

FORESTS AFLAME.

Fiery Demon Does Destructive Work in Pennsylvania.

Lives Lost in a Wreck Caused by the Burning Away of Railway Ties --People Are Fighting the Flames--The Situation Critical.

Williamsport, Pa., April 25.—During the past 48 hours the furious sweep of forest fires in the central section of the state has caused devastation to a vast amount of property and in two cases the loss of life is attributed to the fire fiend.

As a result of the fire which destroyed ten houses, a church, a school house and nine stables in the village of Clintonville, Clinton county, Thursday night, six-year-old Agnes Felding lost her life.

Rogers' saw mill on Lick Run was wiped out of existence during the night. A large amount of sawed lumber was saved with difficulty.

Over 50 men worked hard all day Thursday and a portion of the night fighting a fierce fire in Mosquito valley above the Williamsport Water Co.'s reservoir.

The mountains bordering Pine creek are reported ablaze from Ramseyville to Ansonia. At Ramseyville 2,500 feet of logs were destroyed.

At Ridgeway a fire alarm was sounded and the citizens turned out to fight the encroaching flames and save the town from destruction.

Passengers arriving here from points along the Philadelphia & Erie railroad state that the forests are ablaze from Renova to Johnsonburg.

POSTAL CURRENCY.

A Bill to Make \$1, \$2 and \$5 Bills Checks Payable to a Named Payee.

Washington, April 25.—The committee of government officials appointed by the postmaster general and the secretary of the treasury to consider the subject of post check currency gave a hearing yesterday to the advocates of the bills to provide a system of postal currency recently introduced by Representative Gardner of Michigan.

Mr. C. W. Post, the originator of the plan, made a statement outlining it, and setting forth the needs of the business world for a more convenient method of transmitting small sums through the mails.

The bills provide that all \$1, \$2 and \$5 bills, except national bank notes, shall have blank lines upon their faces so that they may be converted at once into a check payable to a named payee, to be cashed at the postoffice named, and for the issuance of similar bills of the denominations of 5, 10, 25 and 50 cents.

Effected a Compromise.

New York, April 25.—Ralph M. Easley, secretary of the National Civic Federation, announced yesterday that the difficulty between the United Garment Workers of America and the Wholesale Clothing Manufacturers' association had been compromised.

Drank Horse Lincture.

Bemidji, Minn., April 25.—Frank Haven, of New York, died suddenly yesterday, at Gray's logging camp. It is said he ran out of whisky and as a substitute drank horse lincture. He is said to have been a graduate of Cornell university.

Won't Eat Meat for 30 Days.

Bloomington, Ill., April 25.—An agreement has been entered into between the 2,000 employees of the Chicago & Alton shops in this city which provides that none of their number will eat meat during the next 30 days.

MAJ. CHARLES L. McCAWLEY.



President Roosevelt has recently specially detailed this well-known army officer to arrange and superintend state and social arrangements at the white house, and the new appointee is already planning some elaborate functions for the spring season.

LETTERS TO THE KING.

So Many Are Written That the London Post Office Provides Special Sacks for Them.

Correspondence addressed to the king or Buckingham palace in connection with the coronation has become so enormous that Sir Francis Knollys, the king's private secretary, has been obliged to turn on an additional staff of clerks to deal with it.

The nature of the correspondence is highly diversified. Petreesses by the score are sending for copies of the regulations, others want the route of the procession entirely changed in order to turn an honest penny by letting their windows, and in this connection presents in money and kind to charities favored by the king are promised if he can be influenced to alter his mind.

The people of Fall River, Mass., have protected the wild gray squirrels in the neighborhood. One was picked up the other day on the principal street, and ate candy from the hand of a friendly citizen.

The Youngest Peer.

The little earl of Aairlie, whose father was killed in South Africa, will be the youngest peer that will take part in the coronation. He is nine years of age, and is a playmate of Prince Edward of Wales, who some day should be King Edward VIII.

Tame Wild Squirrels.

Have you ever seen a squirrel dare a cat? It is the most amusing exhibition, of mischievous audacity, says the Boston Transcript.

One room of the residence of S. D. Brower, on Ivy street, was blown away, and his young son was carried three blocks, receiving only slight injuries.

IN SHAKESPEARE'S TOWN.

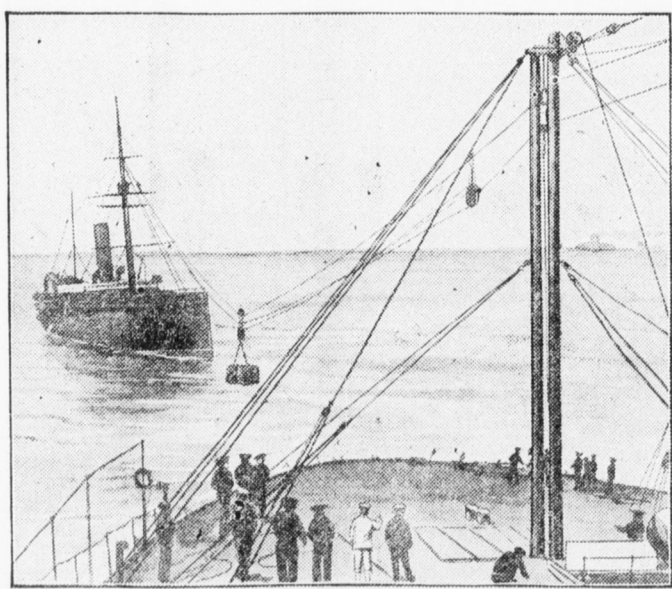
Children Recite Pieces from the Poet's Works to Tourists to Get Small Coins.

In the last year or two the youngsters of Stratford-on-Avon have taken up a quaint custom. The town is full of children playing in the streets in an apparently aimless manner, but as soon as an American tourist appears the boys gather around him and begin a recitation in chorus of wistful song.

Spanish Veterans.

Spanish soldiers who served in the war with the United States have founded a veterans' association.

COALING A WARSHIP AT SEA.



Experiments in coaling at sea have lately been made by the British reserve squadron. The collier Murel, which had been fitted up with new apparatus, was taken in tow by the battleship Trafalgar, and coaling was successfully carried out when the vessel was going at a speed of ten knots.

HOUSES WRECKED.

Wind Storm Plays Terrible Havoc at Joplin, Mo.

Two People Killed and Six Fatally Injured--Storm Came Without Warning--Omaha Was Also Visited by a High Wind.

Joplin, Mo., April 26.—Joplin was visited Friday by the most destructive storm in its history, during which at least two persons were killed outright, six fatally injured, a score or more seriously hurt, and \$300,000 worth of property was destroyed.

The dead; Esther Hunter, killed by falling timbers; Martha Cape, colored, died from fright.

Fatally injured: Bidwell Hunter, Mrs. Anna Hunter, Mrs. Marian Hicks, a boy named Kruger, F. B. Kelly, at Goo-Goo; William Jones.

The fury of the storm broke loose at 4:35 o'clock in the afternoon. There was no premonition of its terrible violence. There was an utter absence of the usual funnel-shaped cloud and the clouds looked no more threatening than those which produce the ordinary thunder shower.

The home of Mrs. Nellie Sullivan was destroyed and the entire family was injured by falling timber. Mrs. Sullivan was badly hurt about the head and face and her two-year-old baby was blown 50 yards into a pond and saved from drowning by the heroic efforts of her seven-year-old brother, who had also received injuries from the storm.

One room of the residence of S. D. Brower, on Ivy street, was blown away, and his young son was carried three blocks, receiving only slight injuries.

Passing east from the main portion of the city the storm spent its fury on the suburban districts, known as Moonshine Hill and Villa Heights. Three people were killed at Moonshine Hill. News of the terrible destruction there did not reach the city until late last night.

Of the little home of Ridwell Hunter not a timber is left standing and the three inmates of the house are dying, all having had their skulls fractured. It is feared that the mining camps further west, which seemed to have been in the path of the storm have suffered great damage, but no reports have been received from there.

Omaha, Neb., April 26.—A most serious wind and rainstorm struck this city late Friday afternoon, doing a large amount of damage to property and resulting in the probable death of one person and the injury of a number of others.

Bloomington, Ill., April 26.—A fierce wind storm amounting almost to a tornado struck Bloomington last night. Many buildings were damaged and wires torn down. Live electric wires killed a number of horses.

A Mammoth Combine.

East Liverpool, O., April 26.—A mammoth collection of flint, spar and clay manufacturers has just been effected in this city by William S. Hancock, Barker Cummer, Jr., and Hugh H. Hamill, of Trenton, which will in the future control the market of the country for these materials under the name of Golding Sons & Co. of this city.

Another Murder in Detroit.

Detroit, Mich., April 26.—John Reinhardt, of No. 65 Scott street, a man 42 years old, was shot through the heart in the rear of his home yesterday afternoon by Frank Colling, a 16-year-old boy, who lives next door. Reinhardt and young Colling became engaged in a dispute over the former's children. Colling pulled a revolver from his pocket and shot Reinhardt in the breast. Colling is under arrest. He claims that his victim started for him with a hammer and that he fired two or three shots into the ground before shooting directly at him.

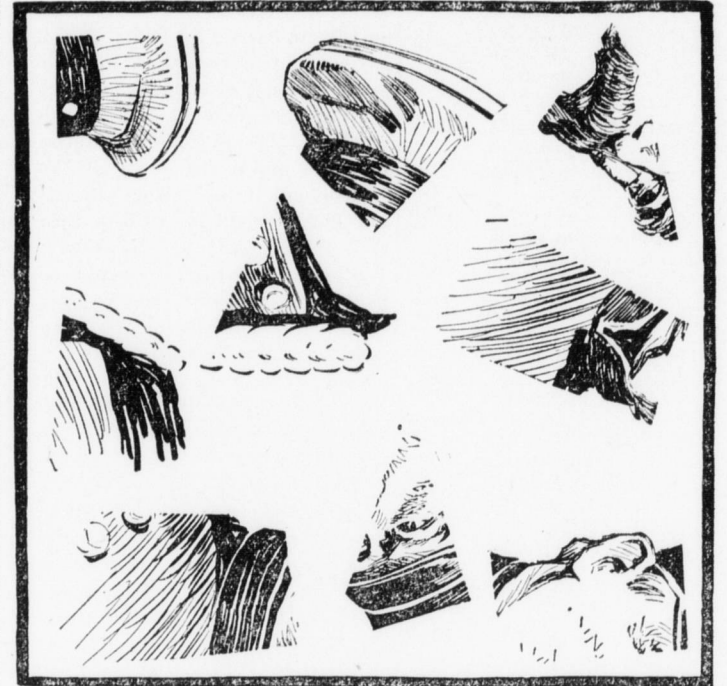
A Big Deal in Coal Mines.

Wilkesbarre, April 26.—A big deal in the anthracite coal trade was consummated Friday. The Algonquin Coal Co. sold its Pine Ridge and Laurel Run coleries to the Delaware & Hudson Co. The two mines have an output of 350,000 tons annually, and employ about 1,000 men.

Philadelphia Lawyer Found Dead.

Philadelphia, April 26.—The decomposed body of James V. P. Turner, a well-known lawyer, who disappeared last Monday, has been found in Fairmount park. Mr. Turner left his home Monday ostensibly to go to his office. There were bloodstains on the clothing of the dead man, but as no marks of violence were discernible, the coroner's physician expressed the opinion that death was due to hemorrhages. Mr. Turner was born in Newport, R. I., and was 47 years old. He was a son of Commodore Turner, of the United States navy.

PUZZLE PICTURE.



WHO IS IT?

Cut out the pieces and paste together so as to form the portrait of a famous soldier and Statesman Who is now dead.

GEOGRAPHIC SCULPTURE.

A Plan Under Contemplation to Make an Exact Model of the United States.

An exact model of the United States on the scale of 2 1/2 inches to the mile is one of the possibilities of the future as an added attraction to the national capital. While this possibility is, strictly speaking, as yet only in the air, it nevertheless has some zealous advocates who see in it not only a great educational function, but a feature of attractiveness to the people of the country not equaled by any piece of natural scenery, says the Washington Star.

It will be recalled that several years ago there was a project for an outdoor map of the United States on the Potomac flats, through which visitors could walk as through a park. Bills were introduced in Congress for this project by Senator Cannon, of Utah. The idea was also zealously advocated by Mr. Gardiner Hubbard, president of the National Geographic society.

The present plan, however, contemplates a much more perfect reproduction than would be possible in an outdoor map. The country would be produced in exactly the same manner as the city of Washington has been in the models prepared by the park commissioners and now on exhibition in the congressional library.

The new modeling is really "geographic sculpture," as some of its devotees call it. It aims at absolute accuracy and is made possible through the perfection in map-making and of dry-plate photography. There is no attempt at exaggeration of elevations or any other illusion. The new Park commission models are examples of the new school, only on a considerably larger scale than that proposed for the model of the country.

It would be necessary to house this model in a well-lighted building, which would have to be about 800 feet long and half as wide. Visitors could see it by walking over glass paths. These paths would be made on sliding supports, capable of being pushed sideways, so as to allow of an inspection of the whole surface.

One of the possibilities of such a model which would make it appeal to statesmen as a practical proposition would be that of having any section desired removed and replica productions made, as well as changes made in the model to suit changed conditions which might occur at any time. These replica sections could be made of paper pulp or other light substances and used in school work, just as the maps of the geologic survey are now done, and sold at cost.

Enlightened.

Higgins—I should like to tell Barnes just what I think of him.

Wiggins—By George, what a coincidence! Barnes said the very same thing about you this morning.

"Don't you know, I always suspected that fellow was a man unworthy of a gentleman's notice."—Boston Transcript.

Ocean Liners of 1880.

By the breaking up of the Serbia and the Alaska recently there disappeared two of the three famous Atlantic liners whose appearance 20 years ago was regarded as the opening up of a new and most important page in the history of Atlantic steaming.—N. Y. Sun.

BRITISH CABINET SECRETS.

Meetings Held Without Publicity and All Transactions Are Carefully Guarded by Members.

It says much for the integrity of government officials that all knowledge of our recent important treaty with Japan was successfully withheld from foreign nations until the compact had been actually sealed, but the great care exercised in guarding a diplomatic secret renders a premature announcement very rare indeed. No government secret when first born is ever committed to paper, except on the rare occasions when minutes of a cabinet meeting are taken and forwarded to the sovereign. As a rule, our ministers meet and transact business without anyone being the wiser, for no official of any kind is allowed to be present, says London Tit-Bits.

Once the government has decided upon an important piece of foreign policy, it has to be transmitted to our representative abroad, and for the first time the secret is put in writing in the form of unintelligible cipher, the key to which is already in the hands of our ambassador. The men who draw up these intricate cipher codes are reliable officials specially employed by the government, and they often obtain from £500 to £700 for a single code. The dispatch having been prepared, it is given into the care of a king's messenger, who wears attached to his person a bag fitted with a secret lock. To this lock there are only two keys; one in the possession of the foreign office and the other retained by our ambassador, who must unlock the bag himself or instruct his secretary to do so upon the messenger's arrival.

The journey between this country and abroad is a risky one, because the messenger is beset with spies, and, although he travels incognito and well armed, there is always the chance of his being set upon and robbed. To avoid this, when an important dispatch is being carried, he is shadowed by two detectives throughout the journey, so that they can instantly come to his assistance if necessary.

When traveling by rail he engages a special compartment, and if called upon to do so he will have to lose his life before sacrificing the dispatch. In return he receives a salary of £400 a year, in addition to £1 a day when traveling and all expenses found, but before being employed he has to be nominated by an official filling an important position under government who will hold himself responsible for his being a reliable messenger and not a foreign agent. Sometimes, to avoid danger, the courier carries with him the special sanction of international law, whereby every country through which he passes becomes responsible for his safety.

On arrival, the messenger goes to the embassy and hands over the bag either to the ambassador personally or his secretary, who has had verbal orders from his chief to receive it, no written instructions being accepted as genuine, nor must the bag be given to anyone holding an inferior post to that of confidential secretary. In every embassy there is a strong room, wherein despatches are stored in an enormous safe, the key of which is held only by the ambassador, and no one but himself is permitted to enter the chamber. Every night two watchmen remain outside the door with loaded revolvers, having orders to shoot down any marauder.

Obviously great care has to be taken that no information shall leak out from the officials themselves, and with the exception of Britain and Italy no European nation will permit any member of an embassy to marry a woman of the country in which they are employed. Even the ambassadors themselves are bound by the same rule, and some years ago, when Germany's representative in London, Prince Henry of Pless, wished to marry Miss Cornwallis West, he had to surrender his position before being able to do so.

Fellow Workers.

Mr. Hauskeep—And what are you going to call yourself?

Rimer—A Broken Vase. "Ah! That reminds me of a little thing our servant girl dashed off the other day."—Philadelphia Press.