

THE BERKS CO. R. R.

Grand Formal Opening on Saturday.

MAMMOTH EXCURSION.

OVER 2500 PASSENGERS.

Grand Reception in Reading.

Saturday last was an eventful day, and one that will mark a new and important era in the history of Slatington. The occasion was the opening of the Berks County Railroad, whose termini are Reading and Slatington.

At 5:10 o'clock A. M. an immense train, consisting of 26 flat cars with seats, was in waiting at the Lehigh Valley depot ready to receive the excursionists, who were not dilatory in getting aboard. Nearly 500 passengers were taken at Slatington alone, from whence also left the Catasauqua Cornet Band, which had been engaged by the Slatington delegation.

At about 5:30 the engine, which was decorated with the stars and stripes, was ready to start, and we were soon on our outward-bound journey. The band struck up a lively air, and the excursionists cheered lustily. We had not proceeded far, however, before the bright sun was hidden from sight by the black clouds rising from "over yonder." Presently a light rain commenced to fall, which had the effect of somewhat dampening the ardor of the enthusiastic ones who had been so loud in their demonstrations just previous to the unwelcome change in the "fates." Umbrellas could be seen shooting up here and there on the train, and those who had them in possession were the happiest. After the elapse of a half-hour the sky was again dotted with bright spots. Old Sol commenced to peep through the parting clouds and occasionally allow a glimpse of his smiling countenance. The shower at an end, spirits again rose (though we are sorry to say we observed some go down—throats—and the excursionists were again in a happy mood.

At Lynnpport another train was put upon the road, which consisted of twenty cars, including one regular passenger coach. At Lenhartsville, Lynnpville, and New Tripoli bands of music were added, and the party was considerably augmented by the addition of many passengers. By the time we reached Reading the two trains of 46 cars were literally packed with living freight, and their appearance created the most intense enthusiasm among the Reading people who came to the depot to welcome them. Cannon were fired, church bells rung, the bands struck up lively tunes, and the city presented an appearance in accordance with the celebration of a grand festive occasion.

The train stopped on Front street and the passengers disembarked, when the line of procession was formed. Our esteemed townsman and ex-Burgess, Robert McDowell, Esq., was met at the depot by Mayor Evans and Messrs. Bushong and Craig, and driven to the speakers' stand in a barouche, to which point in Penn Square the procession also marched and halted, forming a hollow square around the platform.

The Square and Penn Street presented a beautiful appearance; in fact we are told the Readingites have seldom seen the sight equalled for grandeur and magnificence. There was a profuse display of bunting on public and private buildings along this fine business thoroughfare, and the sidewalks, house-tops, and porticoes were crowded with spectators.

Henry S. Eckert, Esq., introduced the Mayor of Reading in an appropriate and neat speech, in which, referring to the occasion, he paid a high tribute to the people who had come to participate in the ceremonies of the formal opening of the line. Mr. Eckert was greeted with applause upon retiring, and Mayor Evans was heartily cheered when he arose and took the stand. He said he didn't know that during the entire period of his official career as Mayor of the city of Reading that he had ever been called upon to perform a more pleasing duty than that which devolved upon him that morning in welcoming the visitors to his beautiful city, and extending to them the hospitalities of the same. We to-day see (he continued) the practical results of one of the greatest enterprises in the history of this section. With the completion of the Berks County Railroad the mountains and slopes of Lehigh have become wedded with the broad, fertile acres of Berks, and their joint resources of coal, iron ore, slate, limestone, and agricultural products can be sent to the commercial marts of the seaboard over a new and independent highway. * * * But a few hours since this great work was nobly completed, and the last spike was driven by one of our most estimable ladies, in the person of Mrs. Bushong, the wife of the worthy President of the road, and to-day we find two heretofore strange communities united with iron arms. * * * Trusting that you may all enjoy your visit and be returned to your homes in safety, I again bid you welcome.

The Mayor was attentively listened to, and met with a hearty response from the assemblage. At the conclusion of Mayor Evans' speech Mr. Eckert arose and said he had the pleasure to introduce ex-Burgess Robert McDowell, of Slatington, the pioneer slate operator in the region. In the name of the people of Slatington and this section, Mr. McDowell returned his thanks to the people of Reading for their hearty manner of receiving the excursionists. Slatington could and would feel proud for so brilliant a reception at the hands of the good people of her sister terminus. The people in Slatington had not as yet done much for the road, but had done all they could. Financial matters had deterred them from doing what their consciences and wills heartily desired and dictated. They will make up for it by sending shipments this way, and thus become patrons of the new road. Mr. McDowell then referred to the unsurpassed advantages of the new line—how it will affect trade generally, and how slate can be sold to that section \$12 per car load cheaper than heretofore. He further said that the slate business was still in its infancy, but with the new road, he

thought, it will receive a new impetus, take a new life, and rapidly develop. This is the first excursion where capital and labor have been mingled together. We had no palace but flat cars. Again returning his thanks for the admirable manner in which the people whom he had the pleasure to represent were received by their newly-made friends, he retired amid loud applause. Mr. McDowell was called upon rather unexpectedly, the officials of the road demanding that he should make a few remarks. Our esteemed townsman brought credit upon himself and the town he represented by his interesting, though brief, speech.

The meeting now dispersed, the people taking different directions, some to view the beautiful city and others to seek rest and refreshment in some cool place—Lauer's Park, for instance.

We must not fail to mention that the 1,000 firemen who participated in the parade made a most impressive appearance. Reading may well glory in having the finest and best disciplined volunteer fire department in the State. And the department may take pride in living and working in one of the finest, if not the finest, city in the State. Give us Reading. We were really charmed with its beautiful, cleanly streets and fine private residences and public buildings. This was our first visit, and it shall not be the last.

At 4:30 the trains were again in readiness to convey the excursionists home, and within fifteen minutes thereafter we were on our way. We were cheered out of the city! and the enthusiasm ran up to fever heat, some of the party having partaken of red-hot fire water, whilst others indulged in the milder beverage of Lauer's celebrated lager. By those who drank it this latter was pronounced most excellent, being fresh from the vaults of the noted brewer.

We had almost forgotten to state that at several public houses and unfinished stations along the line of the railroad bunting was displayed, and at Lynnpville a hand some flag was put upon the train, which waved in glorious folds and presented a beautiful appearance in the light of the evening sun.

The Berks County Railroad passes through a country and farming districts which will ere long become noted for the beauty and charming variety of its scenery, all of which is beheld by the charmed eye in a perfectly wild and natural state—where there are no iron furnaces, etc., the smoke of which mars the delicacy of the enchanting views.

Altogether the "opening" of the road was a grand success, and will prove the foundation for the building up of the new Slatington that is to be.

On Monday regular through freight, and to-day (Wednesday) regular through passenger trains were run over the road, and will so continue. For the past six months the company has been running freight trains between Reading and Lynnpport, a distance of about sixteen miles, the business averaging about \$55 per day.

The people of Reading and Slatington, and of all the towns and villages along the line of the road, are to be congratulated upon the successful termination of this enterprise. May the Berks County Railroad Company meet with the most abundant success.

Slatington deserves great credit for the interest she manifested in the completion of the enterprise. Nearly 500 people from this place alone visited Reading on Saturday.

SUCCESSFUL FISHING EXCURSION.—On Monday of last week two of our townsmen, Burgess Thomas Kern and Mr. I. M. Cassell, went on a fishing excursion to Behazette, Elk county, Pa., on the Allegheny Valley Railroad. The result of their voyage was 517 of the finest trout. Mr. Cassell also shot a porcupine, several of the quills of which he brought home with him. The excursionist report that some of the timber measures five to six feet in diameter, and sixty to seventy feet in height without a limb or branch. Messrs. K. & C. returned on Saturday highly pleased with their trip.

FUNERAL OF THE WIFE OF DANIEL PETER.—On Tuesday morning the remains of Mrs. Mariah Peter, who resided between this place and Rockdale, were interred in the Friedens' Church burying ground. The funeral was largely attended by her large circle of acquaintances. She was an estimable lady and a good and kind hearted mother, and leaves a family of ten children, four married and six single, to mourn her death. She was aged 44 years, 4 months, and 17 days. Rev. L. K. Derr, of Slatington, conducted the funeral services, which were very impressive.

TROUT FISHING.—A party consisting of Messrs. D. D. Roper, John Morgan, L. C. Smith and Rev. J. MacNaughtan visited the Tobyhanna, last week, and succeeded in bringing home upwards of 400 of the speckled beauties. The fishing was poor. It was only by hard work our friends managed to do so well. They had a large number of fine trout, though rather unfortunate in having stormy weather. Try again, gentlemen.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.—Lieut. Jefferson Moser, of the United States "Dispatch" Boat, was in town last week, stopping at the residence of our esteemed townsman, Mr. Robert McDowell. Lieut. Moser pays frequent visits to Slatington, and we feel honored to receive calls from him. He is a brother to our friend Americus V. Moser, the coroner.

The Slatington Drum Corps were out practising Wednesday, and wore their fine new uniforms. The Corps consist of James Wert, fife; James Hunt, base drum; Charlie Schertzinger, John George, and Frank Maury, snare drums. The boys play very well, and evince a marked improvement in the handling of the sticks since their last appearance.

POLITICAL.—The chairmen of the several Conference Committees of Northampton Lehigh and that portion of Bucks counties included in the District, met recently at Fetter's hotel, in Bethlehem, and arranged for the meeting of the Conference Committee on Saturday, June 27th, at 2 o'clock, at the same place.

THANKS.—We are under obligations to friend Edgar D. Shimer, Class '74, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, for an invitation to the Commencement exercises of that institution in the Opera House, Allentown, Thursday, June 25th, 1874, at 9 o'clock, A. M. The graduating class numbers 14 members.

THE DRUM
Grand Grove,
of Pennsylvania,
sion at Odd Fe
lenheim, comm
for their differ
the session on

COUNTY L
dealers in fore
dise, and liqu
tato agents, l
keepers, are
licensed on or
and those rec
will be plac
to be collect
Herald.

LIVE ST
McKenna's in
fast nags in
Detecting &
Pa.

We have s
a new jour
weekly in Ne
element of
means to su
Scottsman an
filled with
Scottish inter
promises to
ing, instruct
number beg
hundred year
an interestin
judge, from
to be a hard
wrougs that
A preacher
discover the
that the "ce
"clerical stri
Coming Str
Hundred Y
paper to bu
descent.

Inquire of
2nd Story.

LETTER
ters remai
ton postoffi
ing Tuesda
W. T. Owen
William Bu
Catharine
Henry Sol
Amanda S
M. W. Smi
Miss Ellen
James Wer
Mrs. Lydia
John H. W

—Mrs. A
Smith, wh
this place
was in Sla
tives and

—While
tenown, la
forming th
Bowman,
street, Re

—Mr. V
Valley Rec
cept than

On May
Mr. Fran
Scholl, be

On Jun
aged 81 y
On Jun
33 years,

PROPO
TAX.—O
June 23
H. McDe
Water C
collectio
it

Notic
Co., Jun
ing of th
be held
June 20
tion of c
the ensu
It

Noti
tice is l
14th, 18
the bor
and, hel
saine an
May

CORN
had com
were co
fit func
from I
Sore I
on the
descri
Itemed
proper
produc

Dr.
BUSH
DISCH
Kidney
presse
Grav
Bright
Dust
and a
Bladd
trulizi
all the
from
the be
Erup
ington

Ort
See
D

A fe
them

DI
ship
Schm
nam
mut
agat
mak
of th
Schr

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju

TE
chan
stee
gou
con
so li
Ju