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MINING JOURNAL.

J. B. ODER, Editor. AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. $1.50 per annum—IN ADVANCE.

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IN the Cumberland *Times* of Tuesday there is an exaggerated editorial misrepresentation of the attitude of the JOURNAL and its correspondents toward the School Commissioners, and dirty language is used in their behalf. Indeed, the *Times* attempts to be personal.

Bad as this is—bad because it seems to be necessary that filthy thought and word should be employed to protect the guardians of education—the worst feature of the *Times'* effort is the scheme to raise false issues, and thus distract popular attention from the real questions involved.

The JOURNAL has never treated the administration of school affairs in this county as a matter of mere financial economy. It has never calculated the cost *per capita* of teaching pupils, but rather discussed the question—are they taught?

This was the problem and is the problem to-day. In that very year 1887-8, when J. E. J. Buckey was practically dethroned from his principalship in No. 1—when his jurisdiction was limited to one room—when the school became the subject of eight or nine rulers instead of one—*all this to save one poor, pitiful salary*, will the *Times* tell the JOURNAL how many graduates of that *regime* "achieved high positions?"

The *Times* having set up its standard of "achieving high positions" as proof of the efficiency of our schools, will it explain how the Board of School Commissioners employed measures which reduced at least one teacher of that era to pupilage?

But the reduction of Mr. Buckey was one of the items which brought the expense *per capita* down to $7.83, which, by the way, the *Times* regards as—

—"in itself sufficient and complete rebuttal of the malicious libels circulated by the JOURNAL and its corps of mad dog tigers, *alias* correspondents."

The *Times* is very green if it thinks anybody will be fooled by such nonsense. Who said anything about the Board's extravagance? Who said it overpaid teachers? Who said school expenses in this county are too high? Nobody—unless it was for the kind of service we are getting.

And the *Times* knows it.

The JOURNAL has assailed the distribution of this large sum, based on $7.83 per pupil, to teachers without regard to qualifications or fitness to localities. It has attacked favoritism for incompetents and people with certificates irregularly obtained, and the employment of teachers without credentials at all. It has attacked the usurpation of the trustees' prerogative by the Board; the denial by the Board of the right of popular petition and the constant acknowledgment, on the other hand, of the force and effect of private political influence. It has assailed the ostracism which has crowded the leading teachers out of the service and has filled the schools with weaklings.

At this point, and since the *Times* is predisposed to deal in parallels as well as ignoble comparisons, why are there in Washington county twice as many male teachers as female, while in Allegany there are very nearly three times as many female teachers as male? And yet in the former the *per capita* cost is only 3 cents per year more than in Allegany county!

We expect to continue this subject.

SLOWLY the witchery of right and spell of power have fallen from the Noble Order as a crusade in behalf of labor. Men whose learning had erewhile been drawn from the gospel of individual liberty, and whose economic sensibilities have latterly been set at bay by the plausible tenets of an organization, apparently good in theory but vicious in practice, are opening their eyes, and everywhere the scales are falling. A sample is seen in the following incident and comment from a Washington letter:

Major Butterworth's little speech yesterday is attracting universal attention. He only hoped the Knights of Labor would establish a whipping post at the Capitol and daily whip a number of Congressmen until they did the will of the worthy Knights. Most he emphasized was:

That this is a free country, and a citizen had a right to do as he d——d pleased, so long as he did not interfere with the rights of his neighbor.

Glory to Ben! Them's our sentiments.

The days of the inquisition are presumably past. No man is compelled to work upon a ten *per cent.* reduction of his former wages. Yet at the same time he has no right to say that I shant do so, or work for what I see fit. Work for nothing, if I care to do so. Whose business but mine is it? Out on all your regulations prescribing the limits of my will and liberty to do as I please.

SPEAKING of parallels, or "comparisons," of which the Cumberland *Times* is so fond, we find a letter in the Pittsburg *Chronicle-Telegraph*, dated Jan. 25, 1889, stolen bodily from a Cumberland *Times* letter dated Jan. 30, 1889. Both were written in Frostburg, but the conundrum is—how did the Pittsburg thief steal the letter five days before it was written for the *Times?*

If the Cumberland *Times'* knowledge of the classics is as profound as its ignorance of postoffice law, it is a dandy in doc-Latin.

THE suspected removal of the postoffice from Main street to Broadway promises to divide the town into two desperate factions—the people on one side and the proposed new postmaster on the other.

THE JOURNAL has it from well authenticated sources that President Mayer will continue to be the chief executive officer of the Consolidation coal company.

This will be gratifying news to very many here who feared his promotion to the presidency of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad company would deprive the region of his great abilities as an executive coal operator, and the large body of workingmen in and out of his employment of one of their most powerful friends.

As a stream can never rise higher than its source, the schools will never be above the examiner. His intellectual stature will be the stature of the schools.—"*More Anon.*"

Our correspondent is mistaken, and we can prove it by Macaulay. In criticising the following couplet from Robert Montgomery the great essayist wrote:

The soul, aspiring, paints its source to mount
As streams meander level with their fount.

We take this to be, on the whole, the worst similitude in the world. In the first place, no stream meanders, or can possibly meander level with its fount.

So that the examiner's "intellectual," rather educational "stature will" not "be the stature of the schools," for as the stream must run downward the schools must gravitate in the same direction.

No, no matter how inferior the examiner in point of scholarship teachers and schools under his *aegis* must take rank below him.

The attraction of gravitation is as unchangeable as a thesis in logic as it is immortal as a dogma of philosophy.

THE JOURNAL has received a copy of the Laurel (Md.) *Free Quill*, with an article marked entitled "What Keeps Maryland Back?"

In the judgment of this paper one of the supreme obstacles to the State's progress, financially, is its inadequate and unequal system of taxation, and, educationally, its illegitimate public school system.

If people and corporations would consent to assessments embracing *all* property at *full* value there would be no State and county *rates* (the only element of taxation which people see) to grumble about.

And if those who have an actual interest in the public schools could be put and kept in charge of the system these institutions would stand their best chance of development into the ideal that the scheme originally designed them to materialize. But a fatherless administration of children, with the Cumberland *Times* as midwife, is a paternal government that cannot rest its claims to control even on bastardy.

No other branch of industry is more important than that of coal mining. None other require more physical force than mining. And in the face of these facts the average wages of those employed in the mines are among the lowest.—Lonaconing *Review*.

There is a company doing business at Lonaconing whose miners' pay for 1888 exceeded $800, if not $900 *per capita*.

This, not because the company to which we refer pays any more wages than their competitors, but because they do not yield to the pressure of labor surplusage for employment.

If the *Review* can show an average of higher pay for manual labor in any other pursuit than here cited at its own door we would like to see it.

But everything, it seems, depends upon the "average." Why is it small as it is in any general employment or product? Why is the "average" bushel of wheat so cheap? Because, like labor, it is too plentiful, and thence too clamorous for consumption.

However, let us get home again; let us see if the miners of this region are not better paid than the owners of the region; let us see if, practically, the miners have not owned nearly half the coal they produced, with a mortgage during good behavior on nearly half of the far bigger tonnage that is left. The spot value of loaded coal at the mine, where the miners' interest in it ceases, is $1.06 per ton. Of this $1.06 the miner gets nearly 51½ cents, or over 48 *per cent* of the spot value; the companies less than 52 *per cent.* Out of the miner's portion he has only to live and keep his family, if he has one. Out of the company's portion freight, wharfage, commissions, royalty, insurance, taxes and official expenses must be paid before a dollar can be seen that belongs to the owners.

Strikes this paper that it is almost time to stop lecturing in this region to Pennsylvania audiences about low wages.

THE best thing the school board can do is to keep the Cumberland *Times* quiet. The wisest school of experience is that which teaches when and where classical editors should keep their mouths shut.

THE president has nominated to the Senate Albert Holle for postmaster of Frostburg.

This was anticipated:

A solemn murmur in the soul
Told of the what's to be,
As travelers hear the billows roll
Before they reach the sea.

By the same token the JOURNAL feels that the evening star of eternity will shine on redeemed humanity long before confirmation of Mr. Holle will beam on unregenerate Frostburg.

THE *Times*, the Boulanger of Cumberland, thus disposes of the JOURNAL'S demurrer last week to its airy *role* of "centennial" pioneer:

The Frostburg JOURNAL seems to think this paper receives its most valuable suggestions from its own columns. We are not one of those readers of the Æneid who find in "Homer more than Homer ever knew."

"The FROSTBURG JOURNAL seems to think" no such thing—unless the paragraph quoted was designed to concede that the only suggestion the *Times* ever stole from the JOURNAL was its "most valuable" one.

In that event it was fortunate for the Æneid that it was a prototype of the JOURNAL and not a contemporary of the *Times*.

Otherwise, Homer's work would have been absorbed in the *Times'* perpetual lien on everything in sight.

WITH one exception—the law requiring temperance physiology to be taught—there has been no general legislation on school matters from 1874 to 1888, and much of the steady progress of the system is due to the feeling of confidence and permanence which the conservative spirit begets.—Cumberland *Times*.

"Conservative spirit" is good.

Gen. Dick Taylor said "the influence of a bombshell is conservative," too.

However, "scratch a Russian and you find a savage"—touch the school law in the legislature and one will find the entire educational oligarchy of the State right there and under arms.

Why?

Because they have a good thing and they are answerable to nobody.

It would be very strange if they permitted any general legislation which disturbed the high and mighty serenity of an administration notoriously shoddy from dome to cornerstone.

IN the JOURNAL of Jan. 19 "More Anon" says the Allegany School Board in 1887 paid for printing and advertising $293.87. This statement is accompanied by the intimation that the expenditure named has something to do with silencing the press of the county.

"More Anon" may be right, or wrong. A portion of the press may be stricken dumb, or prostrated into negative defence by this remarkably small annual bonus, if it is a bonus, but if so it is a cheap crowd.

Why, if the Cumberland *Times*, the Board's only defender, had gotten all of the boodle, if it is boodle, it would not be half paid for its loathsome work.

But the lickspittle's costmark is 'way down; the *Times'* silence on any subject is golden; its defence of any cause dear at nothing.

THE trouble in the Pocahontas region is one that appears to call for active sympathy with those who are striking.

It seems that the operators have introduced mine cars nearly or quite 50 *per cent.* larger than those lately in use, and as the coal is not weighed the old guess of "2 tons per car" is considered by the miners as 33⅓ *per cent.* too small.

The miners' conclusion, from all accounts, is the correct one. The operators obtain for each car about one ton of coal dug for nothing—beyond doubt a scheme which imposes great injustice upon the miners. Hence, they appear to be fully justified in the vigorous but so far peaceable protest which they have and are making against it. We say "peaceable protest" with unbounded pleasure, for it is that description of open dissent which always and everywhere commands popular sympathy and attracts, if need be, the proper legislative redress.

But the miners of the Pocahontas region are not alone injured by this arbitrary and unfair exaction from their labor. The detriment reaches this region through the advantage given the Pocahontas people over ours in market. Here coal is weighed; in Virginia and West Virginia it is fixed at a figure uniformly small in cars uniformly large.

So that it is easy to see that Pocahontas, with one-third of its product dug for nothing, can reach our consumers with an argument at least 16 cents a ton stronger than we can present it.

THE Richmond (Va.) *Christian Advocate* says:

The Texas *Advocate* calls Nashville the "Hub." We reckon the reason of the title is that the movement is slowest there and all the grease goes there. There is need of a revolution.

Those are "Uncle's" sentiments concerning Cumberland. And he is correct. If there is a well lubricated spot in this wilderness of screaky, screecky provinces it is Cumberland. The only cracked, wheezy, sneezy, ungreased spot in her oily corporosity is the catarrhal department of the *Times*, the city's prime minister as a jowler for booms and taffy caterer to the School Board. Its earliest yell was for a "boom," and in the language of Josie Inskeep's matchless song—

"It has never done anything sence."

A LATE issue of the Fort Worth (Texas) *Gazette* details the antics of a walking delegate near Strawn, in that State. The story is too long to give here, but the Labor *Tribune*, of Pittsburg, Pa., head organ of the Noble Order, was forced to take sides with the men who want to work as against the "dogs in the manger."

But a reign of terror exists; the mines are stopped and the inability to get new men on account of the terrorism which prevails threatens the destruction of the Texas coal interest.

Meanwhile, the walking delegate is the rooster of the promenade.

BRO. ODER, we'll bet you a big apple that there will be no change in the postmastership for at least four years.—Lonaconing *Star*.

This great paper don't "bet," for—

'Midst the sweet blossoms that smile in our faces
Grow the rank weeds that would poison and blight;
And e'er in the midst of earth's beautiful places
There always is something that isn't quite right.

But then, O then, supposing the JOURNAL should ever want the postoffice for a friend—

Life has a burden for everyone's shoulder,
None may escape from its trouble and care;
Miss it in youth and 'twill come when we're older,
And it is as close as the garments we wear.

MERE affectations of acquaintance with the classics will not compensate for second-hand statements of county history and warmed-over "suggestions" of the propriety of signalizing the close of one centenary epoch and the beginning of another.

In other words, if the Cumberland *Times* had spent less languor on the Æneid and more force in the study of county history, it would not be attitudinizing as boss second fiddle in the procession which leads on to the centennial celebration next Christmas.

It must be frankly admitted that to the Frostburg JOURNAL and to it alone must be given the credit for originating the idea of a centennial for this county. It was an inadvertence on our part at the time and no lack of professional courtesy that prevented our republishing its interesting article on the subject.—Cumberland *News*.

In this honest acknowledgment it is clear that the *News* at least is not of the small class of newspapers with whom—

Base envy withers at another's joy,
And hates that excellence it cannot reach.

THE Cumberland *Times* has a classical specialist to do up its editorial defence of the School Board, but one of his kidneys is out of order and the commissioners and examiner cannot read more than half of his Latin inscriptions. The probability is he will be sent to the House of Correction.

MR. MURAT HALSTEAD of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, delivered a lecture on journalism last night. What Mr. Halsted don't know of this subject would fill volumes.—Cumberland *Times*.

That witticism was originally enveloped in a burr.

Its present environment may be cracked between the teeth.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISCUSSION.

Third Paper.

To the MINING JOURNAL.

I do not suppose for one moment that I, through these papers, will be able to turn out Mr. Weimer and the school board. That is going to be a hard thing to do, and many pens and much public agitation would probably all fail, for the school board is *irresponsible;* the people have no say. My purpose, however, is to lodge in the public mind *ideas* about school work, commonsense ideas that ought to prevail, and incidentally put a little spine in public school teachers and officials generally.

Last week I said that examinations, as conducted in this county, put "a premium on memory and a discount on intelligence." I shall undertake to show what I meant.

In the first place an examination can, in the hands of an *educated* man, be made to test accurately not only a teacher's literary fitness but his ability to teach. Suppose, however, you wanted to hire a competent carpenter, and your questions brought out the fact that he could only kill sheep, you would be precisely in the position of an incompetent examiner who wants to grade a teacher and yet puts questions that in no sense will reveal the teacher's ability. If the examination is a sham, the teachers will be shams also, and the examiner's certificate shows no more than a label on an empty bottle.

But let me give details. Let us take up one subject after another and show how Mr. Weimer handles it in examination. I will take Spelling first. Weimer's plan in this is substantially as follows: In the back of what is called the "Grammar School Speller," a very poor book, used in our schools, is a list of the oddest, most uncouth and most unusual words to be found in the English language. They are called by the brilliant compilers of the book "test words," but they are mere orthographical curiosities, and the President of Harvard might miss half of them. In fact, the ability to spell them off-hand would imply some sort of mental deformity. Well, this list in past years has been to a great extent Mr. Weimer's reservoir. Twenty, thirty or fifty words of this kind have been given to teachers to test their spelling. Now, I say it has been no test at all, for teachers soon "got on to the racket" and committed the whole list to memory, and though their examination papers might reek with the grossest errors in ordinary spelling, yet they could make, it may be, as high as 90 *per cent.* on the examination. Just imagine an examiner with a whole mass of papers in front of him giving out 20 or 30 uncouth words to test the teachers' power to spell! Don't the papers themselves show that in the most satisfactory way? And does a man's inability to spell a word like "opodeldoc" prove that he is a poor speller? Such an examination is a farce, and an examiner who would give out such stuff would not be able to hold his place more than his term out if we had commissioners who had a proper knowledge of literary matters. The teacher ought to be a good speller, but he ought not to be a verbal monomaniac. I know that I can spell fairly well, but I couldn't make 50 *per cent.* on those verbal monstrosities that Weimer gives out.

I have never seen either in any of Weimer's examinations in spelling any reference to the three or four general laws of spelling, and the special laws that will enable pupils to spell many thousands of derivative words.

Spelling is badly taught in Allegany county. To start with, the examiner does not allow teachers to employ any great extent their own original methods but compels them to use in the lower grades a so-called "Primary Speller," an unspeakably trashy book, and in the higher grades another book little better. In the second place, the character of his examinations and his talks to teachers give them a false conception of the whole subject, and the teachers pass it on to the pupils, and thus we see it permeating the schools like the wave made by a stone thrown in the water. We thus realize how the schools are just what the examiner is.

Upon reading this article a second time, I wish to modify one statement, for I propose to put nothing in these papers that I can't prove in court, if necessary. I do not mean to say that Weimer has taken *all* his words from that list of "test words" at the end of the "Grammar School Speller," but I assert that he has used it so extensively that teachers are in the habit of specially studying it for examination, and that where he has not used it he has for the most part given out other words just as uncouth and uncommon.

Now, brother Weimer, you have your chance to crush me by publishing the lists of words you have given out as tests of spelling during the time you have been masquerading as examiner of this county. *I dare you.* Then we can take that list and see how many of them are marked "obsolete" in Webster's unabridged dictionary.

MORE ANON.

A PARALYTIC STROKE.

To the MINING JOURNAL.

The Cumberland *Times* says:

In Allegany county 135 teachers are reported as employed; 6,363 pupils enrolled at an expense of $44,323.66, or an average total cost per pupil of $7.83. This is a most creditable showing and when it is taken into consideration that in Allegany the schools are open three and a-half terms, when in most counties, Washington, for instance, where with but three terms schooling the cost per pupil is $7.80 it will be seen that our schools are most capably managed.

Let me paralyze this rot.

In the first place it is no credit to the county to get its teaching done *cheap;* we want it done *well*.

In the second place, it is a great idea to compare an agricultural county like Washington with a county of concentrated population like Allegany!! Why, Washington county has 45 more schools than Allegany and the only large school in the county is at Hagerstown. County schools cost per pupil four or five times as much as city schools because each city teacher handles four or five times as many pupils. The comparison, therefore, made by the *Times*, instead of being creditable to Allegany, is most *discreditable*. Our schools ought to cost only about 75 *per cent. per capita* of what they cost in Washington county.

CITIZEN.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS.

Personal. — Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Walker spent last Sunday with friends in Meversdale, Pa.

Miss Blanche Little, of Parkersburg, W. Va., and Miss Ruth Little, of Cumberland, were guests of Mrs. D. J. Betz several days this week.

The JOURNAL is pleased to record the visit of Dr. D. P. Fitch, now of Fairmont, W. Va., to his old friends in Frostburg. He is attending to the practice of Dr. C. C. Jacobs while the latter is away on his wedding tour. All of Dr. Fitch's friends, and their name is legion, recognize in his removal from here a loss to the community. Hence, the welcome to him for even a brief period has pleasurably surprised him.

Edward Winner, of this place, and Miss Maggie Malaney, of Mt. Savage, were married last week.

Hon. A. J. Colborn, of Somerset, Pa., was the guest last and this week of his son and son-in-law, Messrs. H. B. Colborn and F. C. Beall, and while here he honored the JOURNAL with a call.

Miss Maggie Markwood, of Ridgeville, W. Va., is visiting her brother, Rev. L. R. Markwood.

Surprise Party. — A participant writes as follows:

The friends of Miss Hettie Jeffries gave her a surprise party on Wednesday evening preparatory to her departure for Baltimore, where she expects to attend the Peabody Institute. The following ladies and gentlemen made up the party:

Misses Sallie Wright, Anna Hitchins, Anna Keller, Mary Keller, Margretta Hocking and Bessie Berkie; Messrs. J. B. Shannon, Alex. Hocking, George D. Hocking, Simon Hocking, Gladstone Hitchins, Frank Porter, Robert G. Colborn and Ed. A. Browning.

The ladies and gentlemen met at 8:30 o'clock at the residence of Miss Margretta Hocking, whence they marched to the home of Miss Jeffries, on Broadway, each carrying a package of something luscious as a token of their esteem for the recipient.

Some excellent violin and piano music was rendered by members of the company, which added much to the enjoyment of the evening.

At about 11 o'clock the door of the dining-room was thrown open and all marched to a table that was laden with good things, but which was soon relieved of a goodly share amid the social merriment of the entire company.

West Virginia is being reeled by the politicians, but old Virginia was "Reeled" a farewell parting on this occasion.

Marriage of a Prominent Citizen — Monday forenoon, Jan. 28, 1889, at Mrs. Eleanor B. Taylor's residence, this place, by Rev. A. C. Haverstick, C. C. JACOBS, M. D., and Miss FANNIE, daughter of the late John Taylor, all of Frostburg. Hon. Thomas G. McCulloh, uncle of the bride, gave the latter away. The occasion was graced only by immediate relatives and friends of the bride and groom. After the ceremony the assemblage partook of a splendid collation, and during the afternoon Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs left for a tour of the east. Both are well and favorably known residents of the town and their many friends, the JOURNAL among them, rejoice with the happy pair in a union auspicious of continual joy and success.

The Grammar School Entertainment.—The appearance Friday evening of last week in Moat's Opera House of the grammar pupils, assisted by teachers, was a signal success and a conspicuous credit to all concerned. The misses and masters acquitted themselves handsomely.

In vocalism Miss Lee, a very fine singer, carried off the laurels in the quartet, "The Midnight Fire Alarm."

There was but one fault apparent among the pupils—they spoke too indistinctly.

Other school matters crowd out the program.

The Bullet-Shingle Again.—G. Henry Stratton, of Courtland, N. Y., writes D. Armstrong for a shingle of the same tree which caught the Braddock bullet, detailed in the JOURNAL several weeks ago. Mr. Stratton saw the article in the New York *World*, and as he owns a museum of curios he is very anxious to secure a memento of the white pine tree referred to. If not already done, his request will be complied with.

Brevities. — The Oriole Baseball Club have announced a fair in Ravenscraft's Opera House for Feb. 16 to 23, inclusive. The club wishes to buy grounds for a baseball park. The enterprise appeals to the lovers of the national game for patronage and success.

A good deal of "bank" talk going again.

COUNTY NEWS.

Brevities.—Notice changes in the Georges Creek and Cumberland railroad schedule.

William Meek, of Lonaconing, had his ankle sprained in Detmold mine this week,

Mrs. Mollie Braddock died at her home, in Barton, Monday, aged 18 years.

Mrs. S. Swearingen, aged 80 years, died last Friday near Rawling, this county.

Thomas Hawthorne had his arm slightly fractured in Detmold mine, Lonaconing, Monday.

Will Soon Begin Operations.—The Big Vein coal company, James Little, superintendent, will begin work on their new opening near this place as soon as the weather permits.

Personal.—Mrs. T. F. McCardell, of Hoffman, has gone to Wilmington, N. C., to spend the remainder of the winter to recuperate impaired health.

Coal Trade for 1888.—The official statistics of the Georges Creek coal trade for 1888 have been issued from the Mt. Savage office of the Cumberland and Pennsylvania railroad company.

The total production by companies is as follows:

COMPANIES.	TONS.	INCREASE. TONS.	DECREASE. TONS.
Consolidation	1,023,349	86,559	
Georges Creek Coal and Iron	437,342	43,080	
Maryland	340,360	24,247	
American	276,777	20,784	
Borden	272,558	16,484	
Potomac	268,441		1,016
New Central	166,030		12,422
Maryland Union	149,857		41,803
Davis & Elkins	136,735	15,776	
National	130,586		41,060
Barton & Georges Creek Valley	128,282		3,257
Atlantic & Georges Creek	65,285		1,143
George M. Hansell	3,564		
Enterprise			
Total	3,106,670	207,931	106,778

Of the above table there were carried by the local roads as follows:

	TONS.
Cumberland and Pennsylvania railroad	2,008,668
Cumberland Branch—same road	470,079
Georges Creek and Cumberland rail road	627,923
Total	3,106,670

By the seaboard carriers:

Baltimore and Ohio railroad	2,204,255
Pennsylvania railroad	479,833
Chesapeake and Ohio canal	250,519
Local	171,763
Total	3,106,670

The increase of production in 1888 over 1887 was 191,819 tons, the figures of the former year including 11,934 tons by the Blaen Avon company, not named in above table.

The aggregate of production from 1842 to 1888, inclusive—47 years, is 55,920,520 tons.

The amount produced in 1842 was 1,708 tons; in 1888, 3,106,680 tons, the latter 1819 times greater than the former.

The Coal Trade.—The record of coal shipments by companies from the Georges Creek region for the week ending Saturday, January 26, 1889, closed as follows, the figures indicating tons of 2,240 lbs.:

	Week.	Year.
1, Consolidation	16,834	57,986
2, Georges Creek	9,283	30,436
3, Maryland	5,796	13,613
4, American	6,418	18,283
5, Borden	3,073	13,238
6, Potomac	4,097	14,749
7, New Central	99	8,401
8, Maryland Union	248	3,741
9, Davis & Elkins	1,233	5,735
10, National	1,268	5,541
11, Barton & G C Valley	1,881	7,191
12, Swanton	702	2,083
13, Atlantic & G. C.	48	1,575
14, G. M. Hansel's mine	20	84
15, Enterprise mine	..	..

Transported over the local railways as below for the year to date, including decrease compared with same period last year:

	Total.	Decrease
Cumberland and Pennsylvania	147,612	28,580
Georges Creek and Cumberland	31,896	3,691
West Virginia Central and Pittsburg	2,836	....
Aggregates	182,144	32,271

GENERAL ITEMS.

The Paper to Take.—Do you want a good, reliable, newsy paper to read—one that you can trust because it never misrepresents and gives all the news about everything and everybody? Do you want a paper that will give you besides a complete entertaining story every week, a large amount of instructive, educational, scientific and miscellaneous reading enjoyable to the old and instructive to the young? Do you want a clean, clearly-printed paper free from demoralizing and sensational stories—one that you can admit into your household at any time? Then subscribe for the Washington Weekly *Star* and you will have it. Besides the paper at $1 you get two or more premiums without extra cost. Send for a sample. Address the Weekly *Star*, Washington, D. C.

For $2.25 the Weekly *Star* and the JOURNAL can be obtained by any new or current subscriber, who will obtain also an illustrated pocket dictionary containing over 10,000 words.

The Daily *Star* is peculiarly desirable to readers along the line of the C. & P. railroad in that it is published late every evening and mailed in time to reach the people here by the earliest morning train next day. Its subscribers may thus read much of the news which comes in the morning dailies at least 10 hours ahead of current hours.