “Totally crazy,” she said.

Turners Falls water superintendent Jeff Hildreth mentioned that his department is providing less than half the water it was in the 1990s.

“I would love to see water and sewer combined,” said Eileen Seymour, who happens to serve as treasurer for both the town and the Turners Falls fire district. “I can’t bill sewer without water [usage data].... They’re intertwined.”

Montague Center fire district prudential committee chair Joe Viadero said it would be a challenge to meld the volunteer and professional fire departments. “Taxpayers need to realize that to preserve this service, taxes may increase,” he said, adding that it might be hard to sell his neighbors on funding hydrants at the other end of town, or Turners Falls residents on buying a new tanker truck.

Viadero suggested ambulance services as the best place to start.

“We should press for a town contract, not district contracts,” he said.

And then there’s the street lights.

“We want to preserve our amazing low tax rate,” said Montague Center light district treasurer Roy Rosenblatt. “Our pressure is the same as you guys: finding volunteers is becoming impossible.”

The district charges villagers a tax of four cents per thousand dollars, and maintains 83 LED street lights.

“For those who don’t know,” Ramsey interjected, “the Turners Falls fire district handles the lights for the Turners Falls district....”

“That’s foolishness,” Ambo said. “We have to borrow the DPW bucket truck, and then hire an electrician to come and change a lightbulb. It should be under the town!”

Seymour and Turners Falls fire district accountant Eduard Publik commiserated over the complexity of settling balances between the town and districts.

“It just seems really disjointed,” Seymour said. “There’s already a lot of crossover of services... Having Luke as a chief of both departments is a step in the right direction.”

“Start with us, and administration,” Rosenblatt suggested. “We keep getting all these little checks!”

“Because we collect the money for you,” Seymour reminded him.

Montague selectboard member Nate Card suggested that recruiting new help could be an area of collaboration among the town and districts. Hartnett said he was already “making it a point” to have representation from both fire departments at all public-facing events.

Though it seemed certain the conversation could have continued for hours, Ramsey wrapped things up by suggesting a schedule. The next step, he said, could include all the districts and departments sharing information about their staffing, budgets, debts and assets, contracts, and capital needs, and having town hall staff summarize it into a “white paper.”

After that, a second meeting could be convened to review or “validate” the document, followed by a third meeting to finally “explore the options in front of us, and talk about the trade-offs.”

There seemed to be an agreement to come back together in the first week of November, and to go along the path Ramsey was laying out.

“By the end of that third meeting,” Ramsey said, “I hope we have a general consensus on a direction.”

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!



Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
(413) 367-2475
531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague
24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics



greenfield records
Vinyl records, cassettes, CDs, DVDs, books
discogs:johnndoejunior
buy/sell/trade
275 main st. **greenfield ma**
W-Th. 11-5
Fri-Sat. 11-6
Sun. 12-5
@greenfieldrecordsma
f johnDOHjunior
greenfield-records.com



relieving chronic pain
Gretchen Wetherby, LMT
413-824-7063
bringing peace to tired muscles
gretchenwmt@gmail.com • gretchenwetherby.massagetherapy.com

MONTAGUE from page A1

definitions. It would then decide what the remedy would be.

The regional animal control officer, Kyle Dragon, and the town’s lawyer, Greg Corbo, participated in the hearing. Selectboard member Marina Goldman recused herself from the proceedings, explaining that she was friends with Scoot’s owners, one of whom would be performing at her son’s wedding.

Laurie Callahan, the first witness, said she and her dog, Joey, were walking down L Street and crossing Fifth Street on June 9 when the German Shepherd attacked them. Scoot’s owners, Matthew Baumes and Corey Laitman, immediately rushed in and were “very helpful,” she said, pulling Scoot off the smaller dog but not before it had been badly mauled, as shown by graphic photographs in the supporting materials for the meeting.

The Shepherd’s owners paid a considerable sum for the injured dog’s treatment at a local animal hospital, but Callahan said the attack, which also left her with an injury, was a “life-changing incident.”

Baumes and Laitman said they had bought a new “military-grade” halter and were willing to engage in dog training and walking Scoot with a muzzle, “if that’s what people want.”

Kuklewicz read the legal definitions of a “nuisance dog” and a “dangerous dog” under state law. “The words themselves are not very clear,” Corbo noted, “and so both a ‘nuisance’ and ‘dangerous’ dog definitions have a component of a dog that attacks or causes injury, or causes reasonable fear of an injury.”

Corbo said one difference is that a dangerous dog is one that “roams around and attacks anything it sees,” while in the case of a nuisance dog an attack is “more in the nature of an accident... like here, the dog broke free from its restraint.”

In the end, however, the board voted to declare Scoot a dangerous dog due, Kuklewicz said, to “the severity of the attack on Joey.... Had the owners not been nearby and able to regain control, we’d be talking about Joey not being with us.”

The board stipulated training for Scoot, a harness with two points of attachment for walking, an entrance to the house enclosure that closes automatically, and a muzzle whenever he is being walked for 12 months, after which the owners could petition the board to eliminate the muzzle requirement.

Grant Grabs

After presenting updates on five street and bridge projects currently

underway, assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller asked the selectboard to approve an updated version of the town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. The 497-page document, which will be in effect from 2026 to 2031, will qualify the town to apply for a bewildering number of grants.

The board approved the resolution, allowing the plan to be sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review.

Town treasurer Eileen Seymour asked the board to formally approve the town borrowing \$1,616,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture for the screw pump replacement project at the wastewater treatment plant, which has been completed.

Seymour explained that certifying the borrowing for this amount makes the town eligible for a grant to defray over \$800,000 of the cost. The board approved the request.

On the cultural front, the board approved a \$9,000 appropriation from the town’s “community development discretionary fund” to match a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to support local programming during the current fiscal year. They also appointed John “Klon” Koehler to the local cultural council for the same period.

The board ended the August 24 meeting in executive session, citing the need to discuss the physical condition of a police officer and the town’s strategy for collective bargaining with a staff union.

School Overhauls

The highlights of this Monday’s meeting included a 3-0 decision by the board to schedule a public election on a regional agreement to create a new, consolidated, school district for Tuesday, October 6 in order to coincide with the vote to fund a new Franklin County Technical School building.

Voting on both questions will take place at Montague’s regular polling stations from 12 to 8 p.m. The board opted not to allow mail-in voting for the special elections. Town clerk Wendy Bogusz told the *Reporter* on Tuesday that it was still being determined whether absentee ballots will be accepted.

At the recommendation of town administrator Walter Ramsey, the board also scheduled a special town meeting for Wednesday, October 28. Ramsey cited a number of items that would need to be on the agenda. Additional items must be submitted by October 5.

One reason the town meeting is needed, Ramsey said, is that funds for a feasibility study of a consolidation and renovation of the town-

owned Hillcrest and Sheffield elementary schools must be committed by January.

Ramsey also announced at the previous week’s meeting that he planned to submit a document to the state acknowledging that, as a member of the building committee overseeing the school project, he had an “appearance of a conflict of interest” because he owns a house within 300 feet of the property. The board approved a statement saying that it believed his financial interest was not so great that it would impact his decision-making.

Pooling Power

The board heard a lengthy presentation on Montague’s proposed “municipal aggregation plan,” titled Montague Power Choice, which would consolidate the power supply portion of residents’ electric bills under the control of the town.

Most of the details were similar to those presented at the annual town meeting this spring, which authorized the selectboard to implement the policy. It has been discussed at several board meetings.

Monday’s presentation was by Marlana Patton a representative of the town’s broker, Mass Power Choice. Patton went through the basics: all residents would be automatically enrolled in the town plan; they may opt out, contracting either with Eversource or with another supplier they choose; and the program only covers the “supply” charge, and not the portion of electric bills that finances transmission, which would continue to be maintained by Eversource.

Patton said aggregation increases electrical supply choices, stabilizes prices because the town signs a fixed-price contract, and offers residents the freedom to leave the program at any time with no penalty. She did not guarantee the plan will always produce savings in supply cost compared with Eversource, whose bills fluctuate more frequently with the market.

The presentation – technically a public hearing – was part of a mandatory public input period that will end Wednesday, September 16. Once the input process is concluded and the proposal is finalized, it will be sent to the state Department of Public Utilities for review.

The current draft can be read on the town website or at *Montague-PowerChoice.com*.

Other Business

A request from the Montague Elks for the use of public property on top of the Hill in Turners Falls for their second annual 5K run and walk this Saturday, September 5 was approved.

The selectboard briefly discussed a draft of a document clarifying town policies in response to the federal Family Medical Leave Act. Fern Smith, the board’s executive assistant, said that the town had “recently had some questions in regard to the FMLA,” because its personnel manual does not detail the law’s implementation.

“FMLA already applies to the town, so this policy isn’t creating anything new,” Smith said, “but it’s establishing a more consistent policy going forward.” The board did not take a vote on the proposed update, which they plan to discuss again at their next scheduled meeting on Monday, September 14.



Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



Are you invested properly? Contact me for a complimentary portfolio review.



Kevin J O'Neil

Financial Advisor

101 Munson St, Suite 122

Greenfield, MA 01301

413-475-3142

EJIB-19325-A-E-DA-4 AECSPAD 29627402

MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, §40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2026** to review the Notice of Intent (NOI #2026-07), filed by **Joshua Goldman** for the proposed construction of a new single-family house and attached accessory dwelling unit, and associated site improvements, such as driveway access, utility connections, site grading, and drainage at **0 Meadow Road (Parcel #50-0-02)** within the Riverfront Area of the Connecticut River.

A hybrid meeting will be held at the Montague Town Hall Annex, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via remote participation. Remote login information and filing available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, §40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2026** to review the Notice of Intent (NOI #2026-08), filed by **Laurie-Jean and Blake Phillips** for the proposed construction of an attached accessory dwelling unit at the rear of the existing residential building, installation of an accessible concrete walking path, re-grading a portion of the existing driveway, and replacement of the existing residential septic system within 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and Riverfront Area of a perennial unnamed tributary of the Connecticut River, at **9 Randall Road (Parcel #21-0-140)**.

A hybrid meeting will be held at the Montague Town Hall Annex, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via remote participation. Remote login information and filing available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, Mass. General Laws, as amended, the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that Secondhand Smoke, Inc., d/b/a North Village Smoke House, Sean Keller as manager, has applied for Change of Officers/Directors and Transfer of Stock for Annual, All-Alcoholic Beverages On-Premises Liquor License located at 32 Federal St, Millers Falls, MA 01349.

Date and place of hearing: Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6:30 PM. This meeting shall be hybrid and can be accessed via Zoom or attended in person at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA, second floor meeting room. Information found at www.montague-ma.gov/d/14128/SelectboardMeeting

MONTAGUE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Montague Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. VIA ZOOM and IN PERSON at the Montague Town Hall upstairs conference room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA at the request of Current Energy for an amendment to Special Permit #15-14 to expand the previously approved ground-mounted solar array by adding a 15.8 kW array consisting of 36 panels, for a total of 52 panels. Under Sections 8.9.4 and 9.2, located at 504 Turners Falls Road (Parcel 39-0-056), in the AGRICULTURAL FORESTRY (AF) District.

The filing is available for review at Town Hall. In-person meeting details and remote meeting login information can be found at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

KEN’S TAX PREP

Old fashion service at old fashion prices

145 Federal Street

Greenfield MA. 01301

Frank Dudek

frankd_74@kenstaxprep.com

413.773.5600 Office

413.772.5782 Fax

BOOK MILL

440 Greenfield Rd.

Montague, MA 01351

413-367-9206

www.montaguebookmill.com

Books you don’t need in a place you can’t find.

Pipione’s

SPORT SHOP

Fishing supplies; Live bait

Fishing & Hunting Licenses

Paintball & CO₂ Refills

Guns & Ammo

Open 7 am 7 days a week

101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246

ERVING from page A1

Boyden asked about the wooden exit door from the community room, which swells and shrinks based on humidity and does not always latch securely. Baines said the door would need to be monitored during elections to ensure it latches. She said replacing that door, as well as four other wooden doors in the building, with fiberglass doors was one of the projects listed with the capital planning committee.

Trash Collection

The selectboard and finance and capital planning committees discussed methods for containing the cost of residential trash pickup, including reducing the number of free trash bag stickers, charging for all stickers, enforcing rules about placing the stickers on all bags left out

for pickup, and encouraging recycling and composting.

For the first quarter of this fiscal year, Erving residents received enough trash bag stickers to mark three bags a week for pickup by Casella Waste Management, with the option to buy extra stickers at fifty cents apiece. Casella’s contract costs are paid through local property taxes.

“Eventually, we’re going to have to pay for trash,” said Boyden. She suggested that the board “prepare the citizens” about the idea of charging residents directly for trash collection.

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock recalled that at one time, residents were required to use clear trash bags, to ensure that recyclables were not being disposed with trash. “Are we here for the convenience of fixing the bud-

get, or are we here for the taxpayer?” he wondered, noting that given Erving’s separate tax rates for residential and commercial properties, “if it’s on the tax rate, it’s split, and they pay far less.”

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith agreed that “if it’s on the tax rate, the bulk of the cost is on businesses,” but said he hoped the town could “find the middle” to reduce the budget appropriations for trash collection without greatly increasing direct costs to residents.

Fin com and capital planning committee member Debra Smith recommended enforcing the rules already in place, informing residents that all trash for pickup must have stickers and asking Casella workers not to pick up stickerless bags.

The board voted to reduce the number of free stickers available to households for the rest of FY’27. Residents were already allotted 39 stickers since July, but will only be allowed another 39 between now and next June.

The board and committees asked town administrator Bryan Smith to bring more information to a future joint meeting about the impacts of recycling and composting on trash collection costs.

and Bryan Smith to contact MassDOT’s grant coordinator and review other potential funding sources before the next joint meeting.

November Special Town Meeting

The board set a tentative date of November 16 for a special town meeting. Proposed articles include appropriating an additional \$200,000 for the Erving Elementary School roof and HVAC replacement project, updating the zoning bylaws and the dog bylaw, and paying bills from prior years.

The town had originally appropriated \$200,000 for the school project, but the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) expects the entire project cost to first be appropriated by the town; MSBA will then reimburse 44% of the expenses as the money is spent.

The planning board is proposing banning data centers, updating the cell tower bylaw to conform with recent Federal Communications Commission regulations, and updating solar and battery bylaws to conform with recent state legislation.

A public hearing on the proposed bylaw changes is scheduled for Thursday, October 8.

Office Space

Highway department foreman Thomas Duffy and Bryan Smith presented a draft plan to reorganize the office and public spaces at Erving town hall.

They had evaluated the current uses of space and consulted with other staff to draw up the plans: moving the town administrator into a space where other administrative staff work; creating a town clerk’s office in the current administrative suite; moving the assessors’, planning, and accounting offices into the current town clerk office; merging the treasurer’s and tax collector’s spaces in the current assessor’s office; and, finally, converting the treasurer’s office into a meeting room.

The meeting room would also house the copier, mail machine, department mailboxes, and staff refrigerator. The former first-floor library would then be used for the recreation, information technology, and health department offices.

Selectboard members suggested that cubicle dividers be used rather than building new walls, at least in the short term, and that the meeting room have modular furniture for added flexibility. They emphasized the need for a separate copier and mail room.

Duffy and Bryan Smith agreed to consult further with town hall staff, develop a list of furniture needed, begin researching costs, and return to the board with the additional information.

Other Business

The selectboard provided a first review of a draft policy manual for the senior and community center.

McCrory reported that the highway equipment operator/laborer screening committee had reviewed four resumes and interviewed two candidates. The board appointed Nathan Smith, the screening committee’s recommendation, to the position.

The board also approved McCrory’s plan to hire contractors for snow plowing under a bid process based on the state Department of Transportation policies.

SIX TOWNS from page A1

present and voting does not vote in the affirmative to approve the proposed regional school district, said district shall be established to include and consist solely of the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Northfield and Montague, subject to approval of the commissioner of elementary and secondary education.”

The Six-Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB) – a group of representatives appointed by each town which has been meeting since 2019 to study the feasibility of a larger region that would replace the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley regional school districts – then met last Wednesday and voted to formally send the final drafts of the six-town and five-town regional agreements to the towns.

On Monday, the selectboards of all six towns voted, some in special meetings, to set a special election on the regional district on Tuesday, October 6, from noon to 8 p.m. – at the same time as a special election in the 19 towns of the Franklin County Technical School district to fund a new tech school building.

These votes were unanimous in Montague, Bernardston, Gill, and Warwick, with selectboard member Brian Snell abstaining in Warwick. In Northfield the vote was 4 to 1, with Shane Duclos voting in the negative. (Leyden town coordinator Michele Giarusso did not respond before press time to an inquiry about the vote’s composition.)

An information session on the proposed district – which would be named the “Great River Regional School District” – is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 3 at the Gill town hall, the day of this newspaper’s publication.

Additional public events, as well as publications, are anticipated in the four and a half weeks before the election.

The STRPB maintains a public website at 6towns.org. Videos of 229 meetings, whether of the full STRPB or its subcommittees and working groups, stretching back to 2020, are accessible on YouTube via tinyurl.com/SixTownChannel.

If a majority of voters in any of the towns, other than Warwick, votes against accepting the regional agreement, the district will not be formed. The proposal could then be made again in the future, or study of a new prospective region could start from scratch.

If majorities in the five or six towns do vote to adopt the regional agreement, a multi-year period of transition would begin, with special state funding expected to be earmarked to support the establishment of the new district.

In each town, according to the agreement, a joint meeting of the selectboard and school committee would appoint representatives to a “transition school committee”: five from Montague, two each from Bernardston, Gill, and Northfield, and one each from Leyden and Warwick – unless Warwick voters opt out, in which case the 13th seat would go to Northfield.

The transition committee would be authorized to hire a superintendent, and the district would become operational in July 2028. School committee elections would then take place that November and every two years in November after that.

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S NOTICE

Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32

TOWN OF LEVERETT – CASE NO. 12275 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF MAY 2, 2026 ARTICLE # 13

Attorney General’s Limited Authority to Waive Procedural Defects in the Notice of the Planning Board Hearing.

Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32, if the Attorney General finds there to be any defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment of any zoning by-law relating to the form or content of the notice of the Planning Board hearing prescribed by G.L. c. 40A, § 5, or to the manner or dates on which said notice is mailed, posted or published as required by that section, then instead of disapproving the by-law or amendment by reason of any such defect, the Attorney General may elect to proceed under the defect waiver provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32. Under those provisions, the Attorney General is conditionally authorized to waive any such defect.

Defect Determined in Notice of Planning Board Hearing

The Attorney General has determined that the planning board hearing notice relating to the above Article failed to comply with the notice requirements for such hearing established by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. Section 5 provides in part (with emphasis added):

No zoning...by-law or amendment thereto shall be adopted until after the planning board in a...town has...held a public hearing thereon...at which interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard.... Notice of the time and place of such hearing, of the subject matter, sufficient for identification, and of the place where texts and maps thereof may be inspected shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the...town once in each of two successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing, and by posting such notice in a conspicuous place in the...town hall for a period of not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing. Notice of said hearing shall also be sent by mail, postage prepaid to the executive office of housing and livable communities, the regional planning agency, if any, and to the planning board of each abutting city and town.... In cases involving boundary, density or use changes within a district, notice shall be sent to any such nonresident property owner who has filed such a request with the city or town clerk and whose property lies in the district where the change is sought.

Based on the materials submitted to this Office, we have identified the following defect: the Planning Board Hearing notice that was posted in the Town Hall did not include the subject matter of Article 13 (floodplain amendments). For this reason, the 90-day period prescribed for the Attorney General’s review of Article 13 is suspended in accordance with G.L. c. 40, § 32.

Attorney General’s Election to Proceed Under the Waiver Provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32

The Attorney General has elected to proceed under the limited defect waiver authority conferred by G.L. c. 40, § 32.

Suspension of Review of Zoning By-Law Amendments

The 90-day period prescribed by law for the Attorney General’s review of local by-laws is therefore suspended in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32.

Posting and Publication of This Notice

The Town Clerk shall post a true copy of this Notice in a conspicuous place in the Leverett Town Hall for a period of not less than 14 days and shall publish a copy once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Leverett.

Filing of Claim That Defect in Notice Was Misleading or Otherwise Prejudicial

Within 21 days of the date on which this Notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Leverett, any resident of the Town of Leverett, or the owner of any real property in the Town of Leverett or any other party entitled to notice of the planning board hearing may file with the Town Clerk a written statement that the notice defect was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. The statement must include the reasons supporting the claim that the defect in the Planning Board Notice was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. This statement must be actually on file with the Town Clerk not later than 21 days from the date on which this Notice is published in the newspaper.

Town Clerk’s Certification of Compliance with This Notice

After the expiration of the 21-day period, the Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General a true copy of this Notice with a certification of compliance with the publishing and posting requirements of the preceding paragraph, and a certification that either (a) no claim was filed within the 21-day period, or (b) one or more claims were filed within the 21-day period. The Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General true copies of any such claim(s).

Resumption of Attorney General’s Review

Upon receipt of one original copy of this Notice with the Clerk’s certification, the 90-day period provided for the Attorney General’s review under G.L. c. 40, § 32, shall resume. If no claim is made, the Attorney General has the discretion to waive any such defect; if any claim is made, however, the Attorney General may not waive any such defect.

Note: By not filing a claim under this provision, a person shall not be deprived of the right to assert a claim of invalidity arising out of any possible defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment, as provided in G.L. c. 40, § 32, and in G.L. c. 40A, § 5.

Date: August 17, 2026

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

Come on over
to the **Co-op.**





GREENFIELD
Cooperative Bank

NORTHAMPTON
Cooperative Bank

A Division of Greenfield
Cooperative Bank

BestLocalBank.com | 877-682-0334

Doug’s Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785
Fax: (413) 863-0120
FREE ESTIMATES
REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

39 Center Road
Gill, MA 01354
FREE LOANER CARS

Lic #36550-EL1-413-345-1687

ELECTRICIAN
CHRIS M. STRAKOSE

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
ALL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND REPAIRS
EMERGENCY SERVICE

9 SWAMP ROAD
MONTAGUE, MA 01351
EMAIL: CSTRAKOSE.ELEC@GMAIL.COM

FULLY INSUREDFREE CONSULTATION



ELECTIONS from page A1

House vacated last winter by Natalie Blais. Greenfield city council president Lora Wondolowski won by just 98 votes – a margin of 4,350 to 4,252, according to the Associated Press as of press time – over Corinne Coryat, Blais’s former legislative aide.

Votes were still being tallied in certain hilly towns Wednesday morning, but after the final numbers came in Coryat issued a statement conceding a 95-vote loss, thanking her supporters, and congratulating Wondolowski.

“Representing these 18 communities is an extraordinary responsibility,” she wrote, “one I wish her nothing but luck and success in.... [W]hile tonight marks the end of this campaign, it does not mark the end of my commitment to Franklin County or to public service.”

Wondolowski’s strongest showings were in the southern part of Greenfield – the city was split in re-districting – where she won 62.1% of the vote; Colrain, where she won 60.6%, dramatically clinching the election on Wednesday; Leyden, which she won with 59.5%; in Leverett, with 57.9%; and Montague with 55.0%, according to AP figures. She also won in Rowe, Monroe, and Ashfield by smaller margins.

Coryat, meanwhile, came out on top in Whately (67.0%), Heath (63.0%), her own town of Deerfield (58.7%), Benardston (57.0%), and Buckland (56.8%), as well as Charlemont, Hawley, Shelburne, Sunderland, and Conway.

Wondolowski will go on to face an independent candidate, Whately town clerk Amy Lavallee, in the November 3 general election.

Gill and Erving are in the 2nd Franklin and are represented by Susanah Whipps, who did not participate in a party primary this week as she is not enrolled in a party.

Wendell is in the 7th Hampden District, where incumbent Democrat Aaron Saunders was unopposed.

Seat Filled

Wendell voters did, however, have another competitive race: a special election to fill a seat on the town selectboard left vacant since the spring. While both residents who volunteered to run, Chris Kranz and Marina Apostol, were new to the town’s government, Apostol came out on top, 152 votes to 111.

Kranz congratulated Apostol over the townwide listserv on Wednesday, saying the town would be “in good hands.”

“Thank you for your confidence, Chris,” Apostol replied. “It was great getting to know you.”

Wendell town clerk Anna Wetherby reported a 34.6% turnout of registered voters in the local election, and 38.1% in the state primary.

Wherever you venture...
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

SINCE 1888

A.H. Rist

INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Competitive rates and discounts
for all of your insurance needs!

159 Avenue A | Turners Falls | 413.863.4373 | ahrist.com

1890s from page A1

eccentric writer and humorist who helped set up the *Reporter* in 1872, in the infancy of this planned industrial village, returned in 1874 to keep it from going under, edited it for the next 48 years, and then sold it and died – but we’re getting ahead of ourselves.

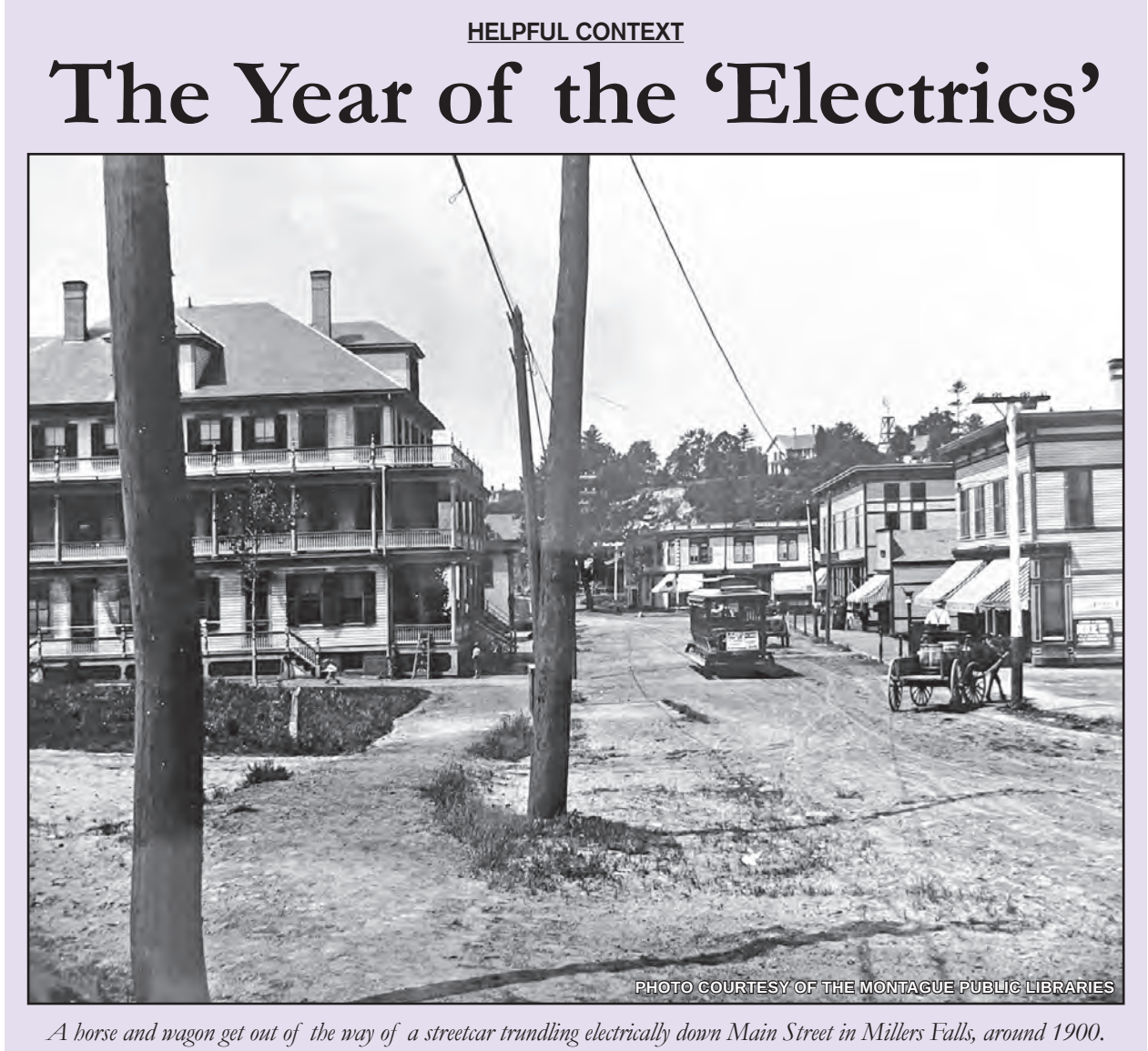
Bagnall, who turned 45 in April of 1895, is the presumed author of most of the text we have excerpted, though some of it was likely written by Antonia J. Stemple, who turned 20 that March.

Whereas Bagnall was from abroad, kind of – an Anglo from Prince Edward Island, getting increasingly vocal about his pride in his heritage as the ravages of the Panic ravaged on – Miss Stemple was born in Turners and had started working for the paper around the age of 15 or 16. In the paper’s later years she would take on much of its weekly management. In 1895, though, Bagnall made most of his money on contracted print jobs rather than the newspaper, and would have been keenly aware his business rested on the fortunes of the town’s industrial anchors.

– \$65 million of it – and then sold the bonds in Europe, soothing the animal spirits of the traders there and allowing him to then convince them to buy up about \$70 million bonds issued by US railroad companies.

The influx of capital had a knock-on effect of speeding up one of the *other* major sources of social dislocation ripping away at weird little Turners Falls: electrification. The increased availability of both credit and electricity, in turn, made a boom in electric streetcars.

It was by no coincidence whatsoever that this was the year Turners Falls would be very suddenly, dramatically, connected to many of its neighboring villages by streetcar. To get caught up on *that* helpful context, the *Montague Reporter* has enlisted the help of Will Quale, who will run you through its main events in the sidebar at left.



A horse and wagon get out of the way of a streetcar trundling electrically down Main Street in Millers Falls, around 1900.

By WILL QUALE

MONTAGUE – An 1892 commission surveying the state’s 20,000 miles of roadway outside of Boston found Montague to have 90 miles of road, all of them dirt and characterized as “very poor.” Greenfield claimed 52 miles of similar dirt roads, plus the only three miles of macadam in Franklin County.

Five times daily, a steam locomotive on a branch line of the Fitchburg Railroad conveyed riders between Greenfield and Turners Falls, but travel between towns and villages was generally slow, challenging, and in some seasons impossible.

Street railways had already been financed and constructed in western Massachusetts. Northampton built one in 1866, Springfield in 1870, and Holyoke in 1884, each featuring cars dragged by horses. In the early 1890s, however, all three converted to electric power. These ran within, but also between, municipalities. For a few decades, Massachusetts would boast more miles of interurban or streetcar rail than of steam railroad – the only state to ever achieve this. By World War I it held the greatest total mileage of any state.

The Athol & Orange Street Railway opened in October 1894, and the Conway Electric Street Railway was chartered that year and built during the winter and spring of 1895, leaving the shire town and Montague flanked with reliable transportation infrastructure. Savvy street railway businessmen such as Harry Pierce of Leominster, backed by eastern capital, were operating at peak productivity in the mid-1890s, and

that winter Pierce made a pitch to build an “electric car road” between Greenfield and Turners Falls.

The marketing and politics required to gain a “franchise” from each of three town selectboards to build on public ways – until 1896, Cheapside was still a part of Deerfield – took three months. (On paper, separate companies were asking to build the eastern and southern rails into Turners Falls, though they represented mostly the same investors, and would merge within a year.)

Once the officials had granted the companies franchises, a genuine, bonafide, electrified, six-car monorail – er, rather, a street railway – took little time to construct. It took just 85 days to build all the rails and electric lines between Greenfield, Turners Falls, Lake Pleasant, and Millers Falls, plus a dam and power plant at Millers Falls, and a large car barn at Montague City, not to mention a bridge across the Connecticut River to Deerfield.

Life here changed overnight. Factory workers could now commute with greater flexibility, and for lower fares, than the steam trains had allowed. Social clubs could take the “electrics” to dances at Lake Pleasant, elegant dinners in Millers Falls, and concerts in downtown Greenfield and Turners Falls, evening outings previously unimaginable. Shops, meanwhile, had competition intensified by the ease of day-tripping beyond one’s own village.

New economic and leisure possibilities abounded, and the two industrial communities at the heart of Franklin County became ever more entwined.

A few other things should be said before you burst through the membrane, Grover-in-*Monster-at-the-End-of-This-Book*-style, to 1895:

One, Bagnall doesn’t suddenly get nicer and cooler because the money is flowing again locally;

Two, while we have actually put more effort this year into snipping out the worst parts, the record of what happened here included murders, suicides, accidental deaths, child abuse and child abandonment, spousal abandonment and infidelity, the aforementioned horrible workplace mutilations and tragedies, sickness, ethnic prejudice, racial prejudice, overt misogyny, misogyny that takes the form of omission, all that stuff. (Hey, it was the catastrophic end of the Gilded Age. It’s a part of our current social world well worth better understanding.)

Three, this entire project is possible entirely because the Montague Public Libraries have preserved and digitized this entire archive, nearly the entire half-century run of the original *Reporter*, and make it available online for free at *montague.advantage-preservation.com*. What a gift, to allow a town to reach so freely and deeply into its own clammy recesses! Thank you.

Four, we have preserved many spelling and syntax errors found in the original text – and thanks again to our fastidious proofreader – and in some instances have fudged it by inserting a location name which was indicated by a headline in the original text, or skipped over a sentence or two without using an ellipsis.

And *five*, this isn’t a faithful reprint; it’s more like arranging flowers, as we wrote in April. The result is really a collaboration between the *Turners Falls* and *Montague Reporters*. We hope you enjoy it – but watch out for the double dip!

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES

53C S. Main St. South Deerfield, MA
295 Amherst Rd. Sunderland, MA

New Location Now Open:
6 Main Road, in Gill
(formerly Jan's Package Store)
Come check us out!

Deerfield: (413) 665-2456
Sunderland: (413) 665-5030
Gill: (413) 863-5730

Fabric & Fiber Craft Supplies

Sewing Studio Classes & Workshops

SHOPPING & DONATIONS

Wed - Sun | 11 am - 5 pm

320 Avenue A.

Turners Falls Ma, 01376

(413) 800-2891

Birch Tree Bodywork

table + chair massage

Roll Model® therapy

self-massage workshops

www.birchtree-bodywork.com

UNNAM
EABLE
BOOKS

“We buy and
sell used and
new books”

Weds 10-6
Thurs 10-6
Fri 10-8
Sat 10-8
Sun 10-6

66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

THE REPORTER'S
CLASSIC BLUE
T-SHIRTS



CAN BE PURCHASED AT
MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

\$20 TO \$40,
SLIDING SCALE

SUPPORT OUR SMALL
NON-PROFIT PAPER

BUY ONE AND WEAR IT
NOTHING'S STOPPING YOU

SIZES XS TO 3XL
STILL AVAILABLE

SUPPORT
LOCAL
INDEPENDENT
JOURNALISM



SEND ANY
UNWANTED PIZZA
COUPONS TO

THE
“MONTAGUE REPORTER,”
177 AVENUE A,
TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

ALSO ACCEPTED
IN PERSON OR
IN MAILBOX

EVENTS

submissions:
events@montaguereporter.org

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Peskeompskut Park,
Turners Falls: *Kwartetto Mambo*. 7 p.m. Free.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *Fool & The World, Draiodor, The Lookout Honeys*. 7 p.m. Free.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Hoonah, Jetties, Oli D Remembers*. 8 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Sleep Destroyer, Feldspar 00000, cliffrose, Amanita*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Creative Writing, Folly of Three, Sexwave*. 9 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club, Montague: *Dopethrone, Monolord, Khemmis, Ecstatic Vision, Antagonizer*, many more. See [rpmfest.org](#). 12 p.m. \$\$.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Canalside Walk: A Sampling of Labor Sentiments*. Revisit the views of local workers, owners, and newspaper editors during late 19th and early 20th century strikes. 4 p.m. Free.

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: Reception for *Sleeping Giant*, new work by Jae Southerland. 5 p.m. Free.

Loot Alley Tiny Stage, Turners Falls: *The Paper City Music Show*. 5 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater Parking Lot, Turners Falls: *Dance at Sunset*, outdoor dance classes hosted by Catherine Grace Studios. Family dance, 6 p.m., adult beginner ballet, 6:45 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton*. 6:30 p.m. No cover.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Corey Laitman & Matthew Thornton, Parchment, Sable Island Pony*. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Tandem Jump*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Music Connection, Turners Falls: *Voices on Vinyl Karaoke*, singing on work-related themes. 7 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Henderson Blues Band*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Couchboy, Moosi & The Dolls, Snowglobe Almanac, Rumyn*. 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, Rebirth Brass Band*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*. SNAP accepted. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *WeMailCoconuts Annual Retreat and Open House*. Immersive art experience. Crafts, yard games, food and beverages. For all ages. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free.

Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club, Montague: *High On Fire, Acid Witch, Castle, Dysentery, Leather Lung*, many more. See [rpmfest.org](#). 12 p.m. \$.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Keith Paper Mill Strike*. Learn about the 90 women and eight men who struck at the local mill in 1937. 2 p.m. Free.

Water Street Barn, Shelburne Falls: *Psychedelic Farm Girls*. 7 p.m. By donation.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Hildaland*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Big D & the Kids Table, Matamoska!*. 8 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *The Devil Makes Three, DiTrani Brothers*. 8 p.m. \$.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Jacob Augustine*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Belshazzar, Retained Surgical Instrument, Dishpit, Jessica Beck*. 9:30 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club, Montague: *Dwarves, Whores, Void, Squid Pisser, Goblet, Miracle Blood, Nott, Grip Bite*, many more. See [rpmfest.org](#). 12 p.m. \$.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *First Sunday Word, poetry readings*. Benefit for the LAVA Center. 12 p.m. Free.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Elm Chamber Ensemble*. 4 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Nico Soffiato, Zach Layton, Hamir Atwal trio*. 7 p.m. \$.

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Sierra Ferrell, The Brudi Brothers*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Twang Club*, country vinyl with DJ Brewfoot. 8 p.m. No cover.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tech Help for Seniors*. Sign up at [coa@leverett.ma.us](#). 3 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 8 p.m. No cover.

The Drake, Amherst: *David Liebe Hart, Perennial, Radical Joy*. 8 p.m. \$.



Alela Diane, a standout of the '00s "freak folk" wave, has shown staying power and continues to find new listeners. Touring in support of her ninth album, she stops in Northampton next Thursday.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. 10 a.m. Free.

Downtown Greenfield: *Franklin County Fair Parade*. 5 p.m. \$.

Forbes Library Lawn, Northampton: *William Hooker, Mal Devisa*. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Protecting Your Digital Legacy*, with digital navigator Rich Vaden. Registration encouraged. 6 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Live Edge Comedy Club* with Darren Rivera and Joe Laur. Discussion follows. 7 p.m. \$.

Ethel Barn, Southampton: *Layaali Arabic Music Trio*. To reserve seats, RSVP to [perlsteinj@protonmail.com](#). 7 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Alela Diane, Alex Rose*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Maladaptive, Sludge Inc., Kim Chin-Gibbons*. 9 p.m. No cover.

EXHIBITS

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: *Sleeping Giant*, new work by Jae Southerland. Through September, with a reception this Friday, September 4 at 5 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Stitched Through the Seven Sisters*. Kerry St. Laurent layers matte hot press photo prints with gouache, ink, and colored pencil stitching. Through September.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Falling in Love with Rainbow Valley*, art by Ezra Wilde. Through October, with a reception next Tuesday, September 8 at 5 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Susan Valentine*, paintings; *David Pozar*, woodworking; *The Perennials*, oil painting group exhibit. Through September with a reception this Sunday, September 6 at 3 p.m.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Carnival Studies*, Polaroid instant photos of carnival scenes. September 11 to October 18, with a reception Friday, September 11 at 5 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Christine Mirabal: Escape!* Abstract, nature-inspired paintings. Through September, with a reception this Saturday, September 5 at 11 a.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Minor Cosmologies* by Eva Lin Fahey, through September.

Greenfield Community TV, Greenfield: *slow, down river*, photographs of the Connecticut River by Alix Kaplan, through September.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Bernardston: *A Touch of Whimsy*, fanciful and humorous art, through September.

Sunderland Library, Sunderland: *Embrace the Wrinkles*, collages by Sarah Gately, through October.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Common Threads*, abstract art in multiple mediums by Martha Braun and Matthew Simons. Through September 26 with a reception this Friday, September 4 at 5 p.m.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Small Works*, member art show, through September.

New England Visionary Art Museum, Northampton: *Unleashed: Following Imaginings*, textile hangings and soft sculpture by Jacqueline Strauss. Through September, with a reception Friday, September 11 at 6 p.m.

CALL FOR ART

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Community Art Show*. This year's themes are "home" and "resilience." Submit up to three pieces of wall-hung art; no free-standing sculpture. \$20 fee if accepted; show in November and December. Apply by September 18 at [tinyurl.com/LAVAccommart](#).

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

SLATE ROOF
REPAIR AND RESTORATION

Inspections Leaks Valley Work Chimney Flashings
Ridge Caps Snow Guards Vent Pipes

Willis McCumber

(857) 244-3591 mccumberoddjobs.com

Based in Turners Falls

French King
Restaurant & Motel

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
FRIDAY – 8 A.M TO 2 P.M.
SATURDAY & SUNDAY – 7 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

DINNER
FRIDAY & SATURDAY – 4:30 TO 9:30 P.M.

CALL TO CONFIRM: (413) 423-3328



 FEDERAL STREET BOOKS

8 Federal Street, Greenfield
federalstreetbooks.com

CALENDAR

looking forward...

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Skunks*. For ages 3 to 6. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Franklin County Fair*. 3 p.m. \$.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Square Dance* with *Ida Mae Specker Band*, *Sarah Gibson* calling. Jammers welcome. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Jenny Burtis Duo*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *How to Train Your Dragon* (2025). Live animal presentation with Reptile Nook, 7 p.m.; movie at 8 p.m. Free.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *A Day Without Love*, *Olivia Nied*, *Carly Lar*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Recent History*, Weezer tribute; *Saliba*. 8 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Carol Devine & The Mighty Fine*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *David Liebe Hart*, *McAsh*, *Piss Sipper Lvl 6 Goblin Wizard*. 8:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Franklin County Fair*. 8 a.m. \$.

Nova Motorcycles, Turners Falls: *Soapbox Build Party*. See tinyurl.com/boxrace for details. 10 a.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*. SNAP accepted. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Diemand Farm, Wendell: *90th Anniversary Celebration*. Farm tours, demonstrations, food prepared onsite, craft fair, family-friendly activities “designed to reflect both the farm’s history and its present-day operations.” 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Mystra Ooze Fest*. 1 p.m. By donation.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *It’s Weird Duck Season: Waterfowl of the Connecticut River*. Learn from ornithologist Chad Witko how to identify migrating ducks, geese, and swans. 2 p.m. Free.

The Drake, Amherst: *Gyedu-Blay Ambolley & His Sekondi Band*. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Rival Galaxies*, *Gloons*, *Punk Flamungo*. 7 p.m. \$.

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Slavic Soul Party*. 7 p.m. \$.

Northampton Center for the Arts, Northampton: *Terry Jenoure Septet*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Reverend Horton Heat*, *Messer Chups*. 8 p.m. \$.

Midnight’s, Brattleboro: *Deerest*, *Sludge Inc.*, *Kim Chin-Gibbons*. 8 p.m. \$.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Great Falls Discovery Center is offering back-to-back presentations on Turners Falls labor history: a walking tour this Friday, September 4 at 4 p.m., and at 2 p.m. Saturday, a presentation on the 1937 Keith Paper Mill strike.

Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Hike*. Moderate level. Register at www.bookeo.com/northfield. 1 p.m. Free.

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Local Podcasting for Seniors by Seniors*, with podcaster Henry Balzarini. Registration encouraged. 6 p.m. Free.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Max Creek*, *Leftover Salmon*, *Consider the Source*, *The Floozies*, many more. 10:15 a.m. \$\$.

Riverview Picnic Area, Northfield: *Geology Cruise* with Professor Richard Little. Register at bookeo.com/northfield. 11 a.m. \$.

Riverview Picnic Area, Northfield: *Geology Cruise* with Professor Richard Little. Register at bookeo.com/northfield. 1:15 p.m. \$.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Abdul Baki & Root Fiyah*, *Shanti Starr & the Afro-Reggae All Stars*, *Mbo Lette*, *Ras Iba & Amandla Band*, *The Boston JA Crew*, family activities, more. 4 p.m. Free.

Mount Toby Friends Meeting, Leverett: *Emma’s Revolution*. 4 p.m. \$.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Damag3*, *Film & Gender*, *K.O. Queen*, *Sapien Joyride*, *Abbatia*, more. Masks req’d. Benefit for Palestinian Children’s Relief Fund. 4 p.m. \$.

Ashfield Town Hall, Ashfield. Short films, *Ashfield Community Band*, awards presentation, etc. See ashfieldfilmfest.org for details, tickets. 5:30 p.m. \$.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Edite Cunha*, *Robin Lippincott*, *P.J. Melton*, *Pamela Mandell*. Readings. 6 p.m. Free.

Hutghi’s, Westfield: *Stäläg 13*, *Urban Waste*, *Lost Generation*, *Burn Kit*, *Tree*, *Grip Bite*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Palladium, Worcester: *Dying Fetus*, *Left to Suffer*, *Sanguisugabogg*, *Crowbar*, *Deterioration*. 6:30 p.m. \$\$.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *We Are the People in the Room*. Play, with optional audience participation; discussion and reception follow. 7 p.m. \$.

Institute for Musical Arts, Goshen: *Isle of Klezbos*. 7 p.m. \$.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Highway 91*. Benefit for Old Home Day. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *Alice Cooper*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

Vermont Jazz Center, Brattleboro: *Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio d’Eté*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *GCB*, *Muda! Fleafriends*, *Sully Barnes*. 9:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Snakes*. For ages 3 to 6. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Dirtwire*, *Honeycomb*, *The Broken Hearts*, *Minka*, many more. 12 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Scott Hsu*. 7 p.m. \$.

Ashfield Town Hall, Ashfield: Documentary, *Girl Climber* (2025), with panel discussion. More details at ashfieldfilmfest.org. 7 p.m. \$.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Letters of Marque*, *Tree*, *Trophy Hunt*, *Daisy Chain*, more. Masks req’d. Benefit for Palestinian Children’s Relief Fund. 7 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *Jessie Murph*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Space Bar*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Big E Court of Honor Stage, West Springfield: *Uncle Kracker*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lyle Hutchins*, *Eve Pierce*. 9:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*. SNAP accepted. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Source to Sea Cleanup*. 10 a.m. Free.

Northampton Center for the Arts, Northampton: *Terry Jenoure Septet*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Reverend Horton Heat*, *Messer Chups*. 8 p.m. \$.

Midnight’s, Brattleboro: *Deerest*, *Sludge Inc.*, *Kim Chin-Gibbons*. 8 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Graham Nash*. 8 p.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Son Lux*. 8 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Franklin County Fair*. 8 a.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Dilemastronauta y la Tripulación Cosmica*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Midnight’s, Brattleboro: *Bellringer*, *Slow Pony*, *DiTrani Brothers*. 8 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Rockridge Community Room, Northampton: Open rehearsals for *Valley Jazz Voices*. 7 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tech Help for Seniors*. Sign up at coa@leverett.ma.us. 3 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Honoring Elders: Sylvia and Tom Wetherby*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Our Lady of Peace Church, Turners Falls: *Navigating an AI World*, presentation by College of the Holy Cross professor Jeffrey C. Dixon. 7 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown & Friends*. 8 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. 10 a.m. Free.

looking forward...

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Crimson Blue*, *Holy Basil*. 5 p.m. By donation.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *John Andrews and the Yawns*, *Ruby of Thanks*, *Magick Lantern*. 7 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: River Otters*. For ages 3 to 6. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Various venues, Northampton: *William Hill III*, *Expandable Brass Band*, *Hot Club of New England*, *Sarah Hanahan Quartet*, many more. Details at northamptonjazzfest.org. 11 a.m. Free.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *deadmau5*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Soapbox Races*. 12 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Mirah*, *Evan Greer*, *All Feels*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Nova Lot, Turners Falls: *Great Ghouls Night Market*. 5 to 9 p.m. Free.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Lucinda Williams*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Just Roots, Greenfield: *Celebration Brass Band*, barn dance, food, silent auction. Fundraiser for affordable farm shares, nutrition support. 7 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Four Roads to Freedom*. Black Civil Rights anthems, Irish rebel music, Latin American Nueva Canción, Yiddish labor songs. 7 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Vapors of Morphine*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

De La Luz, Holyoke: *Los Gaiteros de San Jacinto*, *Fruko*, *Carmelo Torres*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bent Light*, *Creative Writing*, *Paper Jays*. 9:30 p.m. \$.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

Get FREE Winserts

Lower your heating bills by up to 50% with custom, reusable interior window inserts.



THE BENEFITS:

- Save Energy & Money
- Stop Window Drafts
- No Damage to Frames



Available to income-eligible Montague households.
For info: Winserts@Montague-ma.gov or scan QR Code

WITH JOHN PAGANETTI

NORTHFIELD, MA

413.248.3537

VERY SERIOUS MASSAGE.com

WOODCAT

CONSTRUCTION LLC

RENOVATIONS & NEW CONSTRUCTIONS

"We don't mind old buildings."

info@woodcat.co / [ig: woodcat_builds](https://www.instagram.com/woodcat_builds) / 413 200 8766

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

DIEMAND FARM
> 90th <
ANNIVERSARY
SAT • SEPT 12 • 10AM-2PM
FREE ENTRY
FOOD • MUSIC • TOURS ★ [THEDIEMANDFARM.COM](http://thediemandfarm.com) ★

Serving Home Grown
Farm-inspired Food & Drink

H & O

44 Hope Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
 Ph 413 774 3150 | hopeandolive.com

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900
1900-2026 * Our 126th Year

COUTURE BROS.

Christian S. Couture, President

★ Commercial
 ★ Residential
 ★ Industrial

Tel: (413) 863-4346 Fax: (413) 863-3740
 400 Avenue A - PO Box 270 - Turners Falls, MA 01376
www.couturebros.com | HIC Lic. 100326

THE VOO 78 3rd St T-F-M-A

the deck is open

new summer menu

HOURS/SPECIALS ORDER ONLINE: thevoo.net

ACT
A Custom Touch
 BUILDING SOLUTIONS

Tony Tucker (413) 863-4833
acustomtouch@comcast.net

SMART
 SAFE MERCURY AMALGAM REMOVAL TECHNIQUE

www.theSMARTchoice.com
 IAOMT

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP
 GREEN FIELDS MARKET - MCCUSKER'S MARKET

Stomach rumbling?
 Feeling a mite **peckish**?
 Getting downright **HANGRY**?
 Stop by Green Fields Market for oodles of scrumptious hot & cold options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner!

franklincommunity.coop
 Green Fields Market • 144 Main St. • Greenfield

MYSTERY TRAIN AMHERST

BUY / SELL / TRADE
 MUSIC / MOVIES / BOOKS
 WE BUY RECORDS

178A N Pleasant
 413-253-4776

Curbside Compost Collection

Starting at \$17 per month

Serving Greenfield, Montague, Shelburne Falls, and Sunderland

Scan the code to sign up today!

WE ALSO MAKE AND SELL WORM CASTINGS! GREAT FOR HOUSEPLANTS, HOME GARDENS, SEED STARTS, SOIL MIXES

www.thecompostcooperative.com

Turners Falls Pizza House

Family Owned & Operated
 Serving Turners Falls area for 40 Years
 Dave Argy, Family & Staff

PIZZA, GRINDERS, DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS

www.turnersfallspizza.com
 119 Avenue A, Turners Falls ♦ (413) 863-8000

Montague Neighbors
 Supporting One Another

Become a member! To learn more, volunteer, or make a donation, go to www.montaguevillages.org

TURN IT UP! **MUSIC & MOVIES** buy and sell

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

UPINNGIL

TUE-SAT 4-9

Peter Waters Painting Services

Interior/Exterior
 Custom Residential
 Fully Insured

Office: 978-544-6534
 Cell: 413-461-5172
 Wendell, MA
peterjwaters88@gmail.com

THE Y 175 **NO PLACE**

Try Something New

PLACE

Like This Place

Franklin County's YMCA | 451 Main St, Greenfield | your-y.org

UPINNGIL

Bakery Open Year Round!
 411 MAIN ROAD, GILL
 OPEN 7 DAYS, 8 AM - 7 PM
 413-863-4431
WWW.UPINNGIL.COM

Food You Need from the Land You Love

Harriet Paine
 REALTOR®

C (413) 475-4203
 O (413) 223-1367

harriet@cohnandcompany.com
cohnandcompany.com

117 Main Street
 Greenfield, MA 01301

sunbug solar | **A ReVision Energy Company** Certified B Corporation

Together, we're making life better by building a just and equitable electric future.

Get Started at revisionenergy.com

Connect With Our Team:
hello@revisionenergy.com • 978.308.9041

Reil CLEANING SERVICES Improve Air Quality & Heating/Cooling Efficiency

DUCT CLEANING

Free Video Inspections - Log On To See It
 Air Duct • Baseboard • Dryer Vent Cleaning

WHAT'S IN YOUR VENTS?!?!?

Ed Terault, Owner
 Call 413.422.1192 or visit www.REILCLEAN.com

SALMON FALLS WEALTH ADVISORS

Michael S. Johnson
 Associate Director
 Senior Wealth Advisor

413.387.9341
michael.s.johnson1@pl.com
salmonfallswealth.com
 50 State Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC.

Dennis L. Booska
 Dennis L. Booska, Jr. Phone & Fax 413-863-3690

Booska's Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member The Flooring Network.

Tile Lino Carpet

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.
 "Rock solid service with level advice"

Complete Masonry Supply
 Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block & more.

298 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 413-863-4322
www.shanahansupply.com

The Turners Falls Reporter

1895 on the Verge

a montague reporter anthology

CECIL T. BAGNALL, Editor and Proprietor,
ANTONIA J. STEMPLE, Editorial and Business Assistant.

January 2

The sleighing is now pretty good through the country, and the farmers are busy hauling wood and timber.

The icemen are getting ready to cut ice, as the ice on the river is of good thickness.

A large audience gathered at Rugg’s hall, Montague City, on Christmas eve, to witness the distribution of presents from the Christmas tree. The entire programme, with the exception of one greeting song, sung by Mr Lapoint, was given by the children, who maintained the high order of merit that has always characterized the little people.

Although hard times are felt most keenly in manufacturing villages, Turners Falls has been blessed with a fair degree of prosperity the past year, largely on account of the new Keith Mill, which has been in contemplation and under construction for a couple of years, and now is drawing so near completion as to make its existence felt in a marked degree in the community.

Beginning on the main building a couple of years ago, work progressed rather slowly during the hard times, and the year just closed must be given most of the credit for the expenditure of some \$250,000, for which a mill has been erected that has no superior, in detail and in general, in any part of the country, and the writer is quite familiar with paper mill plants.

The Montague Paper Company has spent some \$35,000 or \$40,000 in repairs, and in bringing their machinery up to date, so as to be able to hold their own safely in the fierce strife for business which the hard times have been the means of augmenting.

The Turners Falls Paper Co. put up an addition to their mill, 30 by 45 feet, and two stories high, of brick, to give them more room in their manufacturing operations, especially in screening their wood pulp, having put in new apparatus for this purpose. The cost was kept under \$5,000.

The Turners Falls Lumber Co. spent several hundred dollars in putting in a system of automatic sprinklers for fire protection, but otherwise made no extensions.

The New England Fibre Company increased their plant by the addition of a new digester, putting up a new stock house and one small building for office use, giving them considerable more room for manufacturing purposes.

Two of the finest residences that have been erected in Turners Falls for a long time are those of Philip and Jacob Jacobus on Prospect and Central streets, and are two as comfortable homes as are to be found in the town, convenient in arrangement and elegant in their appointments and furnishings. The houses

are twins from the first brick to the last nail, and when we describe one we describe both to the utmost detail.

The selectmen of Gill have had Civil Engineer C.W. Clapp at work preparing plans and profile of the road from the suspension bridge through the village of Riverside, and thence by the “straits” road toward Gill Center. A petition is to be presented to have the road established as a State highway. The line is about two miles in length.

Why don’t the town of Montague petition for a state road. Some one suggests a section across the plains towards Montague, to connect with the state road that will eventually be built towards Leverett. Another suggests the selection of the much traveled road between the Montague City bridge and Turners Falls.

The two recent deaths at the Wendell town farm have reduced the number of inmates to three, an unusually small number.

The farmers are getting a taste of “free trade” in a way they don’t like. All winter long the farmers used to be busy bringing in ties to all the railroad stations, earning usually 45 cents for each chestnut tie sold. This year the railroads are buying few or none at all, locally, because they can now go to Canada and get good cedar ties delivered to their road for 28 cents each.

The local grocers have this morning received telegrams announcing the great advance in price of Florida oranges since the destructive frosts. The prices have trebled, and no fruit will be in the market at any price in a month or two.

C.P. Wise has taken the agency for B.F. Miner’s pure flavoring extracts and Toiletene, sold in this village for several years by Mr. Miner.

When the new leaf is turned over this year, we hope Turners Falls as a community will have come to a realizing sense that it doesn’t pay anybody to owe his neighbor any longer than the law allows. There is no more need of it than a cat has need of two tails – not even a Kilkenny cat. Getting in debt is but a habit, and remaining in debt an unpardonable sin. Take the hardest times the village ever saw, in 1873-4, and the merchants were asked to give less without pay than to-day by fifty per cent. Why? Because the era of extravagance had not yet set in, when the \$1.50 a day man had not evolved a \$3.00 a day appetite, nor the honest shirt-sleeved, overalled mechanic the claw hammer coat inconsistency for country dancing parties. We hope the new leaf will hold the mirror up to nature, and show the folly – the crime – of trying to cultivate sickly, exotic fashions, tastes and extravagances in the worthy and meritorious

yet simple factory village life, to the end that all the people may live within their means, honored and respected by all, with the certain assurance of peace and contentment during life for themselves, and dude overcoats and dress suits, seal skin garments and diamonds for their posterity.

Nine-tenths of our people are earnest toilers for bread-and-butter but unfortunately we have quite a sprinkling who persist in trying to live by their wits – although nature gave them scant allowance. There was a time in this valley, when drones or objectionable people attempted to fasten themselves on the community, town meetings would be called to take proper steps to effectually rid the places of the obnoxious people. A little of the old Puritan sense in operation at the present time would tend to make more wholesome communities, and lessen the burdens of the hard-working laboring man. Why not put the weeders at work?

January 9

Schools opened yesterday after a two weeks’ vacation.

Christian Rouss, aged about seven years, had a leg broken while coasting last week.

The Greenfield Gazette has some new light on hospital matters that makes its utterances extremely funny to those who know more on the subject than may be learned from the editorial columns of that wonderfully consistent “moulder of public opinion.” If the Gazette would only print a key to the peculiarly songful yet weird enigmas that appear with such plodding regularity on the editorial page, the average reader might be able to peruse its columns without a feeling of the influence of some mysterious hoodoo power passing over him. The reference to Turners Falls is as puzzling as it well could be. What is meant, the spirits of the air may know. This village declined to have anything to do with the hospital scheme because it was not likely to be shaped up to the satisfaction of prudent business men, and none here felt under obligation to play second fiddle to any of Greenfield’s peculiar whims.



The St. Mary’s Temperance society will give a social dance at their hall on Friday evening, Jan. 11.

The Montague Thief Detecting society will hold its annual meeting at Williams’ hotel in Montague, on Monday evening, Jan. 14. The business meeting which will

be held at 7.30 o’clock, will be followed by a supper free to members of the society and their wives.

Annual sale and chicken pie supper will be given by the ladies of the Baptist church on Tuesday evening, Jan. 15. All are cordially invited.

A fire escape has been put on Fay’s block.

January 16

A few capitalists from the cities came up to Turners Falls and Greenfield, last week, to try to convince the citizens of the two towns that they should be hitched together with an artificial thunder-bolt – by Jove. They sat behind a pair of thoughtful looking horses, and drove over the Montague City route, which now appears the only feasible one for charter purposes. They – the capitalists, not the very thoughtful-looking horses – talked with financial suns in both villages, and ran against no opposition and little cash. When they have decided to come into the game, make their discards, and call-for pasteboards, we shall all know the strength of the hands before the draw. Until these preliminaries are settled the public may continue to go afoot.

President B.N. Farren of the Montague Paper Company is preparing to sail at once for Europe, in hope that the change of scene and air may help lift from his heart the great sorrow that came with the passing away of his beautiful daughter.

Count M. Harry Cassell of Rome, Italy, was a guest of Mr. Farren at Montague City, last week. The count is chamberlain to the Pope, is an accomplished scholar, of great wealth, and an intelligent traveller who has covered the four continents studiously, much of the time with his friend Mr. Farren, whom he has always found a congenial associate. The count will return to Rome in a few weeks, quitting his study of America almost reluctantly, on account of its never ending variety and pleasure.

The Turners Falls paper company is putting in a new water-wheel made by the Chase turbine company of Orange.

The sulphate ore company at Rowe is buying large quantities of timber in the log for use as props, platform stayers, etc., in and around the mine and buildings. The main shaft is now over 500 feet in depth. The company furnishes employment to a large number of men.

Sportsmen in the hill towns of western Franklin have been very successful this season. Seventeen foxes have been caught at Hawley and five at Rowe. Alonzo Davenport has caught 12 foxes at Heath, while Fred Churchill of

ACCOUNTS FOR SALE,
CHEAP.

We have accounts against hundreds of parties who claim they are perfectly good for their debts, but from whom we cannot collect easily. These accounts we shall offer for sale at a large discount from their face value, for spot cash, or will entertain bids for the same from such as desire to speculate in this kind of property. We have no time to attend to their collection ourselves.

Thomas J. Carey, Jr., Gill.
Subscription to Reporter, \$21.00
Greenfield Chemical Works,
Ordered by Carl Schuster
For advertising, \$3.25
Ernest Bankwitz, East Bridgeport, Conn.,
Subscription to Reporter, \$7.50
Miss Delma Cloutier,
Subscription to Reporter, \$4.00
D. W. Bugbee, Ludlow, Vt.,
Subscription to Reporter, \$1.00
Other accounts will be advertised from time to time, as we desire to turn as many as possible of our book accounts into cash.

Address,
CECIL T. BAGNALL,
Proprietor of Reporter,
Turners Falls, Mass.

the same town reports his catch at 21. Chester Fairbanks of East Charlemont comes to the fore with 39 foxes, 76 skunks, four coons, two mink and one wild cat.

The horse distemper seems to be on the increase.

The young element is enjoying itself by coasting down the L street hill, and several accidents have already been narrowly averted.

The whist clubs of this village enjoyed a sleigh-ride to Landlord Hayden’s, on Thursday, returning some time after midnight, fortified with a toothsome supper.

The Germania cornet band has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Director, Albert Midie; president and manager, Edw. P. March; secretary and treasurer, Martin Luippold, Trustees, Edw. P. March, Martin Neipp.

Mrs. Almira Pease displayed her family album at the Unitarian church on Thursday evening, to a large gathering which fully enjoyed the living pictures of “ye good old days.” Sister Jane, the twins, the poetess, the parson and his wife were there, and were greeted with much laughter. After the pictures had been shown and the history of each duly recited, a musicale followed in which all the young ladies participating were attired in old-time costumes, so that the audience seemed for a time to live in the days of old for which some of us sigh when we grow discontented with our modern civilization.

Cornelious Murphy, while hunting the other day, got lost in the fog, but for the use of his compass he would have perished and never found his way home.

John E. Hooper, 21, a student at the Mount Hermon school, was on Monday pronounced insane by two physicians and was committed to the Northampton asylum

by Judge Conant. Hooper is in his third year at the school. He was a bright student, but has been eccentric for some time. It was considered dangerous to allow him to remain longer at the school.

Joseph White and Charles Reynolds, two travelling vagabonds, were sent up for sixty days each on the charge of vagrancy, Monday. They were looking for work and rum, and only succeeded in finding the latter.

Fifty-four tramps were lodged at the vagabond retreat last month.

With wages as good today they have been in all ordinary times, the continual chatter about hard times heard from the mouths of the well-employed has puzzled the most thoughtful, and a hundred reasons for the seeming delusion have been advanced. Yet every growler has been attacked but the right one. He is the innocent looking white pitcher that goes often to the hell and is never broken, unlike his proverbial brother, who goes to the virtuous place with a better spelled name. The growler has grown up to be a member of many families that were once happy, contented and prosperous. He is toted from the beer saloon to the kitchen by half clad children, in broad daylight, lugged under the shawls of women who conceive children in drunkenness, and bear them in sottishness, and is carried right into the mills every day in the dinner pails that are supposed to contain the nourishing food for the working-man. Since it has become the custom for the working-man to abstract rum-money from his pay envelope weekly, substitute new figures that may lie to his wife, a custom that has become a standing bar-room “joke,” it should not be such a hard matter to determine the cause of so much suffering

MME. A. RUPPERT'S
FACE BLEACH



Mme. A. Ruppert says: "I appreciate the fact that there are over thousands of ladies in the United States who would like to try my Face Bleach, but have been kept from doing so on account of price, which is \$2.00 per bottle, or 12 bottles, \$24.00, together \$24.00. In order that all may have an opportunity, I will sell every color wash, toilet soap, and face cream living outside of city, in any part of the world, I will send it safely packed, plus wrapper, all charges prepaid, for 10c, silver or nickel."

In every case of freckles, pimples, moles, saltiness, blackheads, acne, eczema, ointment or roughness, or any disfigurement or disease of the skin, and wrinkles (not caused by facial expression) Face Bleach restores absolutely. It does not cover up, or camouflage, but is a cure. Address all communications or call on MRS. A. RUPPERT, 10, No. 8 East 12th Street, New York City. All my preparations, samples, bottles, etc., can be had at regular prices from my local agents.

MARBLE & GILBERT,
 Turners Falls, Mass.

FARMS! FARMS!!
FARMS IN GILL.

Cottage in Riverside, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land. Nearly new. Fine residence in Montague City. New. Business Block, with 4400 ft. land, on Second street. Good investment. Nice little cottage at South end. Desirable residence on Maple street. In fact, anything you want. **EASY PAYMENTS.** Call and see me.

R. L. ATHERTON,
 Turners Falls.

PURE FLAVORING EXTRACTS,
 For Sale By
C. P. WISE.

I have taken the agency for Miner's "Toiletine" and Flavoring Extracts, Jamaica Ginger, Sea Foam, Furniture Polish. These goods have been sold in this town for several years by Mr. Miner. Toiletine for Toilet, Bath, Nursery, Sick Room. A general household remedy. **35¢ All goods warranted, or money refunded.**

C. P. WISE,
 38 SECOND ST. TURNERS FALLS.

Lard . . . Compound

The equal of Lard in every respect. Cannot be told from pure lard in looks.

10 lb. Pails, 70c.
 10 lb. Pails Pure Lard, \$1.
 10 lb. Pails Cottolene, 90c.
 Beef Tongues, 10c. per lb.

We are headquarters for all kinds of

SEA FOOD.

Shad, Live and Boiled Lobsters every day!
Fresh-opened Clams, 25c. per quart.

BURT'S Market,
 GREENFIELD, TURNERS FALLS,
 Telephone, No. 474. Telephone No. 264

CHEAP BUGGY FOR SALE. Enquire of
C. A. DAVIS,
Second Street.

THAT'S QUEER!



You say a collar and cuff that are waterproof?
 Yes.
 And perspiration will not affect them?
 Yes.
 And when dirty you need only wipe them off with a wet cloth or sponge?
 Yes.
 Wonderful! How are they made?
 A linen collar covered on both sides with waterproof "CELLULOID." Looks exactly like a linen collar.
 Is it the only waterproof collar and cuff made?
 No, but it is the only one made with the linen interlining and consequently the only one that can give entire satisfaction, because it is the best.
 How can I know that I get the right kind?
 Because every piece is stamped as follows:

TRADE MARK.
CELLULOID
 MARK.

Inquire for that and refuse anything else, or you will be disappointed.
 Suppose my dealer does not have them?
 He probably has, but if not, send direct to us, enclosing amount. Collars 25c., Cuffs 50c. State size, and whether collar wanted is stand-up or turned-down.

THE CELLULOID COMPANY,
 427-29 Broadway, NEW YORK.

and exasperating shiftlessness. The drink habit in working men's families, from mother down to children, has increased in this village at an alarming rate, and missionary work is demanded in this direction before much can be done to purify the stagnant pool that has settled down among us and around our seven pretentious churches.

January 23

We are assured by the truthful newspapers that we shall enjoy the luxury of the trolley between here and Greenfield before midsummer. The aforesaid truthful newspapers have made many other statements in this connection that will not stand the test of ordinary truth-telling.

But all rainbow-chasing aside, the majority of our people are extremely well pleased at the prospect of an outlet and inlet at all reasonable hours of the day. We are fenced away from the world at times when the barriers appear unbearable, and one man who was interviewed challenged the interviewer to name a civilized community of over 5000 population, with any pretense to civilization, that has the gates closed on it at five o'clock every afternoon to remain closed for 13 hours to all who have not horses or who refuse to pay a dollar for the privilege of escaping to the nearest open railroad station. Our isolation has been a great punishment to many of our business men, and no little inconvenience to all residents.

So far as we have learned there is no active opposition to the electric road, now that it is proposed to come by the way of Montague City; but one thing must be understood. This scheme is something not at all of our own choosing; it is promoted entirely by outsiders who have no more care for our welfare than we have for theirs. The promoters make their headquarters in Greenfield, are driven about by a man who positively refuses to give employment to a man if he continues to live in Turners Falls, and all of the local directors are men who are antagonistic to Turners Falls when it comes to the rivalry of business. While we should welcome with all our might all the electric railways that would not be a positive menace to our well-being, it behooves us to keep our eyes peeled all the time when we take any chances in the other fellow's game. It may be our business salvation, and as free as the salvation of Christianity, but there is just one time when it is no breach of the most elastic etiquette to look a gift horse in the mouth, and that is when a jockey makes the gift!

Before the town of Montague consents to allow its territory to be invaded by the trolley, all of our most thoughtful business men and shrewdest lawyers must give the affair their deepest attention. In our anxiety to jump at a tempting bait, we must be thoroughly convinced that the barb is not loaded for a species of the finny tribe proverbial for its gullibility. The town of Montague should grant no railway charter to be used for the sole purpose of gambling, as is too often the case, but grant the rights to such as have the capital and can guarantee the immediate and faithful construction of the road and its proper equipment. The people are sick of being made

the tools of promoters who sell rights by aid of the map and population schedules. Before any charter is granted to any one by this town, it would be well to know with some degree of certainty with what ease the Connecticut river may be spanned, and what rights the old toll bridge company, yet in existence, has that might be asserted in an unsuspecting moment.

With an electric railroad in operation, the enterprising merchants of Turners Falls need have no fear of the competition of the Greenfield shop-keepers. Our merchants, as a rule, can hold their own against all competition, but our half dead and alive fellows will go to the wall as certain as water will run down hill. An electric railroad would of necessity stimulate all our up-to-date people, and healthful competition must be looked for, and if business in any line became overcrowded a survival of the fittest would right up matters.

The officers of the American Legion of Honor will be installed by District Deputy Brown next Monday evening. All members are requested to be present.

Eugene Hastings, 19, was before Justice Dana, last week, charged with stealing meal and bran valued at \$3 from Mr. Gladden of Gill. He was fined \$10.

The Gill Protective society will hold a meeting at Riverside hall on Wednesday evening, Jan. 30, at 7.30 o'clock. After the meeting a supper will be served by the Home Aid society for 25 cents per plate. The protecting society was formed to protect its members from the petty thieving and trespassing from which they have suffered greatly in the past, and every member of the society is urged to be present at the meeting.

Dwight Holden, the well-known Greenfield carpenter, says that two years ago he was employed by the Greenfield selectmen to do certain work on the lower suspension bridge, and that the result of his investigations convinced him the bridge must be decidedly unsafe. He says that almost all the joists on the Greenfield side underneath the planking are rotten and have no strength, and has no doubt that some day, if the bridge is not properly repaired, a heavily loaded team will go through the bridge and down to the water fifty feet below. Mr. Holden goes several miles out of his way in coming to Turners Falls, even when driving with a single team, rather than cross the bridge. One cause of the rotting of the timbers is that surface water runs down the hill on the Greenfield side and rests on the bridge. Several Greenfield people now take the Montague City bridge to get across the river.

A great deal of nonsense is written about the building up of Montague City through the aid of an electric railroad. People do not build houses with no one to live in them. We have now more houses than tenants can be found to occupy, and there is land without end in this village not yet built on. The only reason why Turners Falls has a single inhabitant is because manufacturing is done here, and labor has a market. Wipe the factories out of existence, and inside of one year, brick blocks on our main streets wouldn't be worth ten cents apiece.

January 30

Mr. B.N. Farren, president of the Montague Paper Co. and the Turners Falls Paper Co., and the largest stockholder in our industries, was quietly married to Miss Mary J. Murphy in the Cathedral in New York, by His Grace the Archbishop, on the 24th inst., Count Cassell attending the groom and Miss Annie Murphy attending the bride, her sister. The archbishop entertained the bride and groom at breakfast, shortly after which they embarked on the steamship Lucania for Europe.

Roy Clark cut his foot quite badly on an ice plough.

The wages of the employees of the New England fiber company's mill at Riverside have been reduced from 5 to 12 per cent. While business has been good at the mill the price of pulp has been very low and consequently the cut was made. The company has been waiting some time before making the cut in hopes that trade and prices would improve.

Connecticut has just passed a law forbidding electric railways to cross the tracks of steam roads at grade, and now the legislature of this state is to be petitioned for a like law.

The state board of education recommends some compulsory system which shall compel towns not employing a school superintendent under the district system, to do so. There are 120 towns not yet in this seventh heaven of educational bliss.

Princess Red Spear and daughter and their rare collection of beadwork will be on exhibition at Martel's drug-store beginning Monday next.

E.D. Bellmore is about to open up a laundry on Fifth Street.

Mrs. Nellie Stratton, of Gill, was before Justice Dana, yesterday, on complaint of the selectmen of Gill, charged with abusive treatment of Bessie Laro, 12 years of age. The child was taken from the state school at Monson last August.

The evidence went to show that the girl had been terribly abused, hardly an inch of her body being free from wounds or bruises. She testified that on the Wednesday she ran away she was struck with a stick of wood by Mrs. Stratton, and at other times had been thrashed with a horsewhip in the hands of Clesson Stratton. She was worked like a slave she said, and did not at times get food enough without helping herself after the family were asleep. She ran away Wednesday and was taken in by John Jamison, who lives a couple of miles away, and cared for.

State Agent Morton was present at the hearing and took the girl back to Monson. Mrs. Stratton was bound over to the grand jury in \$300 bonds. O.F. Hale and Albert Sanderson were surety. Clesson Stratton, the woman's husband, was also wanted, but could not be found.

February 6

We have now entered upon the eleventh week of almost continuous sleighing. At present the slipping is about as near perfection as it could well be. Sleigh rides have been confined almost entirely to the youngest people.

Twelve new cards will soon be put into the card-room of the Turners Falls cotton mills.

Henry C. Holton has been circulating a petition which will be presented to the

legislature. This petition demands full value for all cattle killed by the state cattle commission and also asks that the test be regulated by statute. The time is surely coming when the farmer will meet the cow doctor whose knife and tuberculin test destroys his property at one-half value, and by the use of which a few veterinarians are drawing good salaries from the state treasury.

A missionary meeting held with Mrs. C.W. Clapp at the Farren House on Wednesday evening of last week, consisting of singing, readings, prayer and a short talk on Africa by Mrs. Clapp, who has been there, was much enjoyed by all present. The meeting was unusually well attended.

The fire department was called out at about half an hour after noon, yesterday, by a fire on the corner of First and L streets, in the small house owned by John Vanslette and occupied by Mr. McGuire. The fire was easily extinguished with but slight damage.

The Montague City people have sent four barrels of clothing to Nebraska sufferers, and the fifth barrel is nearly ready. A Sunday school and Sunday evening collection of \$13 has also been donated.

A native missionary from Armenia spoke in the Baptist church last Sunday, both morning and evening.

Mrs. F.B. Sherman of Montague City, while visiting at her old home in Barre, Mass, recited "The Polish Boy" at one of the entertainments given by the Unity Club of that place, and created quite a sensation thereby. In response to a persistent encore she rendered "The Irishman's Panorama." The "Barre Gazette" gives Mrs. Sherman much praise for her fine elocution, and says that her Barre friends hope to be favored with a more extended program at some future time.

Flossie, a little daughter of Jacob Houseman, fell and broke her elbow last Wednesday morning.

A Polander named John Rymkereich, aged 40, who was sick at the house of another Polander named Andrew Skvoron, was thrown out on the street Sunday night and left there to die. The unfortunate man was found by Mrs. Fessler and taken in for shelter, until the police could be notified. The overseers of the poor ordered the man taken to the lockup where he died, evidently on account of exposure. He had worked in Northfield all summer, and had regularly sent his wife and children in Poland \$10 a month, and had in his pockets \$3.00.

February 13

If the sort of weather that we have been having this winter was made to the special order of the coal dealers and plumbers, it could scarcely be more perfect. Ten degrees below is now taken as a matter of course, and it is only when the mercury drops five or ten points further down that one thinks that it is worth while to turn his coat collar up.

No trains ran on the New York, New Haven and Hartford R. R. on Thursday and Friday, as the track was snowed under and the engine gave out.

The Greenfield selectmen decided to have the hearing on the question of granting a franchise to the electric road managers February 25, at 10 a.m.,

in the town hall. In holding it at so large a hall the selectmen believe that all can be present. After all the facts that can be learned are brought out there is a probability that a town meeting will be held and the voters will then decide whether or not they want the road. The selectmen will follow the will of the majority. In view of some of the facts stated by the selectmen, there seems little chance for the adoption of the plan suggested by F.E. Wells. In the first place the selectmen say that the lower suspension bridge over the Connecticut was examined by experts last summer and they pronounced the cables and piers sound and in a condition to last for years. All that need repairing are the supports that rest on the cables and new flooring. The selectmen have obtained prices for steel beams or timber and find that steel will cost about \$1800 or twice as much as the timber. Chairman Thompson favors the use of steel.

Henry W. Tyler, while at work in the lumber mill at Riverside on Thursday, got his right hand into a planing machine, taking off three fingers and a good part of the hand.

The village of Millers Falls narrowly escaped another fire last week. A lamp was accidentally overturned and fell to the floor in the ante-room of the church while still burning, and scorched the wainscoting and carpet. The presence of mind of the pastor saved a conflagration; he caught up the lamp and threw it out into the snow and thus saved the church.

February 20

The lumber mill is shut down on account of low water.

The great difficulty of passing teams in the narrow roads among the hills, caused by the enormous depths of snow, is in turning out. Huge cuts, with bordering banks of snow from four to six feet high on each side of the way, are numerous. Mill brook, which flows through West Heath and furnishes power for Baker's mill at Charlemont, has been frozen nearly dry, ice forming through to the bottom.

A spirited horse driven by Alfred Rivet took fright near the lower suspension bridge, yesterday, and ran all the way to Greenfield at a break-neck pace, throwing out the driver, smashing the sleigh and creating a great disturbance in the shiretown.

There is a lot of gossip around the village that the selectmen will refuse to grant the franchise to the electric railroad company, as petitioned. This is without doubt the silliest bosh. If the people want the road the franchise will be granted, and no selectmen will dare oppose the will of the people. Chairman Hosmer has always been in favor of the road, and was one of the first to suggest its coming through Montague City. The people need not worry about any set of officers trying to defeat their will. Selectmen are the servants of the people and they know it, and the town fathers here, or elsewhere, have generally only a desire to serve the voters. As the road is wanted, on the route petitioned for, there is not the slightest fear of any opposition at the hands of the board of selectmen.

With Montague, Lake Pleasant, Millers Falls, Montague City, Turners Falls and

Greenfield all on a line of electric railway, with freight cars attached, the old town of Montague would take a jump such as would surprise the natives. May the day be hastened when Turners Falls will be got out of the fashion in this fashion.

Clesson Stratton of Gill was brought before Justice Dana Wednesday on the charge of abuse of Bessie, the girl they had from the state school. He was put under \$200 bonds for his appearance before the grand jury.

The corporators of the Greenfeld hospital movement have discovered that they have run against a snag, and will have to begin anew. They have now concluded to broaden out their lines, and instead of making a Greenfield hospital of it, they will have one in which all Franklin county will be interested, which will take in every physician, and in which the charitably inclined people of every town in the county can have a part. By thus appealing to the whole county, it is probable that a success can be made of it, and that people will be willing to aid and push the project.

The Irish drama, Arrah Na Pogue, will be presented at the opera house on Monday evening, March 18, by the dramatic club.

Charles Patterson, hailing from Fitchburg, a tramp printer, who was too full of rum to work, was locked up over night by Sheriff Davis. Of course he was strapped, and Justice Dana continued the case during good behavior.

A most pestilential set is the dirty tramp printers, forever floating about and never reliable in anything, and although work for good men is always plenty, a week's labor at a time is more than most of them will perform. The vagrant act enforced would soon rid the country of the vagabonds.

February 27

The whole town is full of voters who are sharpening axes, cleavers, tomahawks, etc., for town meeting day. More sputtering has been heard on the streets lately than if a whole pail of water had been turned into the fat. Montague City voters to the number of 100 are going to vote for men of their choice, happen what may.

M. O'Keefe was one of the best overseers of the poor the town ever had, and his hosts of friends are exceedingly well pleased to have a chance to vote for him again, and many of his enemies have been won over by his manly course the past few years. "Mon" put up stacks of good hard-earned dollars in the shoe-shop and real estate for the benefit of the town, and dropped them without whimper, and is busy earning more with the sweat of his brow, to be used in the same honorable way, no doubt. There is nothing so admirable in man as "sand," especially if it be of good quality, and Mr. O'Keefe's political enemies – if he has any now – must admit he is well equipped with the material.

If Dr. Coy is not elected to the office of selectman, it is certain the day of miracles is past. Republicans by the score stand right up in the highways and byways and proclaim him their choice, caucus or no caucus.

There was a hearing on the proposed electric road before

the selectmen of Greenfield on Monday. About three hundred were present and there was as much grumbling and growling as could have been expected. There was a prevailing sentiment in favor of the road, though some objected to have it pass through the arch, probably because they had no property there. The local hearing will be given in Hibernian hall, Turners Falls, on Friday afternoon.

Clesson Stratton and hired man of Gill will be given a hearing before Justice Dana, to-morrow, on the charge of criminally abusing the State ward Bessie Laro. They no doubt will prefer trial by court instead of by newspapers, hence the brevity of the news.

A clever bit of swindling was worked in Greenfield last week by a tall, well-dressed man, who called on a well-known citizen and represented that he was acquainted with relatives and called to get acquainted. Noticing that said citizen was a sufferer from catarrh, he said he had the disease for 20 years, but had lately been cured by a German specialist. He had the prescription for the medicine, and would gladly get it filled for his new acquaintance. He went to Druggist White and asked for a pint bottle full of water, representing that he wanted it for a traveling companion who objected to drinking from cups in the cars. He mixed some coloring matter with the water and took it to his new friend, with the statement that Greenfield druggists charged high, as he had to pay \$1.75 for it, while at his home in Rochester he only paid 35 cents. The Greenfield man paid the money and the stranger departed. It is known that he worked his game on several other victims.

Frederick Douglass, the most eminent colored man this country ever produced, died suddenly on Wednesday at his home in Washington, at the age of 78. He was a slave till he was 21, but for many years he has filled a conspicuous place in this country

C.P. Wise, who always has as fine display of oranges as can be found in any city, has just received a few boxes of fancy Indian River Florida oranges. There will be no more at any price.

March 6

The low price of sugar, coupled with the great depth of snow, rather discourages the maple sap boilers. The prospect does not favor a large supply of sirup or sugar. Montague City was startled, Sunday evening, by seeing a blaze down the track. Investigation showed that it was the outhouse at the Weisenborn homestead. The fire caught from a stove where they were boiling food for the pigs. The building, which was a frame, forty by sixty, was completely destroyed, together with a large number of farming tools which were stored in the building.

The no license vote was expected by a good many cool observers. The temperance people were united as never before, and when the members of the newly organized Father Matthew society were taunted on the streets by the rummies as graduates of the Keeley cure, the last straw was piled on the camel's back. Besides, there has been a fast growing sentiment against the arrogance of the saloon keeper in politics and openly on

the streets it has been stated that the Republican organization here has had its inspiration from a saloon keeper. Whether false or true, the public had been led to believe that the saloon element had too tight a grip on the town elections, and revolt could no longer be prevented.

There was a rousing temperance rally at Hibernian hall last Sunday evening which was largely attended, every church and society in town being represented, both in the audience and on the platform. Much enthusiasm was manifested, and the prevailing sentiment was apparently for no-license. R.N. Oakman presided, and made a speech which was well received.

The Greenfield men working in the cutlery are mourning over the prospect of a dry town here this year. They have always enjoyed a glass of beer at dinner and now they set up a wall that would move the heart of a chronic prohibitionist. *Et tu, Brute!*

The public hearing held before the selectmen in Hibernian hall, on Friday afternoon, to consider the petition of the directors of the Greenfield and Turners Falls street railway company was largely attended and the hall was filled to the doors, and great interest was manifested. The sentiment of the voters present was taken and the meeting was strongly in favor of having the road built on the route proposed "immediately and at once."

The hearing before the selectmen of Deerfield, Monday afternoon, to consider the petition of the street railway company for permission to lay tracks in the streets of Deerfield was largely attended and showed that Deerfield voters are in favor of granting the petition.

The selectmen of Greenfield made public yesterday afternoon the fact that they had declined to grant the franchise to the company. The selectmen made their decision at the meeting last Wednesday, the three members of the board being unanimous in the conclusion that it would be best to withhold the franchise. Chairman F.M. Thompson said that the board had decided that the road would not be of sufficient benefit to the people of Greenfield to recompense for making a nuisance of the arch for all time, such as in their opinion the granting of the petition would make it.

There is such a thing as being too unanimous in jumping after something at the end of a string in the other fellow's hand. Only a day or two ago an electric railroad was an assured fact on paper, and to-day the whole kettle of fish is in the fire!

The Reporter attempted to offer service on the electric railroad question purely in the line of loyalty to the town, but the editor came near being mobbed for pointing out the holes in a forty-foot ladder. The scheme was to offer a route upon which there was never any serious intention to build, and get the people over here crazy for the road. When everything got up to fever heat, the Selectmen of Greenfield were to refuse the franchise through the arch, in order to get the application to be made by the northern route, and then catch our people with their crazy, fever on, and bull a new blood-sucking scheme through.

March 13

The marble fever is now at its height and boys can sit for half an hour on a damp, cold sidewalk with never a thought but what it is the most comfortable place in the world.

A music house has been opened in Hibernian block.

C. Bau has sold his studio on the avenue to Arthur Corciere, who will continue the photograph business.

Miss M. Lizzie Ingham has returned from Boston where she has taken a thorough course in manicure and shampooing and is now prepared to wait upon the ladies of Turners Falls and vicinity that are in need of her services.

The electric railroad boom has started Montague City growing in a rush, and George Andrews is building two new houses near the bridge.

On Wednesday night, three Polanders hired a team, got drunk and drove about the streets enjoying themselves in a most noisy manner and creating quite a disturbance. They were arrested and taken before Justice Dana who fined them each \$10, which they paid.

If any one can sell real estate now on the strength of the electric railroad boom, our advice would be to get in his work without delay. In the old days, when "Uncle William" Crocker started out in the early spring with his theodolite to lay out a new mill site (for the mill that never came) our hearts all bounded up like rubber balls, and the price of corner lots went up with the same alacrity. So when the engineers come with their hope inspiring three-legged forerunner of wealth, let us feel content that sufficient unto the day is the boom thereof, and bitter disappointment will not settle down to make a feast on our vitals.

March 20

There is much sickness in town, and those who are not wrestling with a cold of some kind are in a decided minority.

There are 150 different kinds of bicycles to select from this year.

The advocates of temperance mean business. Now that the town has voted "no license," there is talk of organizing a law and order league, that the law may be enforced.

The Germania Cornet Band will give an open air concert in front of Colle Opera House, to-morrow evening.

The secretary of the Central relief committee of Callaway, Nebraska, writes to express the thanks of the committee for the box of clothing which Turners Falls people so kindly sent for the benefit of the drought sufferers.

The Montague Street Railway company petition for a franchise to establish an electric tramway between the Farren house in this village and the O'Keefe house in Millers Falls, by way of Lake Pleasant. This road would be a convenience to this village such as we have not thought of since the Fitchburg railroad was switched off this course by the town's enemies. With an inlet and outlet other than through Greenfield, our merchants would stand some show of getting such trade as belongs to them. To expect any outside trade to come here by cars through Greenfield, would be as reasonable as to expect a rat could be caught in a trap the avenues to which are lined with cats in good mousing condition.

BOSTON STORE,

Avenue A, Turners Falls.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1895.

GRAND OPENING

—OF OUR NEW—

Kitchen Ware Department,

In our newly fitted up Basement !

Easy Entrance, Good Light, Big Stock, Great Variety, Very Low Prices.

For a starter we will give two grand

FREE.... CONCERTS....

By Prof. MILDIE'S ORCHESTRA. Afternoon concert, 3 to 5 p. m.; evening concert, 8.30 to 9.30 p. m.

Everybody come and hear the music.

Remember Saturday, March 16th, two grand Free Concerts at the Boston Store.

CAMPBELL & CO.

RIST & CONANT

Kindly Solicit a call from YOU.

NOTICE THE EXTREMELY LOW PRICES!

Men's Black Cheviot Suits, - \$5.00.
(THOROUGHLY MADE AND TRIMMED.)

Men's Indigo Blue Suits, - - \$5.50.

Men's fine Scotch Business Suits, \$8.00.

Men's Imported Worsted Suits, \$10.
Fit for a Lord. No, for you. Only - - -

Young Men's, 1895. WE HAVE the....



Lamson & Hubbard

**Correct
Shapes**

In UP-TO-DATE

HATS and CAPS.

People who are bundles of nerves, and suffer with stomach and liver troubles, piles etc., have found a friend in "GLORIA." No sleepless nights when "GLORIA" is drunk. It has cured and will cure St. Vitus Dance, and prevents Insomina. Gives perfect health to body and mind. No medicine has such a record as "GLORIA" in giving Strength and sustaining power in Winter and Spring. Always keep "GLORIA." Dispense it freely and have no Doctor's bills.

CHAS. SCHNEIDER, ACT.,
TURNERS FALLS.

NOT A WIRE MAT

MADE from FLAT STRIPS of tempered steel, the strongest device that can be made. It will always retain its shape. It will stand the most violent usage and the severest exposure. Unaffected by sun or rain.

REVERSIBLE ! SELF-CLEANING !! HANDSOME !!!

THE ELASTIC STEEL DOOR MAT.

PRICES.

No. 2, 16x24, \$1.00. No. 3, 18x30, \$1.50.

Constructed so that it does its work thoroughly, yet always presents a tidy appearance.

The mat cannot become foul, as all dirt falls through and can be removed when necessary by lifting the mat and sweeping under it.

No whipping or pounding to get out the dirt; the mat itself is always clean. Steel strips are the best possible cleaners, and when by the construction of the mat an elastic quality is given, no dirt or filth can escape them.

While yielding and pleasant under the feet, no part can get displaced and injure the foot or shoe.

No wires to bend or break and turn up a sharp point. No wire about it. As the mats are only 3/4 inch thick, doors with the lowest thresholds readily open over them.

They will lie flat and not curl up.

FOR SALE BY

F. I. WEBSTER,
Turners Falls, - - - Mass.

BARGAINS
—IN—
Real Estate
THE ELECTRICS
ARE COMING!
NOW is the time to secure a home
at a low price, before the Boom!
AT TURNERS FALLS.
AVENUE A—A good building
Lot 50x110 feet—cheap for cash.
FIFTH STREET—Two-story
brick building and barn—5500 feet
of land—a nice place for a small
business—near Ave. A.
L STREET—Two-story frame
dwelling on 'barn—Corner lot— 500
feet of land—60 per cent. of pur-
chase money can lie on mortgage
if desired.
PROSPECT STREET—One of
the nicest places in the town—A
6-ry home for a small outlay of
cash.
CENTRAL STREET—Two-ten-
ement brick dwelling.
X STREET—Three-story six-ten-
ement block—A good 15 per cent.
investment.
I have other valuable pieces of property
in town for sale.

MONTAGUE CITY.
Two nice residences and several
building lots.
**MONTAGUE, NORTHFIELD
AND GILL.**
FARMS of all sizes from 10 to 100
acres—and at prices ranging from
\$1500 to \$4500. Call and see me
and I will make prices and terms
RIGHT.
INSURANCE.
I represent fifteen of the leading
Stock Companies, both American
and Foreign, and seven of the
largest Dividend Paying Mutuals
in the State.
Call and see me before insuring else-
where.

W. H. P. GILMORE,
Corner Avenue A and Second St.
Turners Falls, Mass.

NOTICE!
Having bought the
ICE -----
----- **BUSINESS**
of STEPHEN CAREY, which
I formerly owned, I shall en-
deavor to furnish ice to all parties
wishing it, in a satisfactory man-
ner. Thanking you for your
favors in the past, I again solicit
your patronage.

C. A. DAVIS.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.
The Selectmen of Montague will re-
ceive proposals for building the new
Look-up and additional Schoolroom at
Millers Falls, all bids to be in not later
than April 15th, 1895. Plans can be
seen at S. H. Amidon's, Millers Falls.
The Selectmen reserve the right to re-
ject any and all bids.

C. W. HOSMER, } Selectmen
E. C. COY, } of
S. H. AMIDON, } Montague.
Turners Falls, Mass., April 2, 1895.

**WATCHES,
CLOCKS,
JEWELRY.**
— An Elegant Line of —
Silver Plated Ware,
—AT—
FRANK W. HOLT'S
Jewelry Store.

WALL PAPER!
Fifty thousand Rolls Wall Paper with
Border and Ceilings to match, at less
than HALF THE REGULAR PRICE.
Send 10 cents in stamps and re-
ceive 50 Large Samples by return mail.
NEW YORK WALL PAPER STORE,
20 Day Street,
FITCHBURG, MASS

Losing Flesh
is a bad thing, especially when life
seems going with it. Dyspepsia,
Indigestion, or Constipation, show-
ing that food does not assimilate
properly, is a frequent cause. The
digestive powers of the Stomach
must be stimulated, or the blood
loses its strength and richness, and
in consequence the body loses its
flesh.
MR. J. R. HERSEY of SPEN-
CER, MASS., Box 582, was con-
tinually losing flesh; so fast, in
fact, that it was apparently only a
question of a short time when he
must die. Indigestion, Constipa-
tion, and all the ills that follow
eating without digestion, afflicted
him. The impurities remained in
the blood, making the flesh yellow
as if with jaundice. Headache
constant, and sleep almost impos-
sible.
Dana's
SARSAPARILLA
The Kind That Cures
changed all this. It CURED
him. Other remedies had been
tried without help. His fellow-
workmen asked the cause of the
great change. He simply replied,
"DANA'S."
See that you get DANA'S.

At present not a dollar's worth of business can possibly be got by cars without it is attracted by some extraordinary excellence in quality or skill, and the place might struggle along a thousand years and yet not be able to attract prosperity through the well-guarded gates of our business adversary. With even one line of travel unhandicapped, a ray of prosperity other than that which comes from protecting home industries and home trades, shows up in the east, and our thinking people should hail it with exultant hopes.

Edward Jameson, father of John Jameson, was thrown from his team last Friday. He received a severe scalp wound nine inches long, and was also severely injured internally. He is in a very critical condition, and not expected to live.

Arthur Berard accidentally had a spike driven through his foot, and is now suffering from lameness in it.

Notice was received here, this morning, that George E. Batten, proprietor of the opera house billiard hall, was lying dead in a Boston hospital. He went to Boston Monday morning on business, and his people are horrified at the announcement as no one can fathom the meaning. He was in perfect health when he left home, and the notice coming from the hospital was simply a terrible shock. Several of his family took the first trains for Boston.

Charles Reynolds, who had been out of jail for only one day, after serving a term for vagrancy, was again sent up for four months on Friday.

Andrew Skokorn was before Justice Dana, Thursday, charged with turning John Renkinwize, who was sick, out in the street, one night last February, where he was found nearly frozen. Officer Parke took the man to the lock-up, where he died two days later. State Detective Munyan has been investigating the case, but for want of evidence the case was postponed two weeks.

Trial Justice Martin yesterday afternoon heard the case of Henry Sanderson, who was arrested last Wednesday charged with circulating obscene literature. Albert Clapp, Clayton Hastings, Lossie Lustic and Herbert E. Temple, all of South Deerfield, testified for the government. The defence submitted the case without offering evidence or argument and Sanderson was held in bonds of \$200 for the grand jury. Frank Maynard was surety for that amount.

From the evidence it seems that on the afternoon of February 24, Albert Clapp, an assistant, was left in charge of the office of Frederick N. Caton, publisher of the *South Deerfield News*, while Caton went to Greenfield. Soon after Caton left, Clayton Hastings, Lossie Lustic and a fellow named Rosebud went into the building, and were soon followed by Sanderson, who had had a little experience in the printing business. He and Hastings between them printed the obscene sketch with the names of two local people on the bottom, and from the evidence it appeared that Sanderson distributed the cards bearing the printing. The young fellows present that afternoon all denied having circulated any of the sketches and the government did not make a very strong case against Sanderson. Frank J. Lawler was

counsel for the defence. South Deerfield people are very indignant over the whole affair.

The law now requires that all physicians and undertakers shall report all deaths coming under their notice to the board of health, so that hereafter all parties should bear the fact in mind and govern themselves accordingly.

March 27

A few days of warm sunshine will cause every vestige of snow to disappear from all low-lying lands. Presently the dust will be blowing on the avenue.

Walter J. Rist has recently opened a cycle store in his Rist block. This store is the only one in this vicinity which is exclusively devoted to bicycles and bicycle sundries.

George E. Batten, proprietor of the billiard hall, went to Boston on Monday of last week, and inside of an hour after reaching the city he was murdered and robbed of his watch and money. He arrived in Boston about six o'clock on Monday night, and a little after seven he was found on Portland street in a dazed condition, battered and bruised with his watch and money gone. He was taken to the hospital where he soon died. The police are seeking clues to locate the murderer, who evidently did the work with a sand bag, but so far little progress has been made, although a telegram last night asked some of the family to report at the police station in Boston at once.

The terrible affair not even attracting the attention of the sensational newspapers that thrive on excitement and the misfortunes of humanity, points out strongly the fact how cheaply life is getting to be held in the community and also possibility of violent death that is ever present to travellers in the tough parts of the cities, especially at a time when poverty is driving many to desperate deeds.

Last Wednesday, Dr. Leary, William Batten and Undertaker Eugene McCarthy went to the city and brought home the body. The funeral was held from the Baptist church, Friday afternoon. Valley Lodge of Odd Fellows, of which the deceased was a member, attended in a body. The floral offerings were numerous and handsome, as the deceased was held in high esteem by a very large circle of friends.

The franchise for the Greenfield and Turners Falls street railway company was officially delivered to Director H.L. Pierce last week signed by Selectmen Childs and Aldrich of Deerfield. This is the last franchise to be delivered and only the charter is left to be secured before beginning the work. This can be readily obtained now that the franchise has been granted by the three towns concerned.

The plans of the managers of the two proposed electric roads to obtain power from Millers river, at Millers Falls, six miles away from Greenfield, are regarded with much interest. The people have been so busy talking about the granting of franchises that they have thought little about obtaining an economical power. This is not true of the managers of the two proposed roads who have been interested in a number of different roads and examine every phase thoroughly. For a considerable time they have been negotiating with the officers

of the Millers Falls company, who control the water power at Millers Falls.

An understanding was reached some time ago whereby a dam is to be erected above the works of the Millers Falls company and a power supply, about 300 horse-power, obtained from there. This will be owned by the Montague Street Railway company and it will lease power to the Greenfield and Turners Falls company. It will give a revenue to the smaller company and a cheap power to the Greenfield company. Over 200 hands will be put at work as soon as the charters are obtained. Both the roads are likely to be built by the Pierce Construction company. H.L. Pierce, one of the directors of both the proposed companies, is at the head of the construction company. If the managers at Shelburne Falls fail to make a contract with the men who are talking of building the road there, the Pierce company will be ready to take the contract.

James Crosby, 55, a well-known and peculiar character, died at the Greenfield town farm, Monday morning, of heart failure. One of Mr. Crosby's eccentricities was his frequent change of religious convictions. He was a member of all the churches in town at different times, and was active at the sociables held by the different societies. He was a harmless fellow and had many friends.

Prof. Kentz, the famous German horse trainer, assisted by Mad. Pepita, the world renowned Spanish bare back rider of Philadelphia, and Mr. Adams, the king of all clowns, late of the Barnum & Bailey circus, have been engaged by the committee of arrangements of Columbia Lodge, No. 7, O.D.H.S., to give an exhibition with their trained horses at their grand masquerade ball at Hibernian hall, April 19th. This performance will be staged in a regular circus ring on the floor.

The graphophone concert given in the opera house, last Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the G.A.R. was slimly attended, less than fifty being present. The selections given were of the highest order, and the audience appeared to enjoy most of them. The graphophone is an improvement over the phonograph.

April 3

Farmers claim an "off" year in the production of maple sugar and no big runs of sap are reported.

The strawberry season opened auspiciously in Boston, last week, when a refrigerator containing 64 quarts was safely landed from Florida, the fruit selling from \$1 to \$1.50 per quart.

A special train of 25 cars loaded with root beer left Philadelphia, March 26th, for Boston and other New England cities. The Fitchburg railroad managed the show into this territory.

The overseers of poor of the town of Montague will receive proposals from physicians of the town for medical attendance of the poor the ensuing year.

A dam 200 feet long and 15 feet high is being built across Millers river just above the old bridge on the Erving road. A brick power-house 30 feet square will be built below the bridge on the Montague side and will contain machinery

driven by two water-wheels of 150 horse-power each for furnishing power to two electric roads, one to run from Millers Falls to Turners Falls and the other from Turners Falls to Greenfield by way of Montague City and Cheapside. Selectman S.H. Amidon, the very capable engineer and contractor, is to have charge of the entire work.

The entomological department of the Hatch experiment station at Amherst will soon issue a bulletin describing the various insect pests that prey upon vegetation, and giving the remedies that have been found most efficacious in dealing with them.

When the express from Boston arrived in Greenfield last night, a woman, well dressed and wearing a white veil, left the train in great haste with a bundle under her arms which she carried carefully. She rushed into the waiting room and left the bundle on one of the seats and went out. As she did not return the bundle was opened, and it was found to contain a little baby, which cried pitifully when it awoke. The infant was taken to Dr. Pierce's hospital, where it was found to be a healthy female child, about a month old. It was nicely dressed, but showed signs of having been poorly nursed. The woman was traced up Miles st., through Main street to Court square, where she was lost in the darkness. The conductor of the train was not seen, so it could not be learned where she boarded the cars.

The contest over the will of Mrs. Mary Dickinson of Whately, who left the bulk of her property, worth \$10,000, to the Whately Congregational church, has been discontinued, the heirs accepting \$500 in settlement.

The saloons and bars must close on the Fourth of July and on George Washington's birthday (especially in this town). The sanctity of every other legal holiday on the calendar has been protected by statutory enactment, and on Thursday the house of representatives very tardily threw a safeguard around our chiefest patriotic holidays by engrossing the bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on those days. There is every reason to suppose that the senate will do likewise. But just think of Fourth of July in this town without a jag!

April 10

The April showers are making the snow disappear on the hill sides and the green grass is taking its place.

Song-birds are beginning to put in an appearance after their winter sojourn in the South.

The trouting season opened last week, although it is surmised that a few worms were surreptitiously drowned at an earlier date.

Mush-rat hunting is being extensively carried on and many of the animals have been shot.

The water is higher in the Connecticut river today than has been known for many years.

The Turners Falls lumber company started their mill, Monday morning, after a shut-down of nearly two weeks on account of inability to get logs out of the river.

The brick coping on the fourth story of the Farren House has been repaired. The coping had become loosened

and falling bricks had become a source of danger to passersby.

The wholesale prices of meat have advanced greatly during the last week and the effect will shortly be felt in a corresponding advance in price by retail dealers. It is probable that high prices will be maintained all through the summer.

Christian Strom's house was burned last Wednesday evening. It is situated on the Northfield road about a mile and a half from the village of Millers Falls. As he was returning from his work he saw the smoke bursting out in clouds and hastened on, but it was too late to save anything. His wife was going down cellar with a lighted lamp and in some way it slipped and broke, the oil quickly catching fire and spreading very rapidly. Mrs. Strom got her four small children out of doors and returned to save what she could.

Notwithstanding persistent search, the police officers have been unable to find a trace of the woman that abandoned her baby in the Greenfield station. There is a suspicion that she came from this vicinity. It is surmised that the woman might have thought by abandoning her child near home that she could thus conceal her shame and still, in a measure, look after the child.

There will be a monkey and parrot show in this town over the location of the electric road over the plains. Every man owning an acre of the sand, worth until recently not over ten dollars, now sees millions rising up out of the wilderness if the road will only go his way. They are all alike — whether one or five miles away.

There is no better time than now to clear away the rubbish that has accumulated during the winter in the rear of buildings and in alleyways. These accumulations are unsightly and also unhealthful, and when the rains of April and the spring sunshine begin to work among them they are liable to breed a pestilence.

April 17

"Water, water, everywhere!" The high water is the sole topic of conversation, even electric roads dwindling into insignificance before it. The streets are filled with idle workmen, as Monday and Tuesday the John Russell Cutlery Co. and the Montague and Keith paper mills were obliged to suspend operations, and the cutlery works will be closed for the rest of the week. The highest point the water reached over the dam was early yesterday morning, when it was 11 feet and five inches. According to some authorities this is one inch more than in the great freshet of '69, while others say it is one inch less. Readers can take their choice.

There is three feet of water on the Ferry road and the lower parts of First, Second and Third streets are flooded, Second street being covered with water up to the barn near Samuel Emery's. Daniel McCarthy's coal and wood yards are submerged, and great watchfulness is necessary to prevent the wood from floating away. People are going about in boats, and the out-buildings on the foot of Second street have been securely moored to prevent their loss. The cellar of the new D.O.H. hall is flooded and a small boat-house belonging

to Turners Falls young men went over the dam yesterday afternoon.

Riverside people can only get into the village by going around by the way of Ferry road, and the water has also backed into Factory Hollow.

The high water carried away the large ice-house of C.A. Davis at the upper suspension bridge on Monday, destroying nearly all of the contents. The loss will be considerable, running up in the thousands.

On Monday afternoon, the 600 feet boom of the Turners Falls Lumber Company was washed out from its mooring just above the dam and went down the river and is now lodged against the piers of the Montague City bridge. There were but few logs in the boom.

Superintendent Hiram O. Smith of the John Russell Cutlery Co. has had an anxious time for the past few days with a large portion of the lower stories of the factory under from one to two feet of water. All work will be suspended for a week and the expense of cleaning out tons of mud and repairing miles of belting will be considerable.

Turners Falls has rarely been “in the public eye” so prominently, as in the past few days. It is, however, through no fault of its own, but simply on account of the falls and the high water. Even the city newspapers do not begrudge us a few lines, and next year, perhaps “the little hamlet” will be put on to the maps, and there will be no need for strangers to wonder where Turners Falls is situated.

More Greenfield people came over to view what they poetically call the grand panorama of rushing waters, this week, than have come in a whole year. What can you expect of such a people!

The selectmen have appointed the hearing on the petition of the Montague Street Railway Company for Thursday, April 23, at two o'clock, in the Hibernian hall. The route for the road, as now petitioned for, is from the Farren house, thence through Avenue A, through Seventh street, through L street to High street, and thence by the main highway, by the park and cemetery to Lake Pleasant, to a point at or near the O'Keefe house in Millers Falls.

There has been so much discussion and wrangling in this matter, every one seemingly suspicious of his neighbor and apparently fearful that they will reap all the benefits, that it is to be hoped that every one who is even remotely interested in the new project will attend the meeting and have his say, and “forever after hold his peace.”

Men are at work to-day, drawing rails for the Turners Falls and Greenfield street railway, distributing them alongside the avenue.

Fred Neron, employed in the Keith mill, accidentally had a thumb and finger cut off last Thursday.

“Castle Garden” is a big block up back of the high school building, and is inhabited by a small army of Polanders – towards a hundred men and a very few women. Beer and whiskey wake up old Adam in the crowd about once a week if no extensive row breaks out, but if the police are compelled to pull in some of the revellers, all hands keep on their good behavior for about a month.

On Saturday night, the usual jollification was in progress when a Greenfield Polander by the classic name of Macej Kowalejk put on more luggs than suited John Dotnkofski, who pulled a jack-knife and proceeded to carve up the alien. Joseph Wrumbell and John Witski also took a hand in the melee, using broomsticks as weapons. Officer Parks pulled the offenders into the lock-up, while Dr. Leary sewed up the bleeding head of the assaulted. Justice Dana on Monday afternoon made the crowd put up \$35.00 in fines, graduated according to their fighting abilities.

Did it ever occur to any one to consider the probable number of deaths to children by the electric cars in this village if the youngsters are allowed to make play-grounds of the center of the streets as has always been the custom? The capital stock of the company would soon be taken to pay death claims if something is not done to keep the babies from getting on the tracks.

April 24

Many huge drifts remain on the back roads of Hawley and Heath and the roads are almost impassable on account of the snow and the mud.

The Keith Paper Company's water-pipe on the river bank has burst, owing to the recent high water.

Work was actively begun on the Greenfield and Turners Falls electric street railway, Thursday morning, and work is now progressing rapidly, about 125 local laborers being employed. H.L. Pierce of the Pierce Construction Co. has the general supervision of the work, and he and his family will have his headquarters at Greenfield this summer. The rails are now laid as far as the South End. As fast as the track is finished the road-bed is filled in with stones and dirt and the surface smoothed and packed down so that the whole street can be used by teams until the road is finished. The overhead work will be started in about two weeks.

The Street Railway company have plans drawn and are ready for bids for a fire-proof car-house at Montague City. It will be of brick, 150x34 feet, with room for three tracks. In the rear will be a machine shop where the necessary repairs of the plant will be made. Local and outside contractors will figure on the work.

The electric railroad folks are disposed to give employment to town help in preference to outsiders, and supplies have been purchased in town whenever they could be secured.

The stranding by the New Hampshire Legislature of the charter of the proposed electric railroad to Hinsdale and Winchester, has naturally revived some little interest in the scheme which has frequently been suggested for an electric road to Turners Falls. Such a road, according to local estimates, could be built for \$200,000. Brattleboro would thus be given connection with other railroad systems which is so much needed now to give new impetus to the town and afford to shippers some of the important advantages secured through reasonable competition in freight rates.

A meteor of unusual brilliancy was noticed at North Heath the other night. It moved slowly from east to west, apparently emitting

sparks as it whirled and leaving a blue streak like the wake of a boat behind.

May 1

The cheerful clatter of the lawn mower is heard again.

Teams have been busy drawing back to Riverside the logs that made the boom which was carried away by the flood and lodged on the pier of the Montague City bridge.

The evening sky is especially brilliant now with the three planets, Venus, Jupiter and Mars, visible soon after sunset.

A number of people are on the lookout for the body of the timekeeper of the Fall Mountain Paper company, who was drowned at Bellows Falls, Vt.

The electric railway hearing, at Hibernian hall, Thursday, drew out a full house. Director H.L. Pierce stated clearly the purpose of the company, the route desired for a franchise, etc. Senator Bartlett opposed strongly the granting of the petition for a franchise as desired, and he had many followers, among them R.L. Atherton, M. O'Keefe, B.W. Mayo, etc, and a petition containing 265 names of leading citizens braced up the opponents. Treasurer C.M. Burnett made a very strong and effective speech for the road, and his thoughtful words made converts very fast. A petition from all the voters of Millers Falls was presented favorable to the route as petitioned for.

The feeling of the people was so strongly in the trend of restricting the company in many ways that the selectmen find they have nothing to offer that this company will accept, and so the matter is held in abeyance. If it is the wish of the town to kill the enterprise, the selectmen will be most happy to please the people. So no franchise has been granted.

Six months ago, the people of Turners Falls would have hailed with delight any line of electric railway that would promise an opening to the east, but as soon as there appeared an answer to our long offered up supplications, we began pulling and hauling, snarling and growling, demanding this and that, and proposing all manner of restrictions. As the matter now stands we are side-tracked again, and strange to say not by some foreign robbers, but by ourselves, and our superior wisdom. Here we are in the same old pocket, just because we insisted on not only leading the horse to the trough but in jabbing his nose down into the thirst quenching fluid!

We have the road direct to the shiretown and no license, and everything is greased for a swift glide on the road to prosperity – for the other fellows.

Two tramps were found lying on the tracks of the Fitchburg road near the Turners Falls junction, Sunday. They were seen by the engineer and fireman of a train, and it was stopped before the men were reached. Good luck saved the worthless lives of the vagabonds.

Charles Whittaker, proprietor of the Farren house at Turners Falls, was indicted for selling liquor on Sunday to Henry Fournier, but the evidence went to show that Fournier did not order the liquor nor drink it, but that Joseph Bertrand, who was with him, did both, and Fournier paid the bills. The jury rendered a verdict

for the defendant.

A plea of abatement was entered in the case of Henry F. Sanderson of South Deerfield, charged with circulating an obscene paper on the ground of the case being entered with the defendant's name, Harry Sanderson, this being a misnomer. The district attorney accepted the plea and a new complaint was made out.

The arsenic in the waters of the stream which furnishes motive power to mills of Charlemont, is supposed to have destroyed the fish in it. Between the Davis mine – from which the poisoned water is pumped – and the village the finny inhabitants of the brook have disappeared.

It is announced on seemingly good authority, that the Standard Oil company and the oil producers of Russia have combined their forces, and if this is so they can make the price what they please. It is already evident that they please to make it considerably higher.

With meat at its present altitude, the vegetarians are gaining converts.

The town, last night, was full of roisterers and men in all stages of drunkenness. Everyone turned out to take a few last drinks before the setting in of “the dry season.”

The census enumerators began their work this morning, and if they seem a little inquisitive people should not mind it.



May 8

The snarl occasioned by the proposition to build an electric street railway between Turners Falls and Millers Falls by way of Lake Pleasant was unraveled Thursday, the selectmen agreeing to grant a franchise to the Montague street railway company to lay their tracks and run cars over the route petitioned for.

The railway company agrees to run cars eight months in the year. The settlement is the result of a compromise effected Wednesday. The selectmen and some of the people thought that they should have assurance that the cars would be run the year round, but the company was at first unwilling to bind themselves for more than six months of the year. The road will not be operated in December, January, February and March. It was almost universally conceded that the road would not pay interest on the cost of the sleepers, and very few were willing to risk a dollar in the undertaking and it was not the best of wisdom to compel an admittedly unprofitable enterprise to be handicapped with the herculean task of shovelling out six miles of track every day in the winter to accommodate a stragglng passenger.

As soon as the people to the east of us are educated up to the habit of coming our way during the summer they will want to come winters in sufficient force to pay for running cars. This company is in business to make money, and if there is money in carrying passengers over the plains in winter we shall

have the cars running.

That Mr. Pierce objected to being compelled to do a losing business is a good deal in his favor. It spares us the curse of a bankrupt, or poverty stricken concern, the effect of which is always a blight on any community, and Turners Falls has had its lesson in enterprises that floated month after month on hip hip-hurrah, while the money mysteriously disappeared through rat-holes in every floor. They had no Pierce to look out for snow covered tracks.

We ought to be thankful that we can get a chance at some business before it is hoodoed by passing through Greenfield, even for eight months in the year, and to postpone even this much relief would certainly have endangered our chances of ever getting a direct line as we now have. Defeat of this line would certainly have led to a through line by way of Montague City, and Turners Falls would forever have been in a pocket. The foresighted know what Turners Falls has escaped.

Fifty men are now at work removing the ledge and widening the road at Cheapside for the electric road, and steam drills are used. The road will be widened to 24 feet and lowered on both sides of the railroad crossing to make a safe and convenient passage, which will be a great benefit for travel.

Medric Lenois, the Montague brick manufacturer, was found dead in bed at Brosseau's hotel, 200 Friend street. Boston, yesterday morning, having been suffocated by gas. His death was undoubtedly caused by his blowing out the gas, being unaccustomed, so it is said, to gas. There is not the least suspicion of suicide.

The town should have some guardians to accompany its citizens to the larger towns to protect them from violent deaths.

A flock of 18 sheep and 20 lambs belonging to Horace Bailey of East Bernardston were destroyed by vicious dogs, last week.

With cars running on the avenue every seven or eight minutes for eight months in the year, Turners Falls will have a citified appearance.

The village now supports seven barber shops. Some of them furnish their customers with five-cent shaves.

The people in all after years will bless the selectmen for not granting a franchise to run on Second and L streets. A little village like this should have a citified appearance. The village now supports seven barber shops. Some of them furnish their customers with five-cent shaves.

No license has its effect in keeping away a good many farmers who now go to Greenfield. A good many level-headed farmers see no crime in the sale of a glass of beer, or anything demoralizing in meeting over a social glass once a week.

The electric railway boom has raised rents materially at Montague City, it is claimed. All the brick-yards there are running full blast.

We do hope no living soul will have false hopes raised in regard to the value of real estate by the building of electric railroads. So long as there are acres upon acres of real estate within easy walking distance

of the factories for sale at half and quarter the sum it stands the owners in today, there is not much reason to expect real estate located out so far that a car must be taken to reach it will increase in value one penny. Until we have more people employed we shall have to look for a gradual decline, rather than rise, in real estate, no matter if electric cars ran into every door yard. There are at least 40 houses vacant to-day and rents are low.

May 15

Work of laying rails up Seventh street toward Lake Pleasant is progressing rapidly, to-day.

The town has begun to widen the extremely narrow highway at Montague City, and the mud-hole will be dug out and drained with a bed of brick bats.

H.L. Pierce of the Greenfield and Turners Falls street railway company attended the hearing before the river and harbor commission, Thursday, on the petition of the company to build a bridge across the Connecticut river at Montague City. The license was granted as was expected.

Complaint is made at this office by many people that the poles for the street railway wires were placed so near shade trees as to endanger their lives, and in some places it is said they are put in the center of cross-walks.

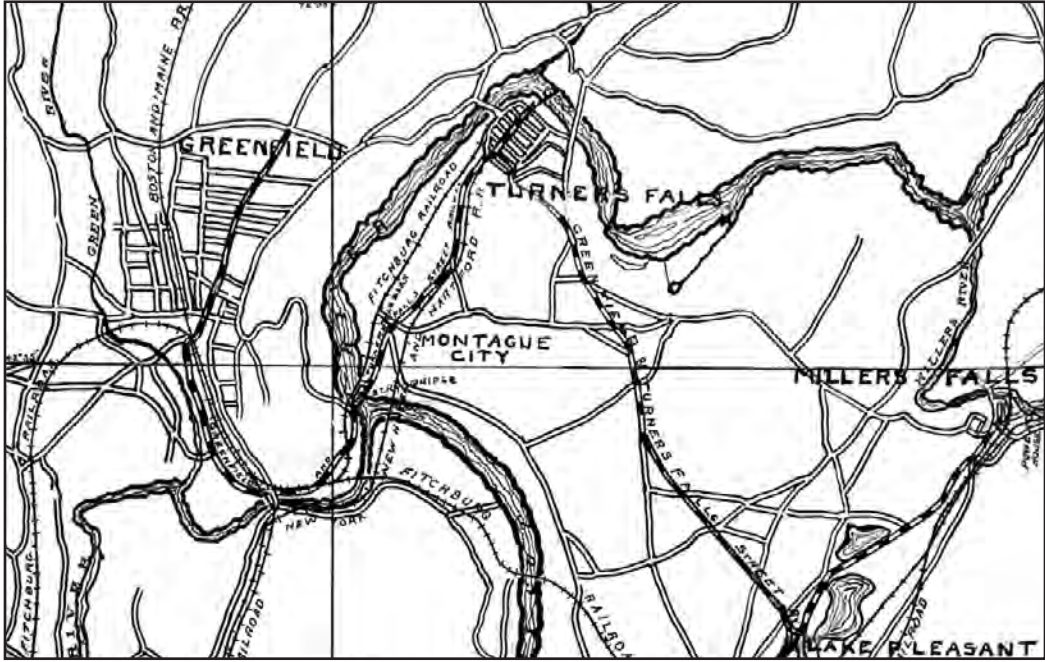
Before drivers become accustomed to the rails in the streets many a wheel will get a wrench – that is if the rails continue to protrude as much as they do now in places. It is amusing to watch the face of a man whose wheels persist in going in one direction while his horse has started off with a jump in another.

Complaint is made that the grove in rear of the Eighth street schoolhouse has been cut down to satisfy the tastes of some one who cannot live out of sight of a bare sand-hill. It is one of the misfortunes of the place that a tree or living green shrub is the target for a thousand vindictive axes or grub-hoes. Nature tries hard to heal over the scars of an unkindly soil, only to create the enmity of all possessed of the urban halucination that the living green is the badge of uncouthness. Trees that have struggled for many years to give us a grateful shade on the avenue have this week had their roots torn and shattered with dynamite without a single friend to stay the ruthless hand of the destroyer.

A forest fire started, Saturday morning, near Wendell depot, and took a northerly course, burning over 500 acres of waste woodland and much well-covered timber land. In the path of the flames were the Harris saw-mill and barn and some unoccupied houses, all of which were burned.

B.N. Farren and wife are expected at their Montague City home, from abroad, in June.

A dead baby was found in Greenfield yesterday. It was discovered in an ash heap on the vacant lot owned by A.L. Baldwin at the corner of Highland and Chestnut avenues by men at work grading. The selectmen had the body removed to undertaking rooms and District Attorney Aiken was notified. Later Dr. Coy and Dr. F.J Canedy, medical examiner of Shelburne Falls, made a more extended examination and came to the conclusion that it had lain



there for months. It will probably be found that the child belonged to parents living in another town, as usual.

The owners of the big fruit orchards in the western part of Franklin county are sharply inspecting their fruit trees. The apple tree worm has appeared in large numbers, many trees in the hill towns being covered with nests.

May 22

The electric railway between here and Greenfield is all laid. A small gang will be kept on this road grading and keeping the road in good condition for team travel, but the large force of men are at work at the road between Turners Falls and Lake Pleasant. About 175 men are employed and the track is being laid at the rate of ½ mile a day.

The work has reached the point where the road branches off from the highway to the private land where the company has bought a right of way for about a mile and a half, beginning at the house of Lewis Taft beyond the cemeteries and running a direct air line route to Lake Pleasant. Selectman Theodore Childs of Deerfield has a force of 40 men at work at his lot on Will's hill, cutting trees, and has hard work to keep up with the demands of track layers. Good progress is being made on the bridge abutments at Montague City, and the Connecticut will be spanned by July 1. The cars are being built at the shops of the Massachusetts car company of Ashburnham and are promised for delivery the 28th.

The work of stringing the trolley wire has been delayed owing to the delay in shipment of the brackets, but these are expected this week and the overhead work will be pushed rapidly.

H.L. Pierce confidently expects to have the whole line running between Greenfield and Lake Pleasant on Saturday, June 15. The passengers will have to walk across the river at Montague City for a few days until the bridge is completed, but this will be no great inconvenience to the excursionist, as the highway bridge is very near the new electric road bridge.

The results of last week's frost are apparent in the low lands and valleys throughout western Franklin county. Butternut and ash trees look dead with not a green leaf on them. At Heath, Hawley and Rowe newly-turned plow lands were frozen. The fruit trees suffered severely. The farmers in the hills consider themselves lucky in that no considerable planting had been done and no garden vegetables were lost.

Manager Parker of the Greenfield telephone exchange has received applications from several Turners

Falls people for new telephones since the lowering of the rates. No more instruments will be put in on the grounded system, until after the electric road has been in operation long enough to decide whether the service will be affected. Considerable trouble is expected from the current from the trolley wires conflicting with the telephone line, especially on the grounded instruments. The telephone people put up their poles in the streets of this town without permission from the authorities, and as they are only trespassers, they can find no fault with the trolley wires.

W.E. Wood has been awarded the contract for advertising in the cars on both the Greenfield and Turners Falls and Montague street railways. There were three bidders for the privilege.

Frank Smith, a Polish merchant of Third street, went to Gill the other day, and filled his wagon with wood belonging to L.L. Hastings. Henry Parke, as agent for the protective society, entered a complaint against Smith and he was fined \$5.00.

Anton Bolaski of Montague City was not content to ride his bicycle in the road, on Monday, so he calmly rode along on the side-walk. Officer Parke saw him, and invited him to come into the police court, where he was fined \$5.00. The police have the names of several other offenders, who may expect to receive a similar invitation, if they do not cease breaking the law.

C.N.B. Fournier has recently been appointed consul for the League of American Wheelmen at Turners Falls. He will soon open an office for the benefit of visiting wheelmen, also local wheelmen.

The progressive soap-bubble party held by the young people of the Congregational church on Friday, was a very pleasant affair and well attended.

May 29

The rain has brought joy to many heavy hearts who have been fighting forest fires in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Malaria has been getting in its work lately in old fashioned style.

Early Thursday morning, an alarm of fire was rung. Fire had broken out in the refrigerator in Koch's meat market on Second street, but the blaze was soon extinguished without doing much damage.

The auction sale of the Medric Lenois brick yard property will take place on the premises, at noon, Saturday.

Willie Sing has opened a Chinese laundry on Fourth street.

A barber shop is established in John Drago's place on the avenue.

Troops of Turners Falls people went to Greenfield on Friday, to attend Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. The cutlery shops were closed all day as so few workmen put in an appearance that it was no object to keep the works running.

A bicycle rider ran into and knocked down an old woman on the side walk near the shoe shop on Monday morning. He ran up behind her, and knocked her down on her face, causing severe injuries. He skinned off without even an apology.

The genial Dr. Otto Hengst, whom the Germans of Turners Falls and Greenfield know only too well, was arrested in Ohio, whither he had fled, and brought to Bridgeport, Conn., to answer to the charge of bigamy. He has a wife and child living in Greenfield, but while in Bridgeport he married an eighteen-year-old girl, and this performance has brought him into hot water. It is feared that more wives may turn up, as the doctor married with the most cheerful alacrity.

The annual state convention of the socialist labor party, held for the adoption of a platform and the nomination of a state ticket, was held in Boston on Saturday.

Parents should manifest interest and encourage their children by attending the drawing exhibition on Friday and Saturday of this week.

The engineers have staked out a mill site above the lower suspension bridge, but as matters have not progressed far enough to make news, we would advise all boomers to possess their souls in patience, and refrain from erecting a lot of air castles.

Druggist I.A. Darling's home was gladdened on Monday morning by a ten-and-a-half pound chubby boy.

June 5

The public schools of the village close to-day for summer vacation.

The drawing and industrial exhibit given at the Oakman High school on Friday and Saturday of last week was a success, and no doubt new interest has been aroused in the important subject of drawing, both among parents and pupils. The work on exhibition was nearly all done at the schools in the regular drawing hour, and consequently shows results of actual daily work.

The graduating exercises of the Oakman High school will take place to-morrow evening, at 7.45 o'clock, at Colle's opera house. Following the custom of former years, a small admission fee of 15c. for adults and 10c. for children will be charged and the proceeds will be applied to the piano fund, which now amounts to about \$125.

The graduating exercises of the Montague High school

take place this evening. There are two graduates, Veva Ione Putnam and Clara Maria Payne.

Arthur Carr had a finger severely injured, Memorial day, by the explosion of a cap while loading a gun.

The Montague City road is fast being put into such shape as has been the hope of the traveller for quarter of a century. The swamp near Edmund Donovan's has been entirely gone over and a thick stratum of brick-bats put underneath the whole thoroughfare to secure proper drainage.

Dr. E.C. Coy has sold his place at Montague City to the Turners Falls and Greenfield Street Railway Co. and possession will be given in a couple of weeks. The superintendent of the road will make his home there.

Allen Brothers have supplied the street railway company with handsome uniforms for the conductors. Lewis Taft, Edwin McCrea, E.W. Hale of Bernardston and M. O'Keefe of Millers Falls have secured positions so far.

Christian Sauter of Second street had an arm badly crushed this morning, by getting it caught in the elevator of the Keith mill where he was at work.

C.V. Jacobus, while visiting here during Decoration day, made a successful attempt in lowering the record between Mansion House, Greenfield, and Farren House, on his bicycle in the remarkably fast time of 8½ minutes, the exact distance being three miles, 70 rods. This is considered the fastest time ever made between the two points.

A large number of kitchen dives have been opened and rum is now sold by the barrel again. To the credit of the old dealers there is yet no disposition to begin to sell illegally. But the kitchens are pulling in money hand over fist.

The owners of well-filled cider barrels are now looked up to as very likeable chaps by the parched multitudes.

It is feared the pepperidge tree that has stood so long on the Montague City road, the wonder of all travellers on account of its lonely appearance in a latitude many hundred miles north of its congenial habitat, will drop in track of modern improvements. The road has been widened so that the lonely sentinel has become an intruder, and today the workmen's axes have been cutting away the life giving roots of the handsome tree, admirable alike for its exclusiveness as for its undeniable beauty of form.

Everybody is wondering what man has been wandering about on Rocky mountain, in the vicinity of Bears Den, entirely nude. He was seen near the latter locality on Saturday and last night shouts and cries were heard in the vicinity of Chestnut and Highland avenues which are supposed to come from him. Parties have been searching for him but without success. He is supposed to be an insane person who has divested himself of his clothing.

June 12

The cutlery works closed Saturday night, for the usual summer shut-down.

Mrs. Donahue will move her wooden house on Fourth street and have it raised another story.

The new proprietors of the Dr. Coy property at Montague City will cover the land

with buildings for the street railroad employees. The barn will be remodeled into two first-class tenements. Further improvements projected are the cutting of a new street through from Railroad street to the Burnham property, making nine good lots. The syndicate proposes to build two or three first-class tenement-houses this summer, which will be rented to the employes of the new road. Some twenty families will be given employment by the railroad and most of these will live in Turners Falls.

The Greenfield selectmen had a special meeting, Wednesday afternoon, and voted unanimously to refuse the petition of the Greenfield and Turners Falls street railway for a franchise to extend their tracks from the present terminus just below the railroad arch into town by way of Mill river and West Main streets to Federal and thence to "Long Four Corners." The petition has been before the selectmen for over two months and the decision is the result of careful deliberation. A petition was presented the selectmen bearing the signatures of over 300 voters asking that if the road was to be granted a franchise for entrance to the town that it would be through the arch and up Bank row, the very route which was formerly denied. Now that the West Main street route is denied there is considerable curiosity as to whether the company will file another petition for the arch route.

The St. Mary's Temperance Society having suffered financially during the past year, through the payment of an unusual amount of sick benefits to members, are preparing to hold a bazaar in a few weeks, for the sale of articles donated to the cause by the business men of the town.

The thirsty citizens of this town find Greenfield an unusually attractive place just now.

Frank Frawley, vagrant, was sent up to the county jail for four months, yesterday.

June 19

The lawns and gardens are commencing to look very dry from lack of rain and the river is growing lower every day.

Nearly all of the students at the various schools and colleges are at home for the summer vacation.

The ladies of this town have caught the bicycle fever and there are now a goodly number enjoying the sport.

A merry-go-round on the corner of L and Fourth streets is in full blast nightly.

Turners Falls may learn to-day, with considerable satisfaction, that a new industry is assured, and that work on the foundations of a new paper mill will commence as soon as the contract can be let. The new concern, which will, without a question, add materially to our permanent prosperity, is the Marshall Paper Company, composed largely of men of valuable experience in all lines of industry, who have ample capital to develop the enterprise.

The building site selected is just below the Keith paper mill, and is 240 feet on the river with a width of 164 feet. Plans for a modern mill have been drawn by A.B. Tower of Holyoke, the celebrated paper mill architect, and all of the land will be covered. It will be a two machine mill, adapted to produce three

different specialties, at one time or separately as the conditions of trade may indicate.

The news is good for Turners Falls, and means much for the future. A business is assured that will undoubtedly be profitable, if skill and ability are to secure their invariable reward, more people will be employed and every one of us will be helped. Land will have more customers, real estate will stiffen in value, our merchants and professional men have more patrons, others will help pay the taxes, the railroads will carry more freight, in fact everything in town will be helped by the starting of such an industry, and the citizens should throw up their caps in joy, and wish all connected with such enterprises unlimited success, and pray that others may soon follow.

Frank W. Holt, the jeweler in Starbucks block, has had to bow to the inevitable, and quit business here. John H. Starbuck held a mortgage on the stock which has been foreclosed, and the goods will be sold at auction.

All arrangements had been made for starting the first cars over the electric road Saturday afternoon, but it was decided that it would be unsafe to let the water on the coffer dam at the power-house at Millers Falls, so the opening of the road for which such extensive preparations had been made was postponed one week.

While digging for the new electric railroad between Turners Falls and Millers Falls, last week, employes unearthed a human skeleton in the bank between Green pond and Lake Pleasant. Deputy Sheriff Pratt of Millers Falls was notified, and he caused the bones to be placed in a box and taken to Millers Falls, where they were viewed later by Medical Examiner E.C. Coy. The body was probably buried over 25 years ago, as the bones were badly decayed and fell to pieces when handled. No clew was found which might establish the identity of the person. There was a rumor that the bones were those of Mrs. Phoebe Burnham, who disappeared so mysteriously, two years ago, but there is no foundation for this assertion. While the family of Albert Eddleston were eating breakfast at their home on the Turners Falls road in Greenfield, Monday morning, a strange cat, ravenous with hunger, got into the room where their four-month-old girl was sleeping and bit the child's hands badly, so that it will be some time before the wounds heal. The cat ate the rubber nipple and tube off the nursing bottle in an attempt to get at the milk. The cries of the child alarmed the parents, and they rushed in and frightened the cat away. The cat was chased into the cellar and killed.

B.N. Farren and wife sailed from Europe, Saturday, and will be at their Montague City home very soon.

June 26

It was a great day for Turners Falls, Greenfield, Montague City and Millers Falls, last Saturday, when the lines of street railway, the Montague and the Turners Falls and Greenfield, just finished by the Pierce Construction Company, were formally declared open to the public for trial.

In the afternoon at two o'clock, a large company of invited guests, including

the stockholders of the roads, and prominent officials and public men of the county, and the representatives of the local and metropolitan press, took cars at the Union House in Greenfield and ran quickly to the Montague City bridge, where the party were obliged to cross the old toll bridge on foot, necessitated by the electric railway bridge not being finished. At the Montague City end of the bridge the cars were waiting with many other invited guests on board, and the Germania Cornet band, which had kindly volunteered its services for the occasion, made known its presence by enlivening strains of popular airs. A hasty inspection of the completed masonry and the uncompleted trestle-work on which the iron superstructure will be put together, was gone through with in a perfunctory manner, and the three open cars started for the Turners Falls terminus, amid the shouts of the joyous villagers, and an occasional report from a fire-arm or torpedo cracker.

The cars waited some little time in front of the very dry Farren house, until the Turners Falls guests came, and in the meantime the Greenfield patricians looked upon the uncounted numbers of our diversified and somewhat picturesque juvenile populace of plebian mould, with some curiosity and unconcealed amusement, until Mr. Jack Brooks found a lot of quarters burning holes in his pantaloons pockets, and fearing a conflagration, reduced the temperature by throwing the fractions of 16 to 1 into the air to be scrambled for by urchins who felt that Lazarus had no such snap in his day and generation.

The cars started down the avenue at a good jog, passing through facing lines of homogenous humanity, the staid and substantial merchant, the manufacturer, the idle operative, the aproned woman of generous proportions, devoid of headdress or trifling ornament, the curious, the enthusiastic, the wonder-awed, yet all evidently happy in viewing the first fruits of hazy dreams of a vanishing past – the fulfilled promise of that glorious enthusiast – the lamented Colonel Alvah Crocker.

Rounding the curve at Seventh street, the hill was surmounted by the cars separately, as a precautionary measure, inasmuch as only one dynamo was started up at the power house. As the crow flies – when the yield of corn is sufficient to repay flight in that direction – the trolley whisks up the side of Will’s hill, over the monotonous and unfruitful plain to Lake Pleasant, touching the northern gate in rear of the Highlands, thence along the woodland to the road that runs by Green pond, through to the railroad tracks and along them to the village of Millers Falls, the terminus being in front of the O’Keeffe hotel. When the party arrived at Millers Falls they were escorted to the source of power, and shown what wonders can be accomplished in two brief months with daylight on both ends of the day.

The hail-storm did much damage in some parts of the country, Sunday afternoon. Gardens were utterly ruined in several places.

A horse and wagon went over the bank on the Montague City road, Monday, on account of the animal being

scared by an electric car. Fortunately no one was injured.

Last night, a horse attached to a wagon containing two Polanders, while coming down the High street hill, became frightened at the electric cars, and created a rumpus. The Polanders were quickly ejected from the vehicle which was quite badly damaged.

Albert H. Rist and Luther Smith of this village are interested in the new accident insurance company forming in Greenfield.

July 3

The cutlery works started up again last Monday morning, after three weeks’ shut down.

The trolley wire broke, Monday evening, and the electric cars were delayed for an hour or two. When everything gets in working order such mishaps will be few.

It has been known for a long time that liquor and beer have been sold in a score of places about the village, on the sly, but it soon became evident that a land office business was being carried in a lot of places within a radius of a hundred yards. Sheriff C.A. Davis of this village, E.J. Pratt of Millers Falls, Chauncey Bryant and Wm. Smead of Greenfield with the local officers, made raids on four places early Friday morning and succeeded in getting contraband stuff in three of them.

In the meat market on L street kept by Henry Robert, a keg of beer was found on draught. Amiel Willett attempted to run up stairs with another keg in his arms, but was pulled in as a decidedly interested party. John Roberts was also taken under the wing of the officers as being probably an interested party.

In LaPoint’s block – the beehive – up stairs, Arthur Bessette had some kegs of lager which he was prepared to divide up into five cent portions.

In the store on the corner kept by the Yankeeified Polander, Frank Smith, they expected to find something that would intoxicate as well as cheer, but only hop beer yielded to the most diligent search.

William Rouss seemed to have something in his house on L street that attracted a good many of the old soaks, and not a few youths who delighted in frequent incipient jags. The officers thought they would get there this morning ahead of the procession, and found a lot of lager in bottles and some wine intended no doubt for the more delicate patrons.

Montague people are hoping that the road will be extended to that village soon. Starting from a point near Lake Pleasant, the distance would be but two miles. It will certainly be built some day.

It makes a horseman’s blood boil to see the chumps driving frightened horses around electric cars. After the poor frightened beasts are out of all danger the brutal driver is almost sure to use his whip on the suffering dumb creature. Most horses show decidedly more sense than the men.

The rear of the Connecticut River lumber company’s drive of logs, consisting of 30,000,000 feet, reached Belows Falls, Sunday. About two-thirds have already passed there. The water has been so low at times during the past month that the work was suspended, but the river is in good condition now. Seventy-five men are employed.



The Springfield *Republican* is getting the habit of putting quotation marks about the last word in Montague City, in derision at the size of the village.

Amos Adams is learning how to handle the electrics, and will be a motorman.

Mrs. Jacob Loutoff had a paralytic shock last Wednesday, and she died Monday night.

Jim Morrison, who works in P.F. Welch’s brick yard, amused himself Monday, by licking a Polander in journeyman style. He was brought before Justice Dana and fined \$10, which was a good price, but it was a good licking, and he evidently got his money’s worth. The Polander will have to live on soup until his jaw gets in usable condition again.

It is to be hoped that this year, “the night before the Fourth” will not be characterized by the rowdiness which has been its distinguishing feature in the past.

It is believed that the population of this town has not increased much during the past five years.

Mr. B.N. Farren and wife have arrived at their summer home at Montague City.

July 10

On the fifth of July, when we opened our morning papers, we experienced a keen pang of pain whenever we read the line, “the Fourth passed quietly in this place,” and we were seized with an intolerable longing to take up our abode in that blessed spot where the glorious Fourth passes quietly and does not leave us with unstrung nerves and wicked tempers. The Fourth and the night before the Fourth passed anything but quietly in this village, for the night and the day was a Hades in miniature and enough to make an angel’s temper take flight. The night was made hideous with anything and everything that the ingenuity of the small boy could suggest.

From six o’clock in the evening until six in the morning the din progressed with unabated severity. Cannon crackers, bonfires, tin horns, bass drums and leathern lungs were all called into service and the person with the statue of a man and the brains of a child, shot off his gun “ever and anon,” and rowdiness ran rampant. Many things can be forgiven a patriot, but patriots usually are not given to empty, noisy demonstration. We venture a wager that those who made the most noise on the night before the Fourth could not be able to give even

a vague reason for the existence of the day they celebrate in such a noisy manner.

Over 8000 fares were collected on the electric cars on the Fourth of July. Eight cars were kept running all day and were crowded with passengers most of the time.

After the celebration many of the streets looked as though a hurricane had passed that way.

Another skeleton was unearthed by the electric road workmen between Lake Pleasant and Millers Falls on Saturday morning near the place where the one was found a few weeks ago. Medical Examiner Coy took it in charge. It is supposed that there was an old Indian grave yard at that point.

Christian Stotz, while at work on the electric railroad bridge at Montague City, found a very fine bird track.

Edmund, the five year old son of C.T. Roberts, sustained a compound fracture of the arm just above the wrist, last Thursday. The child was playing about a dump cart and the tongue became loosened in some way and fell on the little one’s arm.

This town has never had a reputation for extraordinary cleanliness or public spirit, but the climax of filth and carelessness has been reached. The Board of Health proposes to take prompt and vigorous measures to put an end to the habitual violation of the regulation which forbids the accumulation of any filth, offal, decaying vegetable or animal matter or foul water upon the premises of any resident of the fire district. This regulation has been habitually and systematically violated, and Dr. Coy, chairman of the board of health, waxes eloquent in his wrath over the wretched condition of things, and intends “to fight it out on this line, if it takes all summer.”

It seems strange that our intelligent inhabitants should be so neglectful of public health and safety and so indifferent to appearances. “Cleanliness is next to Godliness;” perhaps the filthy conditions and surroundings of Turners Falls people explain the negative quality of much of the godliness. If you don’t believe it is healthy to keep your own body clean, at least for policy’s sake, see that your premises are kept free from filth of any sort, for there is to be no more beating about the bush; the Board of Health will pursue all offenders with a sharp stick.

This spring when the census was taken, there was not a single dwelling either in Turners Falls or Montague City in course of construction, a statement it would have been impossible to make in any previous year for the past twenty. Some hundred vacant tenements were found this spring. They were nearly all of the poorer sort, the prosperity of the people making the use of better houses possible.

July 17

There is prospect of lots of chesnuts next fall as the chesnut trees have blossomed profusely.

Burnham Bros. of Montague City are putting an addition of about 100 feet on their kiln shed. This will give them shed room enough to contain about two million bricks. They are also extending the railroad the full length of the shed.

Cars were run over the new electric railway bridge, across the Connecticut river at Montague City, Sunday for the first time. They are now run on exact schedule time; that is, on the hour and half hour.

An urgent request comes from the electric railway company, and others at Montague City to have the Turners Falls Fire District extend their water pipes to the city, and the water commissioners are considering the matter.

The Sunday school at Montague City had a picnic at Lake Pleasant on Thursday. The trip was taken on the electrics.

A number of French citizens have gone on the special excursion pilgrimage to Canada.

The ever popular Fitchburg railroad excursion to Nantasket Beach, Bass Point or Downer’s Landing is advertised for July 26th. Rate only \$1.50 for the round trip from Turners Falls.

Patrick O’Neil, a workman on the electric railroad bridge, was sent to jail for thirty days for drunkenness.

The courtroom was crowded all day yesterday, as several important cases were on trial. Albert Stebbins, the ex-tax collector of Deerfield, was brought in at the opening of court to answer to the indictment for embezzlement. He waived the reading of the indictment and pleaded guilty to the first count. The district attorney accepted the plea as covering the whole.

The case of Henry F. Sanderson of Deerfield, charged with printing, publishing and distributing an obscene paper,

came next. The paper was printed on Sunday afternoon last spring at the office of the South Deerfield News, and reflected on the editor of that sheet and a certain young woman in the town. The case was finished at 3 p.m., and the jury, after being out but a few moments, reported a verdict of guilty.

Early Thursday morning, James Mullen, an employe of the Keith mill, met with a serious accident. While cleaning a plating machine the rag he was using caught in the rolls and his arm was drawn in between them. No bones were broken but the flesh half way to the elbow was stripped from the bone and his hand was badly lacerated. It was found necessary to amputate the thumb.

Preparations are in full swing for the dedication exercises and ball which will be held at the new Harugari hall on Friday afternoon and evening, July 26.

A town meeting will be held in Hibernian hall on the afternoon of Saturday, July 20, at 2 o’clock. There are several important articles in the warrant, principally to see if the town will make an electric railroad to the Center possible by building a bridge over Saw Mill River. With all the villages in town united by street cars the town will be set upon the high road to prosperity.

July 24

The meeting voted that the town build a new bridge at Montague Centre over Saw Mill River in the place of the present covered bridge, and that the sum of \$5000 be raised by taxation and appropriation for that purpose, same to be expended under the direction of the selectmen.

Potatoes, corn, tobacco and crops generally are doing splendidly, these days. The hail storms so destructive elsewhere, have done little damage in this county.

L.E. Kittredge & Son, the Lowell contractors, have two large power derricks erected at the site of the new Marshall paper mill, and a tool-house has just been finished. Quite a large force of men are employed excavating.

Geo. Starbuck & Co. have been employed a good deal of late in putting in bath tubs and water connections in Lake Pleasant cottages. The new street railroad brings customers easily to our stores, which are soon found to be the best in the county.

Laundry.

I am to open a first-class Laundry and guarantee all work first-class and very moderate prices. Will quote a few as prices as below:

SHIRTS, - - - - -	7c.
NEW SHIRTS, - - - - -	10c.
COLLARS, - - - - -	14c.
CUFFS, per pair, - - - - -	3c.
UNDERSHIRTS, - - - - -	5c.
UNDERDRAWERS, - - - - -	5c.
SOCKS, per pair, - - - - -	2c.

☞ Shall make a specialty of Family work, price 60c. per dozen.

WILLIE SING.
FOURTH STREET.

WARNING.

Notice is hereby given, that my wife, Hattie C. Bryant, without just cause or provocation, left my bed and board, on the 13th inst., and that I shall pay no bills of her contracting after this day and date.

Millers Falls, Mass., July 15, 1895.
DELBERT P. BRYANT.

10 CENTS



**BATTLE AX
PLUG**

The largest piece of
Good tobacco
ever sold for 10 cents

\$5.00 REWARD

Offered by the Turners Falls Driving Association, to any person proving another guilty of trespassing, or in any way injuring the grounds, buildings or fences belonging to their Trotting Park. These grounds will be guarded in the future.

☞ Parties desiring use of this Track for practice, can obtain keys for the season, by applying to
C. A. DAVIS, Sup t.

Shoe Making and Repairing !

I have opened a shop in Opera House Block, Turners Falls, where I am prepared to do all kinds of Shoe Making and Hand Sewed Custom Work, in the best possible manner.
☞ Repairing neatly done at short notice and at reasonable prices.
ABRAM BELL, Turners Falls, Mass.

CARPET CLEANING !

My team will run to **MONTAGUE CITY and TURNERS FALLS Every TUESDAY** in APRIL and MAY for Carpets, which will be returned the following day.
☞ Leave your orders with your Post Master.
T. F. HARRINGTON,
Montague, Mass.
March 25, 1895.

\$50 REWARD !

A Reward of \$50 will be paid to any person causing the arrest and conviction of the party or parties who broke into my powder house on the plains about the first of the month, and stole powder therefrom.
F. I. WEBSTER,
Turners Falls, Mass.
Sept. 11, 1895.

SHERIDAN'S



CONDITION

POWDER

It will keep your chickens strong and healthy; will make young pullets lay early; worth its weight in gold for moulting, hens, prevents all diseases. It is a Powerful Food Digestive. Therefore, no matter what kind of food you use, mix with it daily. Sheridan's Powder. Otherwise, your profits are small and winter will be lost when the price for eggs is very high. It makes perfect condition of the food elements needed to produce eggs. In quantity costs less than a tenth of a cent a day. Sold by druggists, grocers, feed dealers, or by mail, two packs for 50c. Single, Large two for \$1.00. \$1.50. 50c. per pack. Sample Heat-Resisting Paper free. L. E. JOHNSON & CO., Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

WANTED.

Two first class grinders on Cutlery. No Union men need apply. Address, The Norwich Cutlery Co., P. O. Box 366, Norwich, Conn.

A few more of Orange's leading business men have failed lately.

The power gave out at the street railway power house, Sunday night, and the cars stopped on the tracks at all points but the management promptly hired all the teams in town and carried the passengers to their homes. The public must understand that the road was opened up hurriedly at the demand of the people, and they must not find too much fault over matters that of necessity must be settled by experiment.

On Monday, Henry F. Sanderson of South Deerfield, charged with printing an obscene paper, was released upon promise of good behavior.

Preston Baker, the industrious and somewhat eccentric miller of Charlemont, was fined \$400 for attempted bribery of a state official and Albert Stebbins, the defaulting ex-tax-collector of Deerfield, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the house of correction at hard labor with one day's solitary confinement. Both men are over 60 years old and the circumstances regarding their separate crimes have attracted unusual attention.

The case of Clesson H. Stratton of Gill, charged with abusing Julia B. Laro, a 13-year-old state ward who lived with his family, occupied the court's attention all day Wednesday. The sensational feature of the day was the introducing of the testimony of George B. Cutting, a young man who was in the employ of the Strattons at the time the crime is alleged to have been committed. He is also under arrest for the same crime. Several neighbors testified in regard to affairs at the Stratton place.

Valley lodge of Odd Fellows has leased the whole upper floor in Schuler's block and will occupy it about September 1. The organization has outgrown the rooms in Clapp's block which have been occupied for several years.

Miss A. J. Stemple, local editor of the REPORTER, has a very pretty short story in the August *Demorest's Magazine* which has received much praise from literary people. Miss Stemple has contributed many articles and stories to the magazines and the better class of literary weeklies for a year or two, under pen names, but the story in *Demorest's* is the first to appear under her real name. Her work on the REPORTER for the past five years has been very creditable and has paved the way to literary success in a larger and more appreciative field.

The Unitarian church is closed for the usual summer vacation. There will be no further services until September.

The pickers say that the blueberry crop is a small one, but the berries are unusually large and ripe.

August 7

The rear of the log drive is all in here, and in a few days the river will be clear.

Work has begun grading Prospect street, according to the vote at the recent town meeting.

A large force of men and teams under the supervision of selectman Amidon, are at work grading Fifth street from Avenue A to J street. The work of cutting through the ledge in the rear of the French Catholic

church progresses slowly.

The Peskeompskut club, composed of the business men of the village, gave the directors of the electric railways a very pleasant reception at the Farren house, Friday evening.

The contracts have been awarded for the erection of several houses on the electric railway syndicate property at Montague City. There is a steady cry for more dwellings. The rod shop help are always seeking for homes.

Frank Smith, a Polish merchant of Turners Falls, and his horse figured in the liveliest kind of a runaway on Bank row at Greenfield on Saturday afternoon. Smith had just unhitched his horse and was climbing into the sulky when the animal took fright and dashed down Clay hill at a furious pace, sometimes on the sidewalk and sometimes in the road. The sidewalk was crowded with pedestrians, as the electric car had just come in, and it is a wonder that no one was hurt. The First national bank lost a portion of its brownstone front, a big piece being knocked from the window sill, and music dealer Lamb's glass show-case was also wrecked as was also the sulky.

The mangled body of Thomas Dunn, aged 27, of this town, was found on the Fitchburg tracks near Buckland station Saturday morning about 9 o'clock. Medical Examiner F.J. Canedy of Shelburne Falls was summoned and the body was taken to Charlemont and then back to Shelburne Falls. Relatives identified the body. The man fell from a freight car while riding to North Adams. He lived with his mother. The funeral was held Monday morning.

An entertainment will be given at the Montague City school-house hall, this evening, under the auspices of the Christian Endeavor society, consisting of brass band and other instrumental music, quartettes and solos, Trinity and other chimes, reproduced by Edison's graphophone.

August 14

A sure indication that summer is on the wane, is the blossoming of the golden rod, which is now making the fields and road sides glorious with their beauty.

A party of young people had a picnic, Thursday, at "Inspiration rock," in honor of their guests.

A travelling medicine vender has been holding forth on the Avenue for several nights to large audiences.

Greenfield people gave vent to their pent-up enthusiasm, Saturday night, when the first electric car went through the arch and up Clay hill. On the car were President Lowe of the railroad company, President Pierce of the construction company and the Greenfield band. The track was laid as far as the watering tank and about 2000 people were packed into the triangle at Court square and along the sidewalks and greeted the cars with cheers, fireworks, red fire and the firing of cannons. The band enlivened proceedings and the opening was auspicious.

The repairs on the lower suspension bridge, which expense is to be borne equally by the towns of Greenfield and Montague, have not been started. The planking needs repairing and should be attended to at once. The selectmen have written the Vermont

construction company that it is imperatively necessary that they make the repairs at once. The company writes that work will be started as soon as the iron can be procured.

The annual meeting of the Lake Pleasant association was held at Lake Pleasant Monday morning, and it was ordered, by a vote of 226 out of 800 shares, that full power be vested in the three trustees, A.T. Pierce, H.C. Douglass and A.T. Whiting, to dispose of the property. The trustees said that they have already received five offers for the property, but that it will probably be sold at auction soon. It was stated that an offer had been received from the New England Spiritualists' camp-meeting association to take the property from the Lake Pleasant association and assume all the indebtedness, which is estimated at \$1000. This offer was rejected by the latter association. An adjourned meeting of the syndicate will be held Saturday.

The troubles at the Lake seem to be increasing rather than decreasing, for Monday, Sheriff C.A. Davis served papers on the trustees of the Lake Pleasant association ordering them to remove at once the buildings on the lake front, as it is claimed that the water is polluted and rendered unfit for use for the water-takers in the Turners Falls fire district. There are several buildings there, including the railroad restaurant which is occupied by W.E. Wood, and the Lake house and other buildings. The water is pumped from the lake to Turners Falls and used by the villagers.

President Pierce stated that his association would comply with the order at the earliest possible moment. As soon as he received the papers he served orders on the agent of H.L. Pierce, the owner of the merry-go-round by the lake, that it must be moved inside of 72 hours. The merry-go-round man selected a site on the old ball grounds on the east side of the railroad tracks and was given permission by President Pierce to place the machine there. Mr. Pierce said that the buildings would be removed at once after the camp-meeting is over, and in the meantime everything possible would be done to avoid causing the alleged nuisance.

Frank Smead's horse ran away on Fourth street, last week, and created consternation among the mothers of small children for an instant. A little son of John Gould, playing on the sidewalk in front of Tupper & Co.'s store, was run over by the crazy beast and considerably injured, so that Dr. Messer had to be called.

Mrs. Norah Powers, formerly Strahan, for being drunk and disorderly, was sent to jail for two months by Justice Dana, last week.

Trial Justice Parker D. Martin on Thursday heard the case of Carl Doane, aged 14 years, who sues Michael Grazione for damages for injuries which he suffered June 13, by reason of the alleged carelessness of the defendant. Grazione had been employed as a section hand on the Fitchburg railroad, but has lately bought a farm in Buckland where he has lived about seven years. The plaintiff claimed that the defendant had given him torpedoes which are used by railroad men for signaling trains. In discharging one of these on the date mentioned it exploded prematurely and

the plaintiff received a badly burned face and considerable powder in his eyes and will probably lose his eyesight.

James Grimes, a youth employed in the cotton mills, met with quite a severe accident, Thursday morning. He was riding on the elevator at the mill and his foot was caught, crushing it badly. Dr. Messer found it necessary to amputate the toes and part of the foot.

Richard Batten shot a blue heron up the river the other day, the bird standing five feet high, and measuring six feet from tip to tip of the outstretched wings.

August 21

The town has improved the little bit of avenue just beyond the dry bridge, by filling the bad sand holes with rocks and adding a top dressing of clay. It has long been an ugly spot, an eye-sore to the traveller and shoulder-sore to the draft horse.

The Star Clothing Company, which opened up in Hibernian block, last week, were arrested, charged with being itinerant venders, operating without a license. Justice Dana imposed a fine of \$25, from which an appeal was taken. The company claim that they came to grow up with the place, but the commonwealth could not discover many earmarks to uphold the contention, and the law was passed to protect merchants who pay very heavy taxes against the competition of those who bear no burdens.

Greenfield people are puffed up with census figures. By the census of five years ago, Montague was the most prosperous town in the county, having 6296 inhabitants to 5252 for Greenfield. Now the tables are turned. Greenfield has 6229, almost a gain of 1000, while Montague shows a loss of 242 from five years ago and now has 6054.

A study of the losses and gains in the county within the past five years makes the census interesting. In nearly all the hill towns, unless there have been special reasons, there has been a decrease. The people who have been living on the hills have been steadily going to the centers, also those who have been living in the outskirts of the large towns. Wherever there is one of the excellent old-time academies, such as Ashfield, Bernardston, Deerfield and New Salem have, there has either been no loss at all or a moderate gain. The decrease in Montague of 242 is due to the agricultural decrease and no increase in the manufacturing portion, according to the theory of the census taker, but the farmers say that they have lost none but gained if any, while some of the factories employ more hands than five years ago, and over 1200 children have been born in the town in five years.

The REPORTER is informed by many substantial citizens that they have the firmest belief that the figures relating to this town are not correct. Many people affirm that the census enumerators never appeared at their houses at all, and that in many cases families were taken and all boarders in those families skipped.

Charles Franz of Greenfield met with a severe injury at the cutlery works on Wednesday afternoon. While working, his arm was caught between a pulley and the wall and his flesh was burned to the bone, as it was some time

before the arm could be released. It may be necessary to amputate the member.

Geo. Bent got into a dispute about a girl at the dancing pavilion at Lake Pleasant, and proceeded to punch the party of the other part in true prize ring fashion. Justice Dana imposed a fine of \$10 to ease the conscience of Justice.

Henry Quinn and Patrick Murphy, aged 14 and 16 years, amused themselves, last Sunday, by stripping to the buff near the bulkhead and exposing their persons very generously to the gaze of numerous young girls before and after a bath in the river. They were warned away but refused to go, and became quite insolent. Policeman Park put them in the lock-up and Justice Dana notified the state agent to appear next Monday and give the boys a hearing on their unseemly conduct.

Frank Smead's horse ran away again last week, and this time the pieces of the wagon were scattered so far and wide that the ordinary cunning of man is thoroughly incapable of reassembling them.

August 28

The mercury on Thursday morning was only about forty degrees above zero, and there was a slight frost in many places.

The drought is severe in the hills in western Franklin county and many streams have dried up. The slight rains serve only to keep vegetables from drying up.

The restaurant on Fourth street is passing through the closed season.

The figures of the town census are yet a subject for discussion on every hand. It has been ascertained that the net income of births over deaths is something toward 600 in five years, and this with the decrease shown in population, nearly 1000 persons must have departed from the town, to seek their fortunes and bread-and-butter elsewhere. The figures are eloquent reminders to all who have piles of money in real estate in Turners Falls that population in a purely manufacturing community cannot be maintained without an increase and diversity of employment, and it behooves all the people to keep a kindly eye on all that is here, with ever a thought for something new.

The selectmen have awarded the contract for the bridge across Saw Mill River at Montague to the Berlin Iron Bridge Company of Berlin, Conn. The structure is to be 88 feet long, with a small arch projecting above the roadway some four feet. The floor will be of solid concrete, not an atom of wood to enter into the construction at any part. The roadway will be 25 feet in the clear, with a five foot sidewalk. The price to be paid is \$784, which will include the cost of removal of the old bridge and everything connected with the change.

The Montague City Rod Company, one of the most thrifty and beneficial corporations in the town, is having plans made for the extension of its factory. A wing 180 foot long, one story with basement, will extend toward School street.

The town has been in possession of some toughs who have all summer been just aching to change ownership, and not a few times have attempted to take possession on the street cars, but stolid and

resolute conductors have done much toward discouraging the deal. Last Sunday, however, a small party over at Lake Pleasant put on as conquering armor considerable more lugs than the law allows and tackled conductor John Stenson on the electric car. Thomas McCarthy, George McCabe and Jacob Signer got into an altercation and some of them proposed to ride without paying fare. The conductor stoutly demanding slot machine currency, they responded by making that official's eyes a mortifying color to display in company, but Mr. Stenson's courage can only be equaled by his skill in handling the billy, and it was not long before three vermilion decorators were whipped into subjection and the lock-up.

The Justice gave Thos. McCarthy two months' stay in the house of correction, with an additional fine of \$15. Geo. McCabe, being a less handy man with his dukes, put peacably \$5 in the current coin of the realm in addition to his unwilling consent to accompany his chum to the workhouse. Jacob Signer appearing somewhat in the role of a peacemaker, was allowed to depart and meditate upon the wickedness of unseemly strife by the payment of a sum equal to that with which a certain bitters manufacturer of fame started business in the very early days.

The case of the boys brought up for bathing in a public place, and disturbing the peace, was continued, as the state agent could not be present.

As an electric car was passing up Clay hill in Greenfield, last Wednesday, just at the watering tank the trolley sprang up into contact with the wire running from the special delivery department of the post-office to O'Hara's news store. In a moment the call box was aflame and it was only through prompt action that there was no conflagration.

A large frog, imported from London, will be on exhibition at Martel's pharmacy on Friday, Aug. 30th.

All the schools in town will open on Tuesday, September 3d.

The driving association has engaged a celebrated aeronaut, his wife and their dog to go up in a balloon from the driving park every day during the week beginning with September 9.

September 4

No matter how frequent and heavy the rainfall, the ground seems to absorb it at once and in an hour from the time the rain ceases the streets are dry and the dust is flying.

Oscar Norin, the diver, who is giving exhibitions at Green pond, this week, astonished a car-load of people, Sunday, by jumping from the new electric railroad bridge into the Connecticut river at Montague City. The distance is 40 feet. Norin came up smiling and the people realized then who he was.

During all of this week, every afternoon, at four, and every evening, at eight o'clock, there will be an exhibition of trick diving in Green pond, which is near the tracks of the electric road, close by Lake Pleasant. A diving tower, 80 feet high, has been erected, and from this Norin gives his exhibition, which has been attracting crowds of people at all the points where he has

appeared. One of his feats is to dive as a flame of fire — which in the evening will be a thrilling spectacle. The electric cars will take people to the pond from Greenfield, Turners Falls and Millers Falls. The moonlight makes the ride over the plains delightful. Those who have seen the diver do his act say it is artistically grand.

The Catholic temperance societies of this town made an excellent showing at the parade in North Adams on Labor Day. They had 100 men in line, and over 300 of their townspeople accompanied them on their trip, making as imposing a turnout as that of any town of equal size in the state.

The St. Mary's Temperance Bazaar which was held in the Hibernian hall four nights last week, was a success beyond expectation and an event that was enjoyed by all who attended. Commencing on Tuesday evening, Mr. Oakman cheerfully consented to preside, but his illness, (which was very much regretted,) causing his absence, seriously marred the occasion, and the opening celebration lost its brightest feature.

About 20 young men are in training for positions on the Turners Falls athletic club football team.

Charles Franz of Greenfield, who had an arm so seriously injured in the cutlery works here on Aug. 14, died on Friday afternoon. A part of the arm had been amputated the previous Wednesday, but lock-jaw set in which resulted in death. Mr. Franz was over sixty years of age, and had been an employe of the cutlery company for over twenty-five years.

The Gustav Adolph Lodge went to Greenfield in a body, last Sunday, to attend his funeral.

David Nichols of Dry Hill was arraigned before Justice Dana, yesterday, on complaint of Sheriff Pratt, for keeping a disorderly house up in that Mulberry Hill district. The trial will take place this afternoon, when the neighbors come in and tell things from the different points of view.

The REPORTER has had the pay rolls examined at various mills here for a period of ten years, and it is found that there are to-day more persons employed than either five or ten years ago. The cutlery company has greater than twenty-five per cent. more names on its pay roll than it had ten years ago, and almost the same number as it had five years ago. We shall have to guess again where the folks have disappeared to.

The figure four dropped out of the sum of the cost of the Montague bridge, and it appeared in a column an insignificant \$784, instead of the correct \$4784.

Will M. Burt has sold out his meat market to L.B. Kendrick of Three Rivers, and C.E. Kendrick has charge.

The reports received from towns in Franklin county are unanimous that the crops are the best for many years. The growers in this vicinity have escaped the hail-storms which have been so destructive farther down the valley. The frequent rains have kept the pastures green, and there will be a good yield of rowen. The weather of late has been a little too wet for potatoes. The yield is a large one, and the tubers are fair, but in some localities we learn of

blight and decay. The corn in the fields is wonderfully fine, and there is a very large crop. Apples are not abundant, but there will be no lack of pears, peaches and grapes.

R.N. Oakman of Montague City has taken an ill turn again, and to-day was very low.

September 11

The first week in autumn brought us beautiful weather, but gave some cool nights and mornings.

Every afternoon this week, at four o'clock, there will be a balloon ascension from the Turners Falls driving park. The exhibition will be free and will include double parachute leaps by a lady aeronaut and a little dog, from a distance of 5,000 feet. The balloon used is 85 feet high and 180 feet in circumference and is said to be the largest in the country.

Moonlight dances, for which Mildie's orchestra of nine pieces furnishes the music, are being held at the driving park every night.

The annual field day and basket picnic of the Pocumtuck Valley memorial association held at Montague, yesterday, drew together about 500 people mostly in the decline of life. It was planned to hold the exercises in E.L. Bartlett's grove, but the wet grass made this impossible and it was decided to meet in the town hall.

The oldest inhabitant does not remember a season when blackberries have been so scarce as this year.

A.C. Burnham of Montague City has a contract to supply 2,000,000 bricks for a new corset factory in Worcester.

Frank J. Marshall of the Marshall Engine Company has sailed for Europe in the interest of the business of the companies in which he is largely interested. He will return some time next month.

A couple of men broke into F.I. Webster's powder house on the plains some night between the 1st and 5th inst., and stole a couple of kegs of powder. Entrance was made by breaking two strong padlocks and the work was done by men used to handling machinists' tools. Mr. Webster offers \$50 reward for the arrest and conviction of the thieves.

Richard N. Oakman, of Montague City, died Friday afternoon, after an illness of a few weeks, almost the first sickness of his long and busy life, and when the untenanted clay went back to earth there passed a spirit from among mortals such as ranked well with genius.

Richard Nickerson Oakman was born in Wendell, Mass., on Jan. 20, 1818. His great-grandfather, who was probably the progenitor of the comparatively few Oakman families in this country, came from Norfolk, Eng., A.D. 1750; was a shoemaker by trade, and settled in Lynn, Mass., where he left two sons trained in his trade or occupation. Richard received his early education in the public schools of Wendell, then in a flourishing condition, so much so, that before he was seventeen years of age he was approbated by the constituted authorities as competent to teach in the common schools of Massachusetts, and he taught his first school in Erving, in the winter of 1834-35.

Aug. 10, 1841, Mr. Oakman married Julia P. Hawkes of Hawley, Mass., who has been a faithful helpmeet and affectionate wife and mother. In the spring of 1846, they removed to Montague, purchased a farm, and engaged in the arduous labors of their new calling. In 1850, Mr. Oakman was first elected to the several town offices of selectman, assessor, overseer of the poor, and school committee, which offices he continued to hold for many years, to the satisfaction of his fellow citizens.

In 1857, the pauper expense of the town of Montague having become a grievous burden to the taxpayers, the town determined to try the experiment of almshouse establishment, and for that purpose purchased a farm with outfits. Mr. Oakman and his wife were induced to dispose of their own homestead, and take the superintendence of this establishment for the town, himself as manager of the farm, and Mrs. Oakman as housekeeper and matron.

Mr. Oakman represented his town in the Legislature in 1853, served the county one term as commissioner, and held other positions of responsibility and trust. He was president of the Crocker national bank for many years, until declining years made the duty onerous to him, and one of the directors of the Turners Falls Company.

He was a marvel of physical strength and endurance, with a clear and vigorous mind, cultivated in certain directions to attain a force that swept all obstacles away. He was a born fighter, and a charming one to all who admire superb courage, and a persistent advocate of what his cool head taught him to be true. It is a pleasure to say that he had enemies, and many of them, because in his aggressive battle of life for himself, his affectionate family, his church, his country, or his business interests, he never gave quarter nor asked it.

The gauntlet was thrown before every adversary, and he sought victory for what he believed to be right, not by diplomacy but by might. This quality which has in the Anglo-Saxon conquered the world, and forced his ideas and almost his language upon the teeming millions of the earth, is admired even by the vanquished, and now that the grand, strong, admirable man of ripe years, full of honor has gone to his reward, the softening touch of time will heal the scars of personal conflict, and memory will keep green all the good deeds of a long and eventful life.

September 18

The western cyclone was completely outdone, last Wednesday, by the terrible hail and thunder storm which visited Franklin county. Turners Falls and Riverside suffered most, and the result of the storm can be seen in the hundreds of panes of broken glass, acres upon acres of melons, corn, cabbages and beans ready to harvest, but now ruined, hundreds of bushels of apples, peaches and pears that are now worthless, washed out roads and uprooted trees. The oldest inhabitant cannot recall anything similar.

There was a veritable cloudburst of hail, which lasted about half an hour and wrought almost incredible destruction. In Riverside the hail stones covered the ground to

TERRIFIC SLAUGHTER!

Clothing and Furnishings almost given away.

Men's Suits from \$1.50 up.

Children's Suits from 45c. up.

Don t miss this grand opportunity.

First come first served.

Remember the place.

The STAR CLOTHING CO.
Hibernian Block, Ave. A, Turners Falls.

THE ONLY BIG . . .
- - SHOW COMING !

A GRAND TRIUMPH IN THE HISTORY OF AMUSEMENT.

Scribner & Smith's
ENORMOUS UNITED SHOWS,
Circus, Museum, Managerie, Japanese Troupe, Arab Athletes and
\$15,000 FREE HORSE FAIR

AT TURNERS FALLS, FRIDAY, JUNE 28.
Goddard's Hill.



300 Men and Women 300	100 Thoroughbred Horses 100
8 Big Tents 8	3 Bands of Music 3
60 Elegant Acts	3 Golden Tableaux Cars
16 Gilded Cages	3 Open Dens

GREATEST 25c. SHOW EVER ORGANIZED !
Magnificent Attractions, Wonderful Acts, Glorious Feats, and Marvelous Performances.

BAZEL, THE GIANT ELEPHANT,
Lordly Lions, Terrible Tigers, Deadly Jaguars, Monster Pythons, and Weir Monsters of the Forrest and Jungle.

GRAND FREE STREET PARADE at 12 o'clock noon.
A Kingly Procession of Mounted Knights and Ladies, Golden Tableau Cars, Open Dens of Wild Animals, Comle Clowns, Male and Female Jockeys, &c.

ONE 25 CENT TICKET ADMITS TO ALL.

Two Grand and Novel Performances each day.
Doors open at 1 and 7 o'clock. Tournament at 2 and 8 o'clock.

:- AUCTION! :-

PER ORDER JOHN H. STARBUCK, MORTGAGEE.

The entire stock of FRANK W. HOLT, Starbuck's Block, Ave. A, Turners Falls, Mass.

Comprising about \$6000 worth of
Watches,
Diamonds,
Clocks,
Silver and Plated Ware,
And General Jewelry.

ALL NEW AND DESIRABLE GOODS.

Sales positive rain or shine at
2.30 and 7.30 daily.

All goods Warranted as Represented.

H. M. RICH & Co., BOSTON,
AUCTIONEERS FOR MORTGAGEE

the depth of four or five inches, and on Henry Barton's farm can still be seen at this late day hail stones several inches deep. The hail stripped the leaves off the trees, struck down whole branches, knocked all the fruit off the trees and bruised the hardest winter apples so that they are worthless. Corn was beaten down flat, squashes were cut in two, cabbages torn into shreds, and melons cut up and pieces chipped out. The wind blew a perfect gale, and what the hail could not destroy the wind did. The wind tossed about the logs in the river and played havoc with lumber piles.

In the orchard between the Barton houses, at Riverside, forty-one robins and sparrows were killed by the hail. They came to the trees for shelter and not a bird went away alive.

The glaziers will have lots of work, replacing the numberless panes of broken window glass in Turners Falls. The number is estimated at 4,000. The Montague Paper Co., Allen Brothers, Joseph Lafrombois, and many others will have large bills to settle for this item. The roof was blown from John LaPoint's three story brick block, and Lucien Godon's baker's wagon, which was standing in the alley nearby, was demolished by the roof.

While all this havoc was being wrought at Turners Falls and Riverside, there was only an ordinary shower in Montague City and other places in the vicinity, with very little hail which did no damage whatever.

Another fire in Millers Falls, last week. This time it was caused by a flash of lightning and then a blaze went up and in a few moments John Franklin was without a barn. The fire company, with the assistance of the shop men, did quick work and managed to save the house, which took fire several times.

The Millers Falls Company's shops close for three days, this week, to make repairs, thus giving their employes an opportunity to visit the Greenfield fair.

The long standing difficulty between the two Lake Pleasant factions was finally settled at Greenfield Saturday afternoon. The directors of the two associations met at the Mansion house and wrestled for about three hours with the terms of sale. As a result of the conference the Spiritualists will take the property for \$10,000 subject to a limitation of debts.

An accidental shooting affair which may result in the death of Cecil I. Allen, 21, of Montague, took place Sunday noon about a mile west of Montague center in the woods on Taylor Hill. Allen was out partridge hunting and he was shot in the head by Leon Ball, a young man also of Montague and a neighbor of Allen who was also out shooting partridges. When Dr. Pierce arrived Allen was unconscious. It was found that a double B shot had struck Allen over the left eye, had penetrated the skull and lodged in the brain. Dr. Pierce had him placed under the influence of ether and trepanned the skull. He said the wound was very serious and there are few instances of recovery from similar injuries.

John Rice, an employe of the Keith mill, was killed, Thursday night, by a fall.

Mr. Rice, who was on the night force, wished to leave the mill, and stepped out on some iron girders which support the water tank. He missed his footing and fell about 25 or 30 feet, striking on his head. He was taken home and lived only about an hour after the accident.

A daily paper for Greenfield is now talked of, to be published by an experienced newspaper man. That an experienced newspaper man should select such a limited field for a penny daily, is beyond the comprehension of other experienced newspaper men. Given all the circulation that the fondest dreams of inexperience could hope for, there would hardly be enough money in sight to more than compensate an ordinary laborer's boss, ignoring the wear and tear of an expensive plant and the loss of decent interest on a speculative capital. With the local towns covered by such excellent dailies as the *Republican* and *Union*, whose painstaking and untiring reporters not only enlarge upon everything, down to the social functions of the domestics, but imitate omniscience in noting even the fall of a sparrow, it is difficult to understand the dire need of a more refined fine-toothed system of news-gathering. But capital is never tired of exploring newspaper rat-holes, the fascination of the expedition lying in the fact that nothing but experience in a given field has ever given the slightest clue as to the ultimate results.

September 25

Vacation season is about ended, which brings to mind the fact that there are two times when we need a vacation, before going away and after coming back.

The loss on the ensilage in the low districts of western Franklin county, caused by the recent severe frost, was more than was supposed, many fields of corn being damaged 50 per cent.

I. Smithkins has closed the Star clothing store in Hibernian block, and will lug his cheap stock to some other town for a few weeks. He paid his fine for illegally selling here.

Cecil I. Allen, the victim of the accidental shooting, was brought to the Franklin County hospital, at Greenfield last Wednesday. He has a shot in his forehead, which Dr. Pierce has probed for in vain, and there was little hope of his recovery, but he now appears to be gaining and promises to get well.

The agricultural fair last week was a great success and was attended by thousands of people from all parts of the country and from many places outside. The procession was pronounced by many the finest parade they had ever seen. It was headed by Sheriff Chenery and his deputies, all in full uniform. Over 30 bicycles were in line and 50 equestrians. Near the rear of the column rode Mrs. Sally L. Hayden of Gill, who is over 90 years of age. Many people supposed it was a young woman in disguise. These are only a few of the many attractive features of the parade. Shelburne Falls band furnished music. Greenfield business men surprised everyone with the beauty of their decorations.

Fire got started in some packing boxes in rear of Allen Brothers' block, Monday

night, but it was quickly seen by James Keough, and put out before any damage was done. A match or lighted cigar from the hand of a pedestrian in the alley evidently started the blaze.

Arrangements are nearly complete for the bicycle race meet to be held at the driving park, Saturday, Sept. 28th. Among the large list of entries are some of the fastest class A riders in New England. The meet promises to be of much importance and is attracting interest. The meet is run under the auspices of the Turners Falls Bicycle club. No effort will be spared to make it the greatest event of the season in this section.

A few mild cases of diphtheria have been reported.

October 2

Nearly all the little feeders to the main streams among the Franklin county hills have dried up and springs and wells hitherto supposed to be permanent have succumbed to the fierce September heat. There is no feed in the pastures, which also lack water. Friday, Saturday and Sunday of last week the mercury ranged from 108 to 112 degrees in the sun at Heath. People all around are troubled to get water, which is taken mostly from what remains in the brooks. The water in Mill brook, which usually is a sizable stream, barely runs. The Deerfield river is reduced to an ordinary creek, in volume of water. Hawley and Rowe farmers haul water in barrels from distant points. The bed of North river is nearly dry. Winter apples are dropping from the trees, and the leaves are turning all sorts of colors.

The races held at the park on Saturday, were attended by a very small crowd. The impression prevailed that there was some faking connected with the affair, and some matters are yet in doubt as to the legitimacy of some part of the management. The mile open was outside the time limit and declared no race.

Gill is not too far away for the Turners Falls thieves who carry on their operations on Sunday. Every day of rest, J.L.S. Moore finds his premises infested with thieves from Turners Falls who rob him of his nuts in the most brazen manner, and then make way with their plunder. Many of them come up the river in boats, and when they have stolen all they wish, hie themselves to their boats and go home. Mr. Moore has grown tired of being robbed, and forbids any one picking the nuts on his premises.

John Shebell has sold out his milk business to Fred J. Shirtcliff.

In his new and enlarged quarters in the store he recently purchased on Second street, opposite C.P. Wise's, Lucien Godin, the baker, is prepared to serve many more customers with every thing in his line. Hot baked beans and brown bread are delivered to customers every Sunday morning.

The French people are busy preparing for a fair which they will hold sometime this month.

Bishop Beaven of Springfield administered the rite of confirmation to about two hundred children at St. Mary's church on Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz of Boston delivered two lectures here, last week, under the

auspices of the Village Improvement association.

A fire started in some packing boxes way in the rear of James A. Gunn's block this morning, but the fire department responded so quickly with water that absolutely no damage was done.

There was a lively fracas at the jail work-shop in Greenfield, Monday morning. Thomas Ryan, the tramp whose queer actions at the time of his arrest a few weeks ago attracted unusual attention, left his work of chair-bottoming and grabbed Florence Sullivan of Turners Falls, a fellow prisoner, about the body and with one of the work knives made an ugly slash across his neck. Dr. A.C. Walker was summoned and dressed Sullivan's wounds. It was found that one of the arteries was severed and some of the muscles. The man was weak from loss of blood but he will recover.

The tower on Poets Seat has been repaired by the Rural club and is in safe condition. The tower has been built a good many years, and though entirely safe now it may be thought necessary to rebuild it next year. The tower suffers more from the small boy than from the weather.

A girl or woman can find occasional work by the piece in binding department of Reporter office. Must be neat, quick, quiet and intelligent. Apply to-day.

October 9

Sunday hunters are quite numerous these Fall days.

About twenty of the employes of the cutlery company who live in Greenfield have quit riding on the electric cars and have gone back to the Fitchburg road for service. The smoking cars of the steam road are appreciated by the workmen on the cold mornings.

Some people have been complaining that the sewers are not in proper shape and therefore are causing sickness, while the doctors say there is not sickness enough to keep the great army of physicians out of the poor house.

C.A. Davis has leased land of E.L. Goddard, just above the suspension bridge, on which he has begun the erection of a fine ice house. The building is to be 40 by 80 feet, and a solid foundation of stone and earth is being put in that will raise the structure above high water mark and thus ensure its safety from floods.

The Odd Fellows held a sociable and oyster supper in their new quarters, Schuler block, Thursday evening.



The Oakman high school has purchased a new upright Trowbridge piano for the use of the school.

It is now pretty certain that money enough will be raised to induce a shirt manufacturer to build in Orange. It is claimed for him that he will hire 150 girls at the start.

Aaron Oliver of Athol was arrested, Monday, by Deputy Sheriff Smead of Greenfield and Deputy Sheriff Fowler of Orange on a warrant sworn out by State Detective Munyan on a charge of

performing a criminal operation on a young married woman in Orange whose name the officers do not make known at present. Oliver was taken to jail, yesterday afternoon, to await the condition of the woman, which at the present time is not favorable. About eight years ago Oliver was arrested by State Detective Hoyter of Worcester and Sheriff Fowler of Orange on a similar charge and at the following term of the superior court at Worcester he was sentenced to state-prison for three years. He is a common laborer and the past week he has been employed on the state road between Athol and Orange.

Justice Dana's office was the scene of a spicy trial, last week, when Eva Kachiska from "Castle Garden" was arraigned for disturbing the peace. The woman had a great deal of testimony and insisted upon giving it. She became very excited as the trial progressed, and in describing the disturbance threw herself on the floor and later sat down in one of the spectator's laps. The testimony failed to make an impression on the magistrate, who fined Eva \$10, which she paid.

Edward R. Marshall has been making an extended trip in the west in the interest of the Marshall Engine Company. He reports business improving throughout the west, and a better feeling among manufacturers.

"Abe" Smith returned from a visit in New York minus his \$80 gold watch which had been hooked from him by a light fingered individual.

Charles Kenna's minstrels will play at Colle's opera house to-morrow evening.

The cries of a wild cat have been heard near the house of A.B. Parker, frightening his cattle and disturbing the peace of mind of all who have to be out after dark.

October 16

The store windows of the village have been painted, not red only, but many other hues, by an enterprising travelling sign painter, and almost every window bears a more or less ornamental legend put there by his busy brush.

Miss Ella Hazelton has been elected secretary and librarian of the Montague City Sunday school.

B.W. Mayo picked ripe berries from his strawberry bed last Saturday.

Thomas Bagley, proprietor of the pool room in Hibernian block, died last week, after a short illness. He was a strong, vigorous man up to a few days of his death.

A staging on the new Marshall paper mill, used by Thomas Brothers in building the walls, fell yesterday at four o'clock, and five men went down a distance of 26 feet. Edward Morrison, a mason, was somewhat injured in the body, but he is comfortable to-day. Jerry O'Neil, a mason, had a gash cut in his face by a trowel, while the tenders, Florence Sullivan, James Conway and Ward, were shaken up a bit. The staging was of new material, well made and properly constructed, but at the time of the accident was over-loaded by the workmen, against the caution of Mr. Thomas. All hands happened to be on the staging at one time, and all hods were dumped violently at once causing a shock no staging is made to withstand. All interested are rejoicing that no serious harm resulted

from the break-down.

Moritz Ruther of Holyoke, candidate for governor on the socialist labor ticket, and Herbert N. Casson of Lynn were the principal speakers at a rally held in Colle opera house, last night. Mr. Ruther presided and made a brief speech in introducing Mr. Casson, who gave an extended statement of the party's position on state and national issues, and predicted a growing sympathy with its principles. There seemed to be very little in the labor theories, and not many over a hundred people went into the hall. No serious number of converts were made.

A dog was run over by the electric cars a week or two ago, and was so badly injured that Officer Parke shot the animal to put it out of its misery.

There was a fire in Deerfield, last night, and the barn of John Dooley just across the Cheapside bridge, was burned with some of its contents. This fire was the cause of the red appearance of the sky.

About ten o'clock on Monday night, it became necessary to shut down one of the water wheels in the Turners Falls Company's mill, as the wheel was entirely blocked up with eels.

October 23

The recent rains have been of vast benefit, not only to the farmers, whose springs and wells were dry, but to the owners of mills and shops. The little streams are now about their usual size and most of the farmers are supplied.

The French fair opened on Thursday evening. The societies of the French church paraded the streets, headed by the Germania cornet band.

Rist & Conant, the clothiers, have discarded electric lights and put in a new system of oil illumination that surpasses the daylight.

A special meeting of the board of trade of Shelburne Falls was held, Monday night, to consider the project of an electric road from Shelburne Falls to Colrain. Several of the business men of Colrain were present by invitation. Much interest was manifested and the sentiment was strongly in favor of an electric road for both freight and passenger service and that it be built by local capital if possible.

Selectman Solomon H. Amidon of Millers Falls, the democratic candidate for representative, is well known throughout the entire district as a very capable man, honest and fearless, and pretty nearly dead right in all his actions between man and man. He is a live business man, and has always been a vote getter, no matter to what office his friends chose to name him for. In years past when this district was so "hopelessly" democratic nothing short of a stroke of lightning would have prevented him from sitting under the gilded dome, but now the district is growing republican, and the best man on earth couldn't win with his eyes shut, but his friends think they have good reason to be able to crow after the vote is counted.

B.W. Mayo, the candidate of the Republicans for representative, is one of our best known and best liked business men, having been in the post-office here ever since the first letter came by post, until the fortunes of politics made a change of officers. It would have been hard for the Republicans to have selected a more fitting candidate

to represent their ideas, and there is no doubt he will poll the strength of his party.

Jack McCarthy of South End was drunk and created a disturbance on the street cars. The company handed the offender over to the police, and Justice Dana imposed a fine of \$10. The railroad people give the public the best assurance that they will not allow any rowdysim on their cars.

Cecil I. Allen, who was accidentally shot while hunting in Montague a few weeks ago, and had a double B shot penetrate his brain, is back from the hospital. He is nearly well, but the shot is still in the inside of the skull.

Edward Morrison, who fell with the scaffolding, last week, died Friday of peritonitis. He had been improving, it was thought, and the day before he died he was able to sit up for a time. He leaves a wife, who was a daughter of the late Leander Brigham of Montague.

Willard A. Thompson, 57, of Leverett was found dead in his bed, Saturday, at the home of Herbert Adams, by whom he was employed. He was in Amherst, Friday, and went to bed feeling as well as usual. Dr. Clark who was called, pronounced his death due to heart disease. He had a fall from a tree a few days ago which it is thought may have hastened his death.

The Woman's Relief Corps will hold a ten cent baked bean supper, next Tuesday evening, from 5.30 to 8 o'clock in G.A.R. hall. All contributions for supper will be gladly received at the hall in the afternoon. All are invited to come and have a good time.

A recent husking-bee at Lewis Hastings' in Gill gave so much pleasure that Mr. Hastings gave a second one last Wednesday evening, and about 50 were present. After the corn had been husked, the company was invited to the house to partake of a warm repast.

October 30

Last week, John Long picked some pansies in his garden, which had been planted only last August. The flowers were as large and as beautiful as though they had blossomed in the summer sun, instead of being out in the cold and frost.

The fire department will give an exhibition, Monday afternoon on the Avenue. The hook and ladder company and the hose company from South End will have a race.

Workmen began the erection of the new switch tower at the Turners Falls Junction, Monday. It will be equipped with interlocking switches.

Complaints have been made because some trips have been abandoned on the Millers Falls route of the street railway. It was clearly demonstrated in several weeks' experiment that people did not travel on the trips cut out, not even a solitary passenger making his appearance for days together, as the books of the company will show, and so the company simply stopped playing shuttle-cock with the cars with only the object to be gained of saving the chronic grumbler the necessity of hunting up some new "grievance." Whenever passengers make their appearance the cars will be there to carry them.

Selectman Solomon H. Amidon yesterday made a trade with Mr. Eddy for right

of way across his land so long as the bridge is up at Saw Mill River. The way to Montague from the east will now be by the new depot road past Warren Bardwell's to the brickyard, and thence through Mr. Eddy's land to the Main Street leading to Federal Street.

The special fire district meeting to-night is likely to be unusually well attended as there is considerable interest as to whether the water service shall be extended to Montague City. An estimate has been made of the cost, and the system can be put in complete for some \$4680. The Montague City people have offered a guarantee of 8 per cent on the investment.

The names of 44 men and 18 women have been added to the voting lists.

There are now 26 prisoners in the house of correction and nine waiting for trial.

W.C.D. Thomas, while riding a bicycle at Montague City, Sunday was run over by a team, and so badly injured as to be unable to leave his home for a week. His wheel was almost destroyed. The driver of the team, whipped up his horse and departed without word of sorrow or comment.

Thomas Dempsey got noisy on the street cars, coming from Greenfield, last week, and Justice Dana sent him to jail for four months for so disturbing the passengers.

Claude Kellogg had one of his arms badly burned Monday while at work in the Montague mill. He was taking the paper over on the paper machine when his foot slipped, throwing his arm in between the dryers.

The selectmen and overseers of the poor will meet in the selectmen's room, Turners Falls, on Monday, Nov. 4, to fill a vacancy on the overseers of the poor caused by the resignation of Paul Mooney.

A young Bohemian woman thinks Warren Kittridge of Lowell should be made to understand that coming events cast their shadows before, and as a gentle hint of the nature of the responsibility which she testifies he has involuntarily assumed, Justice Dana imposed a fine of \$20 for fornication, and demanded bonds to await the coming of a third party.

At the meeting of the Unity club to be held next Monday evening, Nov. 4., there will be an address by the president of the club on "Taking a Photograph." This will be illustrated by camera and plates. The committee of arrangements for the evening will make an exhibition of amateur photographic work, which will be hung on the walls of the Unitarian church parlor.

The third husking bee in Gill was at Chandler Miner's, last week. A hundred guests were present and husked about 300 bushels of corn.

November 6

The special meeting of the Turners Falls fire district was well attended, last Wednesday evening, and the voters were of one mind in regard to extending the water-works to Montague City. Affirmative votes cast, 49. Negative votes cast, none.

The greatest fire ever known in Millers Falls started at 10.30 o'clock Wednesday night, and raged for several hours, and the business portion of the village was wiped out, including several dwellings and the Congregational

church. Over \$100,000 worth of property was destroyed, the most expensive being O'Keefe's hotel, the brick block owned by the Millers Falls company, and S.H. Amidon's block. There is no fire department at Millers Falls, and the town was at the mercy of the flames, which spread with amazing swiftness. Selectman Solomon H. Amidon telegraphed to Greenfield, Turners Falls, Northampton and Orange for help.

The burning buildings made a brilliant spectacle. The flames lighted the sky and could be seen for many miles. An alarm was given at Greenfield at 11.15 and firemen with the Eagle hand engine and the hose wagon went to Millers Falls on a special train, arriving there at 11.54. A stream was soon playing on the burning buildings, but the firemen were unable to check the flames, which were then raging fiercely in the large hotel of Thomas O'Keefe.

The fire started in the carpenter shop in the rear of Amidon's block on Main street. It spread rapidly to the block and across the street. The Union block, which was soon destroyed, was a two-story brick structure valued at \$8000 and was owned by the Millers Falls company. On the first floor were Jenks & Mooney, dry goods, notions, boots and shoes, and T.B. Stratton's grocery store. In the second story was Union hall.

S.H. Amidon's three-story wooden block was valued at \$11,000. On the first floor were E.M. Partridge, druggist, W.F. Everett, jeweler, and J.H. Sears, groceries. Mrs. Amidon's millinery store was on the second floor, and so were Dr. George A. Cook's office, his room and Mr. Amidon's apartments. The Congregational church was valued at \$3000. Thomas O'Keefe's hotel was a three-story wooden building containing 35 rooms. The other buildings owned by Mr. O'Keefe and valued at \$3000 were burned. In one of them was Reed Bros.' market. A building owned by M. Smith and occupied by Mrs. Shay of Athol, millinery, was burned, and so was W.A. Johnson's two and one-half story wooden building occupied by L.D. Elmer, newsroom, C.L. Cook, variety store and William Mayhew, barber shop. Up stairs in this building was a tenement occupied by Mr. Elmer. Other buildings destroyed were the post office, house and barn of Fred King, loss \$3500; the house and barn of Michael Moran, loss \$3000; A.M. Hunter's one and one-half story house, loss \$700.

Quarter of an acre of ruins is all that remains of the business section of the town. The only store left in town is Butman's tin shop, and that is gutted so that it is almost worthless.

Chief Bondway of the Northampton fire department directed his men with calmness, and if they could have arrived earlier with their steamer much property could have been saved.

The Turners Falls athletic club added one more victory to its unbroken record Saturday afternoon by defeating the Holyoke athletic club team in a closely contested game on the trotting park. The game was played in a driving snow-storm and players and spectators got pretty thoroughly drenched, but notwithstanding the storm

there was a good crowd of local rooters on hand to cheer for the home team, and there was plenty of enthusiasm.

Ex-postmaster B.W. Mayo carries this district by a whop-ping old majority. His popularity was immense, and his friends were at work by the hundreds. Mr. Amidon's party associates got in their usual knifing work, and the ones he has befriended the most in times past got many a dig at him in the back, yesterday. However, the district is now surely republican, and no democrat could have weathered this year's storm.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Greenfield has disbanded because the town does not seem to have room at present for this work, but the selectmen have been asked to grant additional liquor licenses on account of the increased population.

Preston Baker of Charle-mont has associated himself with Joshua Tyrell of Adams and is developing the plum-bago mines at "Bozrah." Several men are at work and the specimens give promise of an abundance of valuable ore.

The woodchuck and the squirrel, the corn-husk and the bark-on-the-north-side-of-a-tree, in fact all the old reliable weather prophets are agreed that the coming winter is to be long and cold. Incidentally, the coal companies are putting up the price of their product.

The street cars carried immense numbers of passengers to Millers Falls last Sunday, to view the remains of the late fire. The cars on both lines of street railway are now heated by electricity, and are quite comfortable.

November 13

Wild geese are flying south. Albert Mildie, Charles Brown and Otto Ziegler, all cutlers, are applicants for naturalization papers.

Millers Falls is once more alive. It has recovered from its terrible blow of a couple of weeks ago. Where ashes and debris are at present lying here is promised to be structures of brick rising in the air, before the green grass of another spring comes forth. With the new buildings that are promised to be erected there surely will be a boom for the little village.

Those who are hesitating in regard to building on account of water need wait no longer. The citizens are aroused to their needs at last and last week held a meeting and appointed committees to investigate the different methods of obtaining water and report at once. A measurement of the brook known as "Lions brook" was taken and a most favorable report presented. Some of its waters have been sent to be tested.

Turners Falls will be the first village in the county to have a parochial school. St. Ann's French Catholic society is to build a large school on its lot on the corner of Fifth and J streets immediately. It is to be a brick building, 85 by 45 feet, and three stories high. The roof will be pitched. The trimmings will be of Long-meadow brownstone. It is planned to have the building completed by May 1. The cost is estimated at \$10,000.

John Daly, while practicing foot ball, on Sunday, accidentally fell and broke several ribs.

Lucas Bippus, who is employed in the sawing room of the cutlery shops, met

with a severe accident while at work, Friday. A piece of wood which he was sawing flew from the saw and struck him in the face. The blow was so severe that he was rendered unconscious and his face was badly bruised.

The Turners Falls post-office was entered about 2 o'clock, Monday morning, but the burglars got nothing for their trouble. They gained entrance by prying open the back door and were evidently surprised to find their search for a safe unrewarded. Postmaster Frank E. Briggs with commendable caution took everything away from the office, Saturday night, that would be of value, there being no safe at the office. The intruders did not disturb anything in the office. They are probably the same men who have lately entered the East Northfield office and the Bernardston depot.

Conway has been well duped during the past few weeks by a couple of beggars, an old woman and a young girl, purporting to be members of a large family recently burned out and left destitute. They told different stories at nearly every house, claiming sometimes to belong in South Deerfield and sometimes in Plainfield, Ashfield and other towns. They had a horse and wagon and collected large quantities of clothing and provisions as well as money which they professed to be raising for a stove for the winter. They have finally been identified as members of a large band of gypsies encamped near Ashfield.

The ladies of the Industrial society have arranged for a supper and social in the Baptist church on Friday evening. All know that this means something good.

November 20

Hunters report game to be exceedingly scarce. Only a few gray squirrels and no foxes can be found.

The number of telephone subscribers has now reached a point where it is advisable to establish a local exchange.

The work on the lower suspension bridge was not completed quite as early as promised, but the bridge is now open to travel, and has been inspected by the selectmen of Montague and Greenfield and pronounced as good, probably, as the amount of money paid would justify.

The Griswold block was broken into, one night last week, and several overcoats stolen. The thieves were caught, but upon returning the overcoats the police let them go.

The gang of burglars which has visited Bernardston, East Northfield and Turners Falls reached Montague City, Thursday night, and paid their respects to the office of the street railway companies. Entrance was gained by prying open a window, and the burglars then proceeded to blow up the safe with dynamite. The safe was wrecked, two windows were broken and every joint in the little building was wrenched. The safe turned over on its face, and the door could not be opened, so the burglars got nothing to reward their efforts. The damage to the building and safe will exceed \$100. It is believed that the explosion occurred between 2 and 3 o'clock and it is strange that no one heard the noise. The methods of

Colle's Opera House.

ONE NIGHT ONLY.

SATURDAY, OCT. 19.

A GENUINE COMEDY SENSATION !

Engagement of

John E. Brennan

In his Irish Comedy Drama,

TIM THE TINKER

With the Original Company. All its special Scenery, Costumes and beautiful Mechanical Effects, supported by a strong company of players. Also the celebrated "TINKER QUARTETTE."

NEW SONGS, DANCES and high class specialties by the entire company.

PRICES, 25, 35 and 50 Cents.

Reserved Seat Sale at Colle's Drug Store.

\$200. REWARD

The Selectmen of Montague and the Directors of the Greenfield and Turners Falls Street Railway Co unite in offering the above reward—two hundred dollars, for the detection and conviction of any person or persons engaged in the recent breaking and entering of the Turners Falls Post Office and the office of said Railway Company.

C. W. HOSMER, } Selectmen
E. C. COY, } of
S. H. AMIDON. } Montague.

GREENFIELD AND TURNERS FALLS
STREET RAILWAY CO.
BY H. C. GARFIELD, SUPT.

BOYS' BICYCLES,
CARTS, WHEELBARROWS, &c.,
...AT...
"Way-Down" Prices.

Base Balls,
Rubber Balls,
Bats, Etc.

J. G. Freeman & Co.
Corner Book Store.

TO RENT!

A FINE TENEMENT IN MY BLOCK, ON CENTRAL STREET, OR, IF PREFERRED, THE HOUSE; I LIVE IN ON THE SAME STREET. PARTY CAN RENT WHICHEVER HE LIKES BEST.

JOHN ROYER.

It is Getting Cold.

Come out of "the swim" and get "in the sweep."

You are not in it without one or more Gems of the Holiday Season.

Send us 25 cents and two-cent stamp for one; or 50 cents for both designs—(post paid.)

The rarest souvenirs of the day

Address
THE NEW IDEA CO.,
Montague, Mass.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

I have a very large and FINE ASSORTMENT OF PALMER'S PERFUMES put up in beautiful decorated cases, one, two, three or four bottles in a case. There are no better perfumes in the market to-day.

Then I have a beautiful assortment of CELLULOID NOVELTIES, Handkerchief Boxes, Veil Boxes, Necktie Boxes, Glove Boxes, Jewel Boxes, Photo Cases, Card Cases, etc., etc., all neatly decorated.

I have a few very nice Aluminum Goods. Atomizers, beautiful PUFF BOXES, Smokers' Sets, CIGAR CASES, and a large line of CIGARS put up in 25, 50, and 100 boxes, especially for the Christmas trade.

I have some Toilet Sets put up in beautiful leather cases, containing Hair Brush, Tooth Brush, Nail Brush, Soap Box, Powder Bottle, Bottle for Tooth and Nail Brush. Some of these goods are especially for travelling purposes and are neatly arranged.

And for CHOICE CANDIES come and see my stock. I have the finest assortment in town. Broken, Mixed, Chocolate Bon Bons, in bulk and in beautiful ¼, ½ and 1 pound boxes. These goods are pure and fresh and will be sold at as low prices as fine goods can be bought.

Before you buy your Christmas presents come and look at my display of beautiful and useful articles.

Yours respectfully,
I. A. DARLING.

the burglars are the same as they employed at the previous burglaries in the vicinity.

There was an architect in Millers Falls, this week, with plans for the new block and opera house which is to be erected there in the near future.

The Congregational church received their first contribution from Messrs. Mooney and Taggart which goes to swell the fund towards erecting a new church. Sunday morning, after the usual services, there was a rally held for the purpose of raising money to rebuild the church. There were \$750.00 pledged within a few moments, the Kings Daughters giving \$100.00 as a starter, followed by Mr. King who gave the same amount, others giving \$50, \$25 and various sums to one dollar. Its membership is small but with its outside friends it is sure to raise the desired amount and in a year's time Millers Falls will be as pretty a little village as need be.

Claude Kellogg, who was so severely burned on a paper drier, is slowly gaining, and is now considered out of danger.

John Drago, during a visit in Boston, recently, met with a peculiar accident and he is now suffering from the effects. While crossing a street he accidentally stumbled and his knee struck the street railway car tracks. No bad results were felt at the time, but later the limb caused him serious trouble and he is now confined to the house.

Sheriff Davis and Pratt and Officers Parke and Rasberry visited the South End Sunday morning, in search of contraband liquors. The places of David Mulcahy and Edward Vancelett were raided. Two gallons of whiskey was found in somebody's barn, supposed to be Mulcahy's, beside sundry jugs and bottles. At Vancelett's a basket of beer was found. The men will probably be arraigned some day this week

The Turners Falls-Orange football game did not materialize, Saturday, owing to the failure of the Orange boys to appear. The Turners Falls team is trying to arrange a game for Thanksgiving day.

The Baptist Sunday school will give a harvest and Thanksgiving concert next Sunday evening.

November 27

Weather prophets predict a long, cold winter as they always do, and they rarely err.

The trolley road across the plain runs about 50 rods through land of E.P. Gunn, and he has had, the past week, a row of small black locust trees set on each side of the track, the whole length, 19 feet from the outer rail. It took 48 trees and Mr. Gunn hopes to live to see them at least 15 feet in height.

There will be a large crowd at the annual concert and ball of the fire department, this evening.

Grocer C.P. Wise's faithful old horse. Charley, was put out of the misery that comes to all cripples of his age, last week, after 33 years of useful toil. Mr. Wise had kept the beast for a couple of years as a pensioner under the best of care, but the infirmities of age made life a burden to the kindly dispositioned old quadruped.

A civil engineer was in Millers Falls, last week, looking over the grounds for procuring a water supply for the

village. They talk of building a reservoir on Mr. Grout's hill and numerous other plans are thought of, but as yet none have been decided on.

About 30 voters of the Green river precinct in Deerfield met at the schoolhouse in the district, the other afternoon, and discussed the question of annexing that portion of Deerfield to Greenfield. Better schools and fire protection were the chief things desired, and it is believed that both would follow annexation. It was voted unanimously to petition the Legislature to set off the portion of Deerfield lying north of the Deerfield river and Sheldon brook, bounded west by Shelburne, east by Montague and north by Greenfield, and that the same be made a part of Greenfield.

Charlemont is afflicted with the semi-annual visitation of mud. Main street is a veritable sea of soft, black mud, and traffic is only possible under great difficulties.

There is an epidemic of whooping-cough in Warwick.

Amherst is very desirous of becoming intimate with neighboring towns by means of electric roads.

Sentences imposed: Aaron Oliver, procuring mis carriage, five years in state prison; Lillian Goodnow, adultery, two years house of correction; Daniel Carey, adultery, reformatory; Ira G. Glazier, larceny from the person, 18 months house of correction; Alvin King, carnally knowing and abusing a child of 15 years, four years in state prison; Dwight La Plant, adultery, one year house of correction; Adelia F. Richardson, adultery, two years house of correction; Wm. F. Lincoln, larceny, three years in state prison; Nathan D. Chatterton, larceny, fine \$20; Gustav Peichert, lewd and lascivious cohabitation, one year house of correction.

Seven tramps were lodged in the tramp-house on Wednesday night, and the next morning when the officers went to release them they found all seven knights of the road in a beastly state of intoxication. The crew had broken into the cell where the "wet goods," captured in the recent Sunday raid, were stored, and had evidently filled themselves to the brim. The seven revellers were sent to Greenfield jail.

A.M. Lawrence of the Montague "New Idea company" is the originator of a very pretty and novel Christmas card, with an embossed motto in gilt - "A sweeping majority of Christmas joys," illustrated by a real broom and dust-pan, with a tiny calendar for 1896 upon it. The dust-pan is made of celluloid, and the whole is a very attractive novelty. The novelty is being made in two designs, and is covered by patents. At present 25 hands are employed in its manufacture.

The new elastic steel door mat can be obtained at F.I. Webster's. This mat possesses many advantages over others, and is a vast improvement over those made of wire.

December 4

The country is full of tramps, thieves, burglars and ordinary vagabonds. The police should everywhere keep a sharp eye on suspicious characters, and run them in on the slightest pretext. Out in Athol one of the gentry had two revolvers, and did

not give up to the officers until his ammunition was gone.

A whipping post would stop the tramp nuisance quicker than anything else.

There is no doubt the burglars that recently operated here were around the village for several days quite openly. They visited stores, and took "the lay of land" quite methodically, locating safes and noting the condition of window fastenings. They smoked cigarettes, which was evidence enough of their depravity.

Andrew Dooley, aged about 40 years, was found dead about 13 feet from the track of the Fitchburg railroad at Cheapside this morning. His face was smashed and an arm was broken. The unfortunate man had recently bought a farm near Rice's ferry in Montague, and was evidently walking from when killed. Medical Examiner Coy made a view, and passed the body over to Undertaker Eugene S. McCarthy for attention.

Levi Fournier of Montague City says he went home last night at 10 o'clock and rapped at the door of his house, just north of the rod factory. His wife asked him who it was, and from his satisfactory answer, opened the door, and retired to her room. He took off his coat and hat and went to the bed-room, to find his wife dead. She was about 25 years of age, and in apparent good health.

Medical Examiner E. C. Coy has just been telegraphed to go to Northfield to view the body of a baby found in an ash-heap. No particulars were communicated.

Work is progressing finely on the walls of the Marshall Paper Co.'s mill, and the iron truss roofs are being put on some of the wings.

Business is booming with the New Idea company, Mr. Lawrence finding a good holiday demand for the novelties which he is manufacturing.

The victorious Turners Falls athletic club football team has been photographed.

The local Odd Fellows are endeavoring to secure the pardon of Frank Miller, one of the men who were sentenced to Greenfield jail for vagrancy. Miller is a member of a lodge in Chicago and says he was looking for work.

The other evening, as the street car was passing through the Cheapside district, a young woman threw a live cat at the motorman as a token of friendship, probably. The car was running a fair jog, which caused the aerial feline navigator to crash through the front window of the car, taking with her almost every speck of glass in the sash. Two ladies sitting near were covered with glass, and received slight cuts. F.I. Webster was next to them, and he too got a generous sprinkling of glass, but having his coat collar turned up received no scratch. The noise of the crash was considerable, and frightened the ladies not a little.

December 11

Policeman Henry Park has resigned his position to take effect as soon as the selectmen could find a suitable person to take his place. The selectmen have chosen Danforth F. Ripley to the position, and he will assume his duties at once. Mr. Ripley is in the prime of life, is able-bodied, never had a bad habit, has always been a plodding, conscientious man of common sense among his

neighbors. He was one of the earliest business men of Turners Falls, and through good times and poor times, he took the chances that were in store for us all, but to his everlasting credit he has stood up to the rack and taken his share of bad luck and ingratitude more philosophically than most men would have.

Suspicion became aroused in regard to the sudden death of the wife of Levi Fournier at Montague City, last week. Detective Munyan was put at work on the case, and by Saturday concluded to arrest the woman's husband on suspicion. The prisoner pleaded not guilty to the charge of manslaughter, and he was remanded for a hearing at the Greenfield court house next Saturday.

Thomas Bros., the contractors, have a large force of men at work on the new Marshall mill pushing work to get the building roofed as early as possible.

Superintendent Charles R. Stoughton of the New England Fibre company has just returned from a business trip along the great water courses of Maine, where lumber, pulp and paper are "bread, meat and drink."

Burglars have come to this county to stay. They will probably get board by the year, and get better terms. Safes have so little in them now that the daredevils must economize on their living expenses. By and by merchants may be notified by postal-card, when a certain favored burglar intends to call on him.

A woman beggar has preyed upon the sympathies of the people of the western part of the county by telling pitiful tales of misfortune, and she has reaped a rich harvest. According to her statement she has been burned out in every town in Franklin county and has nothing left to burn. Heath, Rowe, Zoar, Hawley and Charlemont have received visits from the old woman, who is accompanied by a girl about 15 years old. She has been living in an old abandoned farm-house at Hawley, and the people have just found out that the clothes and provisions which they have given her have been taken to North Adams and sold to second-hand dealers.

Deputy Sheriff Haskins of Charlemont arrested the old woman and her granddaughter at Hawley, Friday, and the magistrate found both women guilty of obtaining money under false pretenses and sentenced them to the house of correction for 60 days. The granddaughter said she was 15 years old and that she is the wife of John Ryan, who was found near an old farmhouse at Hawley chopping wood. The old woman said her name was Mrs. Vernon. She is a cripple. In the old house Sheriff Haskins saw enough clothes and provisions to make a two-horse load.

"Lucier's minstrels" gave a most excellent entertainment at the opera house last Thursday evening. The music was one of the most enjoyable features of the evening.

December 18

About one thousand people enjoyed the skating on the river, last Sunday. Several carloads of skaters came over from Greenfield.

There is a loud call for concerted action to maintain an open skating rink on the river above the dam all winter.

The exercise of skating is healthful, and is enjoyed by both sexes of all ages, and nothing would be hailed with greater delight than a permanent rink, not only by our own people but by skaters in the surrounding villages. A good horse scraper would keep a large space clear of snow very easily, and a supply of water from a hydrant near the bulkhead would make a large place as smooth as glass in a short time. In Canada every village maintains one or more skating rinks quite easily all winter long, and in some towns men make quite a comfortable living by boarding up a good sized lot and keeping the ice in good condition by flooding or scraping, charging an admission of 10 cents. A few head lights only are sufficient for the darkest nights.

In Turners Falls quite a number of men would chip in to support an open skating surface, and thus benefit the general public. Here is a chance to furnish an innocent amusement to all classes of people, night and day, at little cost, and the thanks of grateful poor people ought to be sufficient inducement to interest thinking business men in the scheme.

The paper mills of New England and particularly in Massachusetts, are very busy at the present time.

The pipe has arrived for the Montague City aqueduct extension and is being strung along the line.

There are 27 orders for metallic circuit telephones from Turners Falls people that are still waiting to be filled.

Last Sunday night when William Sansom was about to retire he put some fresh coal on his fire. He retired to bed. Early Monday morning between the hours of 3 and 4 o'clock he was aroused from his slumber by a peculiar feeling. He got up to find out what was the matter, not knowing at the time what ailed him, and when he tried to walk he fell to the floor. He managed to get back to bed with a broom, and commenced to hit on the ceiling for help. Mr. and Mrs. John Daly, who live overhead heard the noise and went down stairs immediately as they thought something might be wrong with their neighbors. They found Mr. and Mrs. Sansom almost dead from coal gas. The damper on the stove was partly turned. Mr. Sanson had his senses but could not walk, Mrs. Sansom could not speak and was almost dead. Mrs. Daly gave all the assistance she could while Mr. Daly got Dr. Leary, who found Mrs. Samsom in a very critical condition. Had not Mr. Sansom the presence of mind to signal for help, undoubtedly both would have been dead.

The body of Mrs. Levi M. Fournier of Montague City, whose husband is under arrest for manslaughter, was exhumed, Monday, by order of Medical Examiner Coy. It was taken to McCarthy's undertaking rooms and examined by a half dozen physicians, Drs. Deane and Twitchell looking over the body in the interest of the defendant.

Deputy Sheriff C.A. Davis and. Officers Park and Lafromboise made a raid on Walter Talbot of Third street, Thursday, and found one bottle of liquor and forty bottles of beer and quite a number of empty bottles and kegs.

The Montague City Sunday school will have a Christmas tree, with appropriate

exercises, on Christmas eve, in schoolhouse hall. The Good Templars have kindly tendered the use of their piano for the occasion.

The Congregational Sunday school will give a Christmas concert, Sunday evening.

The schools will close on Friday afternoon of this week for two weeks' vacation, and will resume on Tuesday morning, Jan. 7th, 1896.

Rist & Conant are giving a beautiful calender for the new year to all purchasers this week.

December 25

Apparatus for the new telephone exchange has arrived and the switchboard will be placed into position soon.

The adjourned hearing in the case of Levi M. Fournier, was continued for one week by Trial Justice William S. Dana at Greenfield, Saturday, the evidence not being ready. Fournier went back to jail.

Florence Sullivan and Philip Carey, aged about 25 years, and residents of the South end, went to Greenfield Saturday night to get drunk, and succeeded admirably. Coming home on a late car, which contained many women, the boisterous individuals became terrors to the ladies, and Conductor E.H. Morgan stopped the car and put them off, beyond Montague City. In the melee, the conductor had his hat stolen from his head by one of the terrors, who wore the apparel right into the face of the officers. The rowdies walked home through Montague City creating a disturbance all the way, but when the policemen appeared they bluffed off the officers with a demand for their warrants. However, on Monday, the warrants were forthcoming, and the justice imposed a fine of \$25 on each of them from which they appealed.

The State Hospital for Consumptives, which Franklin county people thought might well be located in this vicinity, is to be built in Rutland, which is in Worcester county, near the line of the Massachusetts Central.

John D. Kieley has been awarded the contract for building the new hotel of Thomas O'Keefe of Millers Falls.

G. Frank Rist is now spending his Christmas vacation at home with his parents.

The sacred concert to dedicate the pipe organ presented by B.N. Farren to St. Ann's church in memory of his daughter Rose, which was given on Thursday evening, was well attended, and was very enjoyable.

Those who enjoy dancing the old year out and the new year in, will attend the annual concert and ball to be given in Hibernian hall on Tuesday evening, Dec. 31, by the Germania Musical club. Lang's orchestra has been engaged for the occasion, and supper will be served at C.D. Frink restaurant on Third street.

John Emery had his foot badly jammed by a stick of timber falling on it.

