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THE COLUMBIAN. ESTABLISHED 1866. THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT. ESTABLISHED 1837. CONSOLIDATED 1869. PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING. At Bloomsburg, the County Seat of Columbia County, Pennsylvania. GEO. E. ELWELL, EDITOR. GEO. C. ROAN, FOREMAN. TERMS:—Inside the county \$1.00 a year in advance; \$1.50 if not paid in advance. Outside the county, \$1.25 a year, strictly in advance. All communications should be addressed THE COLUMBIAN, Bloomsburg, Pa. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1905.

COLLEGE BRUTALITY

A few weeks ago a student at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, was run over by an engine on the railroad track and killed. An investigation was held and the evidence brought out the fact that as a part of his initiation into a secret fraternity he had been bound to the track and left there. It was no doubt the expectation of those who did it, that the boy would be greatly frightened by hearing a train approach and pass on the adjoining track, the existence of which he was unaware, being blindfolded. As the unexpected happened, and a train came along on the wrong track and ground out the life of the victim.

Another student testified that he also was being initiated into the same fraternity, and that he was bound to the same track a hundred yards further on. But for the fact that the engineer knew he had run over something, and stopped his train there would have been another murder. It further developed that the boy who was killed had previously been compelled by goads and lashes, to crawl the entire length of the town on his hands and knees, and his mutilated body still had upon it the bandages on his lacerated and ulcerated knees. It was further shown that this form of initiation had been practiced for some years.

A coroner's jury has found that this young man came to his death by being bound to a railroad track and run over by a locomotive. No one has been arrested, and probably the perpetrators of this horrible deed will escape the penalty of the law but will go through life with a terrible burden on their consciences. Is this sort of thing to be treated only as a college prank, or was it murder?

A cadet at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis was last week driven by a false idea of "honor" into challenging a fellow cadet to a fist fight, because of an insult and by the connivance of a number of other cadets the fight was "pulled off" and after twenty-two rounds was declared a draw. The challenger went to his room and his opponent to the hospital, but the next morning the former was found in his bed unconscious, and died soon afterwards, from injuries received in the fight. A court martial has been ordered, and the authorities promise a thorough investigation.

Will this be treated as "an affair of honor" or should it be classed as the civil courts would classify it, as a case of manslaughter? Only a few days ago, in this state a boy of eleven was pummeled by other students because he had been promoted over them by reason of his scholarship. Several ribs were broken and he was otherwise internally injured, and the boy died. Was this in emulation of the example set in higher institutions of learning? A young man of Bloomsburg, now in one of the colleges of this state, while a freshman was "hazed" by being thrown into a stream of deep water. He was unable to swim, but finally succeeded in

reaching shore without any assistance from his tormentors, who placidly looked on while he was apparently drowning. Had he drowned, would this have been a simple case of "hazing," or would it have been wilful and deliberate murder?

These are only a few of the many similar cases that have been occurring in the colleges of this country for many years. There has been too much laxity of discipline. Students at colleges are treated as men of mature years when they are showing by their conduct that they ought not to be so considered. The extreme cases mentioned above are the direct and natural outgrowth of the milder forms of so-called "hazing" which are permitted and laughed at almost everywhere. From making a monkey out of a freshman the system progresses step by step until it ends in murdering a man by tying him to a railroad track or throwing him into the river.

Murder is murder, whether committed by a college fraternity in its inhuman forms of alleged initiation, or by second classmen who apply the same methods to green freshmen, or by the assassin who deliberately waylays his victim and stabs him in the back. The whole system is wrong, and the authorities of American colleges can put an end to it by united effort. Instead of shielding such outlawry for fear the reputation of the institution may be injured, the law should be invoked and its penalties enforced. Rigid rules should be made and observed, and the penalty of their violation should be expulsion, with an agreement among all the colleges that no man so expelled can ever be admitted to any other college. It is high time that those who are seeking a higher education should be made to know that if they indulge in barbarous and brutal customs that they will find no immunity because they happen to be college students.

Who Owns the Fruit.

The following opinion of general interest was rendered sometime ago, by Judge McClure, of the seventeenth judicial district: "If the branches of a tree growing on one's land hangs over the line upon the other, the adjoining owner may cut the limbs perpendicularly with his line, providing the branches have not been allowed to extend over a period of twenty-one years or more without objection, when no right would be gained to cut them off. Fruit on a tree is part of the realty and is not the subject of larceny. If the fruit has fallen to the ground the neighbor could pick it up and use it. The right of the adjoining land owner to lop off branches of overhanging trees before 21 years of permissive acquiescence has elapsed, does not carry with it the right to the fruit hanging on the tree. The fruit is not the product of his toil or labor.

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PRESIDENT TO HELP PROTECT NIAGARA

President Roosevelt has placed himself on record strongly in favor of the preservation intact of the wonders of Niagara Falls.

The occasion of his utterance was a call made on him by J. Horace McFarland, of Harrisburg, Pa., president; Clifton Rogers Woodruff, of Philadelphia, secretary, and William B. Howland, of New York, treasurer, of the American Civic Association.

They called to urge the President to use his influence, through the combined action of the American and Canadian Governments, for the preservation of the Niagara Falls and to prevent the diversion of their waters to commercial and industrial uses.

They pointed out to the President that ten companies now have authority to utilize 1,339,500 horse power of the effective power of the Falls. In the judgment of competent engineers, the delegation said, this would destroy the American Falls. Five companies now are actually developing power from the Falls and the others are preparing actively to utilize the power.

President Roosevelt told the delegation that he regarded it as a great national duty to do all that might lie in his power to preserve Niagara Falls, and that in his message to Congress he would recommend action along that line with all the force of which he was capable. He said he believed that Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon of Colorado, the big trees of California and the buffalo should be preserved for posterity.

California, he added, had presented to the nation a grove of the big trees, and if the State of New York could not preserve Niagara Falls in violation of the national Government should step in to keep them as they are now for the American people as one of the great natural wonders of the world. The President said that if he were to make a public address before the meeting of Congress he would take the opportunity to speak in favor of the preservation of Niagara Falls.

Governor's Thanksgiving Proclamation.

Governor Pennypacker has issued the following Thanksgiving proclamation:—

In pursuance of a usage established in the days of the fathers and long observed to the moral and spiritual elevation of the people, I, Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby set apart Thursday, November 30, as a day to render thanks unto the Lord for the great benefits we have received at His hands and to set forth His praise.

He hath blessed our heritage; He hath preserved for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; His eyes have considered the poor; it hath pleased Him to give peace and concord to all nations; He hath not taken vengeance of our sins; He hath exalted the humble and the meek; He hath enabled us to amend our lives.

Let us then come together in our homes, churches and places of worship and offer up prayers for the continuance of His mercies; let us both by our lives and doctrine set forth His glory, and let us further remember the wants of the desolate and the needy and the oppressed.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State, at the city of Harrisburg, this tenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand, nine hundred and five, and the Commonwealth the one hundred and thirtieth.

SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER, By the Governor, Robert McAfee, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

New Automobile Law

The Attorney General's Department has furnished the State Highway Department with an official opinion to the effect that the automobile law passed by the last Legislature repeals all former acts upon this subject and stands to-day as the only law on this subject.

The Deputy General holds that the act of 1905 applies to motor bicycles as well as to automobiles and that no motor vehicle of any sort can be operated in Pennsylvania after January 1, 1906, when the new law becomes operative, except by a person who has secured a license from the State Highway Department.

The opinion also states that all tags bearing numbers, with the exception of the two furnished by the State Highway Department to each license, must be removed from all motor vehicles while they are operated within this state.

JACK SHERIDAN'S RETIREMENT.

Hero of Many Diamond Battles is Now an Undertaker.

"Twenty years as umpire, and not a scar, bump or blemish to show for it!" So said Jack Sheridan, better known as the Human Foghorn. After twenty years' continuous service in seven different leagues, dodging bricks, bottles and epithets, the veteran is about to retire to the simple life among the coflins.

There is expert testimony on tap, north, east, south and west, to prove that I'm a bank robber, hod carrier, horse thief, second story worker and murderer. I could work at any of those trades and make good money; but undertaking will hold me for a while."

Thus it appears that Jack has not missed any of the tips handed out in twenty busy years. No better or squarer umpire than Sheridan ever traveled the circuit, and the American League will miss him. A continuous performance of twenty years is sufficient recommendation for any man, when you consider the nature of the business in which he was engaged. Some of the umpires do not last twenty minutes.

We were about to say Sheridan is as good as any man who ever wore the pad and indicator, but he uses neither. A twenty-five cent necktie is the only armor hung upon his broad chest, and sometimes for a bluff he peeked into his empty hand. Jack has been long enough in the business to count three strikes and four balls without the aid of mechanical appliances. This is not a rap at the other umpires.

A saving sense of humor pulled Sheridan through many a tight campaign. He saw the funny side of the tumults and riots, and adverse criticisms never touched him. It was to laugh. He is a man of intelligence and education, with a well shaped head and cleanly cut features like those of the early Romans.

Here is a sample of Jack's sunny humor that stung the fanatics from Detroit. After announcing the batteries in the final game of the set, the umpire turned his solemn visage once more to the crowd and let off this little valedictory:

"Ladies and gentlemen: This is the farewell appearance in Detroit of Jack Sheridan as an umpire. Before departing forever, I wish to thank one and all for the many cordial receptions given me here. Never will I forget your generous treatment. I leave Detroit with but one sincere regret, and that is the rules of the game would not permit me to accept your thousand and one kindly invitations to come under the grand stand and get my block knocked off."

That act-olimax, worked up with much tender feeling and sentiment, jarred the fanatics off their balance. A dumb, deathly silence followed the last five words of the speech. Then came a great roar of laughter, and Jack got a tremendous burst of applause. They never did esteem him in Detroit. In the third round he gave a ruling the home team didn't like, and a voice in the bleachers howled:

"We don't care if you never come back!"

However, the umpire had handed the crowd one, and his soul was at peace. Sheridan was born at Decatur, Ill., how many years ago he didn't state. At the age of one year he went to California, with others in the party, and there developed the robust physique and voice that enabled him to stand the gaff as an umpire. For a time he played ball on the coast, and then set forth on his travels. Some of the things that happened to the future undertaker are herewith related.

Umpires of to-day imagine they have troubles. Forget it! Arbitrating at the present era is like picking cherries or drinking pink tea with the ladies. St. Louis used to be a swell town for the umpire. Running gantlet kept him in condition.

In 1896 and 1897 Von der Ahe's combination ball park and race track was in operation. From the home plate the umpire passed through a picket fence, crossed an open space or paddock seventy-five yards in width, and popped under the stand. Well, it was crossing this open stretch after the game that gave the umpire the time of his life. I never made the dash without thinking of Munroe's dime novels, where the Indians stuck burning arrows into the fleeing white man.

"The minute the game ended the rooters poured into the open space, and formed two solid lines from the gate in the fence to the hole under the stand. That was the gantlet the poor ump had to run. The space between the living lines was about six feet. If the umpire escaped the canes, umbrellas and beer bottles on that seventy-five yard sprint, he stood a chance of having a beer keg bounced off his head while dodging into the hole under the stand. Sometimes they switched to a chair."—New York Mail.

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