

## DAUGHTER FINDS HIS BODY

Unable to Sleep, He Arose to Smoke a Cigar, and It is Believed He Was Stricken With Paralysis and Lighted Cigar Set Fire to Couch Cover.

With help close at hand, Thomas V. Cooper, "the father of the Pennsylvania house of representatives," and one of the best known figures in Republican state politics, was burned to death in the sitting room of his home at Media, near Philadelphia.

While one of his sons was summoning the fire department, his daughter, Susan Cooper, ran to her father's room, where she thought she would find him asleep. She discovered the aged politician's body was being slowly consumed by the flames from the burning couch on which he lay.

The covering of the couch, it is believed, was set on fire by a lighted cigar which Mr. Cooper had been smoking. Death may have resulted before the fire, as members of the family, as well as a physician, believe Mr. Cooper suffered a stroke of paralysis and fell on the couch unconscious, the lighted cigar dropping on the draperies of the couch. While the fire was still blazing the body was dragged from the couch by Harry Turner, a nephew.

Mr. Cooper spent Saturday night happily with his family. Early in the evening he was seen on the streets of Media, but returned home to play cards with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Cooper, Jr., his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Percival Cooper; his youngest daughter, Miss Susan Cooper, who kept house for her father, and Harry Turner and J. William Cooper, nephews.

The card party broke up at 11 o'clock, and Mr. Cooper, who was in excellent spirits, talked of plans for Christmas day. It was after midnight when the family retired. Mr. Cooper had for a number of years been unable to sleep at night and was in the habit of arousing members of the family for a brief talk or else going down to the sitting room on the first floor to smoke. During the winter a fire was kept constantly burning in the open fireplace of the room.

His Last Chat.  
At 3 o'clock Sunday morning the veteran politician, unable to sleep, aroused Mr. Turner. The two conversed for an hour. Mr. Turner said that his uncle during this time talked of Christmas, telling how he was planning to send turkeys to all the members of his family. Finally Mr. Cooper said he was going down stairs. He wore a bathrobe of very inflammable material, a Christmas gift from his children.

Thomas Cooper, Jr., awoke at 5 o'clock and detected the odor of smoke. He aroused his wife and rushed down stairs, to find smoke pouring from the sitting room. While Mrs. Cooper ran upstairs to arouse the other members of the family, Mr. Cooper, clad only in night clothes and a bath robe, ran to the fire house a square away, not knowing that his father was in the burning room.

Meanwhile Miss Cooper ran to her father's room, and not finding him there hurried to the sitting room. She ran down stairs and was about to dash into the smoke, when she was pulled back by Mr. Turner. He crawled into the room and found the body on the couch. The fire was quickly extinguished. The couch was practically destroyed, but the fire had not spread to other furniture.

The legislator's face was so burned as to destroy his features, and one hand was burned off.

Zelaya Forced Out by People.  
Jose Santos Zelaya has resigned the presidency of Nicaragua. He placed his resignation in the hands of congress. Apparently there was no other course for him to take. The people were at last aroused. The guns of the revolutionists threatened. The warships of the United States lay in Nicaraguan ports.

Managua has been seething for days. The spirit of revolt has spread even to the gates of the palace. Zelaya surrounded himself with an armed guard. Unchecked, the populace have marched through the streets, crying for the end of the old, proclaiming the new regime.

Who will take up the reins no one knows, nor cares. It is sufficient that Zelaya, as dictator, will be known no more. There is no doubt that congress will act quickly on his resignation, for the people have demanded it.

## Parents Are Freed.

A nolle prosequere was entered in the court at Mount Holly, N. J., by Prosecutor Atkinson in the indictment against Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Watson, prominent residents of Moorestown, who were convicted of manslaughter in May, 1908, for having caused the death of their seven-year-old son in refusing to summon a physician when he was ill with pneumonia. The supreme court set aside the verdict on account of an error in the judge's charge, and the prosecutor thought it useless to try to secure a conviction.

## A Democrat to the Last.

Henry Brannen, of Samsonville, near Kingston, N. Y., who was buried at Palentown, requested that no Republican should have anything to do with his funeral or burial.

Through mistake a Republican from Tabasco was asked to act as a pall-bearer, but his political faith was discovered before the funeral, and he was displaced. Nevertheless, the man who served in his place was a Republican.

Brannen was always a Democrat.

A number of families here are expecting visitors, and will entertain quite largely on Christmas day and during the holidays.

The cold, high winds of last week wrecked considerable fencing in this neighborhood, and demolished one or two old rickety sheds—which is no loss.

All our stores are gay and attractive, dressed in their holiday garb. Considerable taste and skill is displayed in the decoration. All are doing quite a lively business.

The beaux are hoping for more snow by Christmas in order to give their respective dulcianas a sleigh ride. The forepart of last week we had about an inch of snow and one or two sleighs were on the road, but it was a miserable attempt at sleighing.

The Sunday school entertainments gotten up by the different churches here, no doubt will be highly interesting, the arrangements being quite elaborate. The little folks are very anxious and can hardly wait for the occasion. Of course all will be treated to oranges and a box of candy.

The Christmas issue of the WATCHMAN was certainly a very handsome one, and acknowledged by every one to be the handsomest newspaper issued by any printing office in the county, or for that matter, any where else. With its able editorials and for general reading matter and information, it cannot be surpassed by the city newspapers—Long live the DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN.

Rather cold weather here on Saturday and Sunday last—a touch of an Arctic winter. Some wisecracks predict this kind of weather 'till late in the spring, because the toads and frogs have buried themselves four or five feet in the ground, that the squirrels collected an unusual quantity of nuts, that the goose bone is marked all over with queer and odd looking spots, and that frequently a cow will climb up a ladder backward to the hay loft and pick out corn fodder with her tail—ho-ho!

## Explorer Cook Declared a Fraud.

COPENHAGEN, DECEMBER 21.—The report of the special committee of scientists which the University of Copenhagen appointed to scrutinize Dr. Frederick A. Cook's claims that he had discovered the North Pole was submitted to the consistency of the university this morning, endorsed by that body and given to the public.

The report shatters completely, almost contemptuously, the American explorer's title to such discovery, and fills the officials and people of Denmark with chagrin at the figure Denmark is made to assume in the eyes of the scientific world. The public was prepared for a verdict of "not proven" but did not expect its recent hero to be branded as an impostor. Many still cling to the belief that Cook acted in good faith, but harbored a delusion.

Explorers and scientists almost unanimously have lost faith in Cook's honesty, while one of his warmest supporters, Knud Rasmussen, helped to frame the report. The evening papers attack Cook and severely reproach him for hiding, which they regard as a sign of a guilty conscience.

The rector of the university, Dr. Salomonson, when questioned as to the possibility of the university cancelling the degree it conferred on Dr. Cook, said that no decision had been reached, but he thought that the degree could be withdrawn in the same way as a government could deprive a person of an order obtained under false pretense.

Commander Gustav Holm, the Arctic explorer and a member of the committee, said:

"Cook's claim that he made the observation 89 degrees 59 minutes, 46 seconds near the Pole proved immediately that he was a bad observer, but nothing indicated that he was a swindler. Now his papers convict him of being a swindler. We examined Cook's observations first, and agreed unanimously that they were worthless.

"Loose's observations were not used in the papers. Cook submitted to the university."

Professor Olafsen, secretary of the Danish Geographical society, said:

"It is the saddest event in my life. As an explorer there seems to be no doubt that Cook is absolutely unreliable."

The National Tidende, while deploring that the university conferred the degree in a moment of enthusiasm, finds consolation in the fact that others honored Cook when he returned to civilization.

"The president of his own country and its envoy at Copenhagen," says the paper, "were guarantors for him. Denmark did not blunder alone. Our country must now leave this sad affair to America and Cook."

In an interview tonight Knud Rasmussen said:

"The university would not call me at first because I was one of Dr. Cook's strongest supporters. Later, however, I was invited to the investigation, and when I saw the observations I realized it was a scandal.

## New Advertisements.

LOST.—Between Donahy's store and Doll's bakery, pocketbook containing a \$25 certificate of deposit, \$8 in bills and some change. Liberal reward if returned to 54-51-11 CATHARINE MURRAY, Bellefonte.

UPHOLSTERING.—Have you Sofas, Chairs, Mattresses or anything in that line to repair? If you have, call H. M. Hildner on Commercial phone. He will come to see you about it. 54-21-17

LOTS FOR SALE.—At a bargain to quick purchasers, two fine lots for building purposes, corner of Bishop and Wilson streets, both being on Bishop street. Also lots on High and Wilson streets near new building of Isaac Miller, carpenter and builder. Easy payments. Inquire of WM. P. HUMES, Bellefonte, Pa. 54-46-11.

ADMINISTRATORS' NOTICE.—Estate of John I. Potter, late of the Borough of Bellefonte, deceased. Letters of administration in the above named estate having been granted to the undersigned by the register of wills of Centre county, Pennsylvania, all persons indebted to said estate are hereby requested to make payment and all persons having claims or demands against said estate are requested to present and make the same known without delay to MARGUERITE POTTER, SARA I. POTTER, Administratrices, BLANCHARD & BLANCHARD, Attorneys, 54-49-61, Bellefonte, Pa.

## The First National Bank.

### ALMANACS FOR 1910.

The First National Bank, of Bellefonte, is giving away copies of an almanac for 1910, containing much valuable information and some interesting reading matter. ASK FOR ONE when you come to the bank, or drop us a card if you wish one sent to you. You will receive a copy by next mail while they last.

### THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK, BELLEFONTE, PA.

## Ceader's Bakery.

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# THE THING FOR CHRISTMAS

Have you thought what an acceptable Christmas present a copy of the WATCHMAN for one year would be to some friend who is away from home, or some one here who does not receive it. It would be a present that would be greatly appreciated.

Cost you \$1.00 for the year, and every week will be a delightful reminder of your love or friendship for the recipient.

## New Advertisements.

### SEWING MACHINES REPAIRED.

Work must give satisfaction or no pay. OILS AND NEEDLES FOR SALE. Sewing Machines from \$7.50 to \$35.00. Shop in James McClure's store room on West Bishop St. Call me at Coxey's grocery. Commercial phone. 54-47-61. GEO. S. CLEMENTS.

FARM FOR SALE.—Farm of eighty acres, or thereabouts, formerly known as the old Wm. Bechtel farm, located in Burnside township, Centre county, almost adjoining farms of Samuel P. Bechtel, and the late Dr. M. Stewart, and on main road between Snow Shoes and Pine Glenn. Considerable prop timber with some small timber for other purposes on this farm. Bargain to quick purchaser. Inquire of WM. P. HUMES, Bellefonte, Pa. 54-46-11.

### FARM FOR SALE OR RENT.

A good farm, containing 134 acres, under good state of cultivation and good buildings, located in Liberty township about four miles west of Eagleville, for sale or rent on easy terms. For further particulars apply to H. E. FREDERICKS, Lock Haven, Pa. 54-46-2m.

### VALUABLE FARM FOR SALE.

The farm of the late Ezekiah Ewing, deceased, located in Ferguson township, Centre county, six miles west of State College, four miles east of Penna Furnace, and one mile from Fairbrook Station, consisting of ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE ACRES of which all is in a high state of cultivation except about eight acres, on which there is a nice growth of white oak timber. This farm is one of the most desirable properties in the valley. Will be sold on or before January 1st, 1910. J. M. EWING, Newport, Perry Co., Pa. 54-47-11.

### STATE COLLEGE PROPERTY FOR SALE.

The residence of the late Margaret Ewing, deceased, located in State College Boro., corner of Beaver and Allen Streets. This is a corner property and is only one square from the entrance to the college campus and one of the most desirable locations in State College. Will be sold on or before January 1st, 1910. J. M. EWING, Newport, Perry Co., Pa. 54-47-11.

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## THE INDEX

THE CHRISTMAS STORE.

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## New Advertisements.

NOTICE.—Randolph & Tate having dissolved partnership A. J. Tate will carry on underwriting at his store on Water St., Pine Grove Mills. All calls promptly answered. Furniture repairing and upholstering done promptly. Commercial phone. 54-50-21

HOUSES FOR SALE.—Two nice homes in Milesburg borough for sale on easy terms. One \$700, one \$500. Much better inducements for cash. L. C. BULLOCK, JR., Overseer of Poor. 54-35-11

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