

THE CENTRE REPORTER

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THE KEYSTONE STATE.

NEWS TOPICS OF LOCAL INTEREST TO PENNSYLVANIANS.

Facts and Fancies Gleaned from Many Sources and Brought Down to Brief Paragraphs for the Benefit of Busy Readers.

CHESTER, Pa., Feb. 16.—A street car was run into by a train on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad at the crossing, corner of Twelfth and Edgmont streets. The car was thrown from the track and four lady passengers severely hurt. One of them, Mrs. J. Shaw, is so seriously injured that her recovery is despaired of. The driver of the car is also badly hurt. The car was completely wrecked.

The Legislature.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 16. The house Monday decided to take a recess from Friday, Feb. 15 to Wednesday, Feb. 20, so that the members may be at their homes during the prohibition amendment election. Mr. Allen introduced a bill directing that a portion of the money appropriated in 1887 for memorial tablets to Pennsylvania commands on the field of Gettysburg, be used for the erection of a memorial building. The bill provides that if eight commands agree to thus divert this appropriation, amounting to \$12,000, that \$12,000 in addition shall be appropriated for the memorial building.

Mr. Brown's bill for the display of the American flag on the school houses of the state passed its third reading in the house Tuesday, after considerable debate.

In the senate Tuesday evening a communication was received from Gen. Wagner inclosing his report made as inspector of the soldiers' orphan schools in April, 1887, and asking that in view of the present agitation over the administration of the schools that his report be printed. He said it had been suppressed by the superintendent of the school. President pro tem. Grady appointed a committee to represent the senate and to meet other committees from Philadelphia city councils and the state of New Jersey to make inspection of that part of the Delaware river affected by the operation of the river and harbor bill.

In the senate Wednesday the appointment of Thomas P. Butler to be law judge of Chester county was confirmed. Bills were passed dividing up the cities of the state into three classes, and making Labor day a legal holiday.

One of the features of Wednesday's session in the house was a heated debate over the bill requiring the construction of foot paths along country roads. Mr. Lytle introduced a bill to establish a uniform series of text books in the public schools and provide them free to the pupils.

The senate on Thursday defeated the Saturday half holiday bill by a vote of 20 to 12. Fow's White Cap bill, prohibiting the sending of intimidating letters, circulars and posters, was reported affirmatively. It provides for punishment by imprisonment and fine.

The remaining sessions in both houses until the adjournment for the week were devoid of general interest.

"Red Nosed Mike" Guilty of Murder. WILKESBARRE, Pa., Feb. 12.—The trial of Michael Rizzolo, alias "Red Nosed Mike," the notorious murderer of Lazaro Conzo, was closed. Judge Charles E. Rice delivered a clear charge to the jury. He read parts of "Red Nosed Mike's" testimony and parts of his confession, relating to the horrible killing. From these the court instructed the jury that the killing of Bernard McClure was murder in the first degree. The jury retired to the jury room at 12:15 P. M., and an hour later they returned with a verdict. In the midst of a breathless silence the verdict was handed up to the court and was publicly announced. They found the prisoner guilty of murder in the first degree. Sentence was deferred until next Saturday.

Big Fire in Philadelphia. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 11.—The most destructive fire which has visited this city for a long time broke out yesterday in the basement of the large building Nos. 1,419 and 1,414 Walnut street, and the whole place was destroyed, nothing but the rear walls being left standing. While the firemen were at work a portion of the front wall fell inward, killing one man and seriously injuring two others. The following are the names of the killed and injured:

George Showers, 36 years old, of Nineteenth and Gilbert streets, hosiery maker of Engine Company No. 4, instantly killed and his body buried beneath the debris.

Abraham Lacey, 46 years old, hosiery maker of Engine Company No. 13, badly bruised about the body and limbs, but no bones broken.

William Buzzard, of Engine Company No. 4, badly bruised about the side and leg. The total loss of the fire is estimated at fully \$500,000, of which Messrs. Wyeth and Hrs. lose over \$500,000. The fire is supposed to have been caused by sulphur igniting in the cellar.

Does Farming Pay? READING, Feb. 12.—On Saturday ten fine farms in Berks county, Pa., were sold by the sheriff. During the present winter the sheriff has sold some twenty other large farms, besides the farm sold of twenty other farmers, all of whom have failed. This condition of things is taken as an indication that farming no longer pays as formerly, as a similar state of affairs, it is stated, exists in other counties in that section of the state.

\$50,000 Fire at Honesdale. SCRANTON, Pa., Feb. 14.—Honesdale has had a \$50,000 fire. The stores of Ryan & Dietzer, boots and shoes; S. W. Powell, general merchandise, and W. W. Efferling & Son, lakers, were destroyed, and a number of dwelling houses damaged.

Grand Army Officers Elected. ERIE, Pa., Feb. 13.—At the annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Pennsylvania, Adj. Gen. Stewart was elected department commander; J. V. Miller, vice commander; J. V. Gorell, junior vice commander; J. E. Reed, medical director; William Ertler, Benjamin L. Myers, John F. Hunter, E. G. Sellers, and I. W. Shengle, council of administration.

SOUTH BETHLEHEM, Pa., Feb. 16.—The boiler of a freight engine going south on the North Penn railroad blew up at Center Valley, instantly killing Fireman Crockett, whose body was blown 500 feet away. Engineer Frank McGowan was pinned under the wreck and received fatal injuries. Brakeman Schroek was blown 100 feet and escaped with slight injury. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

BURIED IN THE RUINS.

Sixty People Go Down with a Hartford Hotel.

NINETEEN DEAD BODIES FOUND.

Nine Rescued Alive and Many Missing. The Exact Number Is Unknown—A Terrible Explosion, Instantly Followed by a Collapse—The Ruins Take Fire.

HARTFORD, Feb. 19.—The most awful calamity that has visited Hartford for many years was that of yesterday morning.

An explosion took place in the Park Central hotel at a few minutes before 5. The greater part of the building instantly collapsed like a house of cards. At least fifty people were buried in the ruins.

The list of the dead whose bodies have been recovered from the ruins is:

H. Buell, of Hartford, jeweler. Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. Bronson and child, of Hartford. Mr. Bronson was secretary of the Hartford Stove company.

George J. Engler, of Hartford, drug clerk. George Paines (colored), night porter. Lizzie Gerald, of No. 201 Chestnut street, Springfield.

J. C. Hill, of Buffalo, commercial traveler. J. W. Housman, of No. 271 Second street, Brooklyn, agent of the Boston Revere Rubber company.

Fannie Howe, of No. 228 Chestnut street, Springfield. George Ketchum, brother of the proprietor, of Hartford.

Eddie Ketchum, aged 11, son of the proprietor. George W. Root, aged 60, of Brookport, N. Y., traveler for Waite, Williams & Co., of Boston.

A. H. Tillotson, of Cincinnati, traveler for the Merrill Chemical company. An unknown man, gray eyes, brown hair, bald in front, heavy mustache, about 40 years of age, weight about 150 pounds.

An unknown man, about 40 years of age, black hair, mustache and goatee, weight about 200 pounds.

The injured, all of whom are likely to recover, are: Michael Corrigan, of Windsor, badly bruised. Mrs. Corrigan, wife of the above, terribly bruised. Rachel Cramer, of Arou, bruised and scratched.

Jennie Decker, of Unionville, leg broken. Walter N. Gay, of Bayonne, N. Y., suffering from exposure. Max Galody, editor of The German Herald. Mrs. Galody, wife of the above. Charles G. Hemsen.

Enos James, agent of the White Star line. Wellington Ketchum, proprietor of the hotel, no bones broken, badly bruised. Mrs. W. Ketchum, wife of the proprietor, scalded about the head; one hip broken. George Ketchum, brother of the proprietor. Helen Lepore.

Henry Steffel, of Philadelphia, commercial traveler; scalp wound and sprained ankle. Jacob Turpin, colored barber; scalp wound. Mrs. Andrew F. Whiting.

Among the missing are: The Rev. Dr. L. Perrin, of Hartford, secretary of the Congregational Tract society. Mrs. H. Perrin, wife of Dr. Perrin. Edward Perry, of Hartford. J. C. Penfield, of Indianapolis. George W. Root, of Boston.

Mrs. Frank Wesson, of Springfield, her children and servants, in all seven persons. Andrew F. Whiting, actuary of the Hartford Life and Annuity insurance company.

The main portion of the hotel, facing on High and Allyn streets, a five story building, 50 feet by 125 feet, had fallen.

A bright flash of light. The screeching sound of escaping steam. The roar of an explosion which was heard for fifteen miles around. The rattle and rumble of bricks and timbers. Then darkness, and for a few seconds silence.

When the explosion occurred the whole five story brick building collapsed into a confused mass of masonry and timbers, except a part of the rear, where a tier of rooms remained standing, but with the partitions torn away so that the interior of the rooms was visible. Some of these rooms afterward crumbled down with their occupants upon the debris below.

The servants occupied an annex in the rear, and were got out by ladders from the windows, the staircases having been demolished by the fall of the main building. A few of the more excitable employees jumped to the ground, but were only slightly injured.

But the darkness was soon followed by the brilliant light of the flames bursting from the ruins, the silence, by the shrieks and moans of the human beings imprisoned in the mass of timber and masonry.

Every window in the Earl house, across Allyn street, was broken, the walls were smashed in many places, and its guests rushed pell mell into the street.

The scenes about the ruins were heartrending. In the center of the spot where a little child was a man, his wife and a little child. No help could get to them, and they finally fell back into the flames and perished in plain sight of the spectators. The child cried for help, but the man and woman uttered no word. Embraced in each other's arms they met death bravely.

The shrieks of another woman caused the blood of the spectators to turn cold as they saw a young lady lying with her body half across a beam, a look of agony on her face. Finally the support fell and she dropped out of sight.

The fire department responded quickly. Fire had broken out in the northwest corner of the ruins, and seemed likely to spread to the whole mass of the wreck. The engines immediately began to work. The police gathered together the workmen usually employed about the city streets to dig away the ruins and rescue any who had survived the awful catastrophe. This work was greatly hindered by the fire, which baffled the firemen until about 11 o'clock, when the real labor of rescue began.

At 10 o'clock Governor Bulkeley had ordered out the city battalion of the First regiment, and in a driving rain and sleet storm they were placed on guard in front of the ruins. A large detail, too, was put to work on the ruins. The forenoon passed away amid intense excitement, only two or three bodies having been taken from beneath the mass. After the fire was extinguished, however, the debris was rapidly cleared away.

William Ketchum, proprietor of the hotel, and wife, were dug out of the ruins at about 1 o'clock. They were alive, but were severely bruised and scalded. However, great hopes are entertained of their recovery.

Mr. Ketchum says that thirty-five guests were in the house when he went to bed in the evening. He did not know how many arrived on the midnight train. It is thought that between ten and fifteen did so. This does not take into account the regular boarders. It is probable that there were over sixty in the hotel altogether.

Such of them as escaped say the building was lifted bodily and crushed like an egg shell, falling in a mass of broken timber, bricks, mortar, bedding and the like. The first warning of any danger which the guests had was a feeling, Epus James, of England, experienced a sinking sensation, and they numbered no more.

Michael Corrigan and his wife were in one of the rooms in the southeast portion of the hotel, and were buried for nearly five hours in the ruins. They were recovered terribly bruised, but living. Epus James, of England, was buried for six hours. He was taken out alive and was able to walk.

The case of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis H. Bronson and child was a most pitiful one. Mrs. Bronson was the daughter of Brig. Gen. Graham, of the Connecticut National Guard. Gen. Graham came from his home at Middletown and was in the ruins searching for the body of his daughter. The first regiment boys aided him, and at about 3 o'clock the bodies of the couple were found. Gen. Graham recognized the body of his daughter by her hair and the rings on her fingers.

It is believed that Mrs. Wesson, of Springfield, had been in the hotel, together with all of her family—five children—and possibly a servant or two. People from Springfield were in the city anxious to find traces of her knowing that she stayed in Hartford over Sunday, but her name is not to be found on any hotel register, and it is feared that she may have been in the Park Central. If her death and that of her family would raise the aggregate loss of life probably seven additional.

A report that members of the "Hoodlum Blind" theatrical company were in the hotel was found to be incorrect. Mr. E. P. Munroe, the business manager, says some of the company applied to the hotel for accommodations, but could not get them, and went to another hotel. The fact that they were refused accommodation does not indicate that the hotel was crowded, but simply that the members of the company desiring rooms for \$2 or \$3 could not be furnished on account of previous engagement of apartments by legislators.

How did the explosion occur? That is the question which no one can answer with any degree of certainty.

Mr. J. M. Allen, president of the Steam Boiler Insurance company, and an expert on boiler explosions, will not accept the explosion theory until there is more definite evidence which cannot be obtained until the boiler is reached. If, as is generally believed, the disaster was caused by the boiler, it was probably caused by the night engineer going away about midnight and leaving a heavy draught on the furnace and little water in the boiler. When the day engineer came he probably turned on the water and caused the explosion. But he is dead and can give no evidence. It is said that Amos E. Risley, the night engineer, was of irregular habits. He said to a reporter about an hour after the explosion: "I left the boiler all right at 12 o'clock last night. We never run it all night either on Saturday or Sunday nights. Last night I banked the fire with sixty pounds of steam and shut the dampers. In half an hour the steam ought to have been down to twenty pounds. Then I went to bed in the annex of the second floor. When the explosion came I got out all right, but how the thing exploded I can't imagine."

Risley was arrested. The police did good work in keeping order until the militia were called out to relieve them. The lower floor of Judd & Root's wool warehouse was converted into a temporary morgue, where the coroner, medical examiners and assistant physicians cared for the victims until the dead could be identified and the injured removed to hospitals. The city provided caskets for the unclaimed bodies.

Most of the bodies bear comparatively few marks of burns. Death seems in most cases to have been due to suffocation or contusions. Great sorrow is expressed at the death of Dr. Perrin. The Rev. Loyalist Perrin, D. D., was born at Vernon, Conn., May 15, 1816, graduated at Yale in 1838 and from Yale seminary in 1843, ordained Dec. 21, 1843, at Goshen, Conn., where he remained fourteen years, when impaired health led to his resignation. After two years' rest he accepted the pastorate of the First Congregational church at New Britain, which renewed ill health compelled him to resign. His health having been restored, he was called to the pastorate of the First Congregational church at Farmington, Conn., from 1872 until 1887, since when he had been pastor emeritus there. For years he was one of the editors of The Religious Herald at Hartford.

The register of the hotel has not been found, but estimates agree pretty closely that about sixty persons were in the hotel.

The authorities are overwhelmed with telegrams of inquiry from people in all parts of the country, who fear that friends or relatives may have been in the hotel.

WHITE CAPS IN ORANGE COUNTY.

They Succeeded in Inducing Young Men to Stay Home Nights.

NEWBURGH, N. Y., Feb. 18.—White Caps continue to send out warning letters in this vicinity, and yesterday a simple minded German at West Newburgh was cautioned by letter to drink less rum and pay more attention to the support of his family.

Some of Goshen's lively young men are in a fever because they are not allowed to go out at night. Sundry misdeeds from the White Caps have depressed their ardor considerably, and many families are homeless from the streets after 9 p. m. These fellows have been ordered to remain at home nights, and they appear inclined to obey.

Several citizens of Cold Spring have been threatened with dire calamity in case certain conditions are not fulfilled. The letters from "White Caps" received there are in the typical style, ornamented with skull and cross bones, and are calculated to freeze the blood in the veins of those receiving them. Prominent citizens of Cold Spring have handed together in conjunction with the individuals receiving the notices to give the White Caps warning receipts after the manner of the carry out of their disabilities.

At Middlestown there is also a similar state of affairs.

Mr. Morgan, the Mt. Hope (Orange county) man who suddenly left his home last Wednesday night, after being chased by three mounted men, has not yet been heard from. Morgan disappeared after taking several "nightcaps" at a saloon, and a man who frightened him away or killed him, as supposed to be White Caps, when Mt. Hope people would like to see wearing "black caps."

SACCHARINE SWINDLERS.

They Are Now Languishing in a Michigan Prison.

ANY HANNO, Mich., Feb. 18.—Mrs. Olive E. Friend, her step-father, William E. Howard, her mother, Emily Howard, Olin A. Holstead and George Holstead, the parties charged with conspiracy in the Electric Sugar Refining company fraud, were arrested in Milan and brought to this city and placed in jail. In the latter part of January last, in New York, three indictments were returned against the parties for obtaining money under false pretenses. These indictments were left a profound rest. These indictments were obtained by District Attorney Fellows from Governor Hill, and on these requisitions warrants were issued by Governor Luce Feb. 1. The trouble has been since that it took time to get Howard into Michigan. He was staying at Windsor, and would not cross the river. Mrs. Friend returned to her home at Milan Friday. She had been traced within reach of the warrants several times, but was not arrested because they could not get Howard. On Saturday Howard, believing that no criminal action could be commenced and that he could defend civil suits, returned to Milan, and the arrest of the entire gang followed.

Four Unlucky Juries.

BEDFORD, Pa., Feb. 18.—At the session of the Bedford county court on Tuesday last the case of the commonwealth against John O'Neil came up for trial. A jury was selected and sworn. One witness was examined, when William Jack, one of the jury, returned a telegram informing him that his father was dead. The juror was excused and the jury discharged. On Wednesday morning a second jury was drawn to try the case. Two witnesses had been examined, when George Key, one of the jurors, received word by telegram that his wife had died suddenly. He was excused and that jury discharged. A third jury was selected, and William Fry, one of the jury, on leaving the court house after the adjournment for the day, fell and broke his leg. That made the drawing of a fourth jury necessary. This one distinguished itself through Judge Shank, one of its members, fainting during the examination of a witness, but he recovered in half an hour, and the case was finished. The prisoner was acquitted.

Terrible Domestic Tragedy.

DETROIT, Feb. 18.—A free press special from Tecumseh, Mich., says: "A shocking tragedy occurred in this village Saturday night by which a whole family was wiped out of existence. Frank J. Bowers, a well known householder, shot his wife and two daughters, Edith and Ada, aged 11 and 9 respectively, and then ended his own life by shooting himself. The bodies were found in the morning by neighbors, who, noting that the curtains were down and failing to arouse anyone, forced open a door. In the parlor lay the body of Mrs. Bowers, fully dressed. The bodies of the children were found in bed together in a room on the second floor, the father waiting in the hall and awaiting the shot. Every one of the victims was shot through the temple, and with the exception of Bowers himself, death probably was instantaneous. He is still alive, but unconscious, and cannot recover."

The Cabinet Complete.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 15.—It is understood that Gen. Harrison has completed his cabinet, subject to changes that after conditions arising from declaration may suggest. But who compose it is still left to speculation, as those who knew the general are satisfied that he would neither direct nor indirectly intimated that he would be giving his cabinet a serious shake. This is stated by one who is in frequent conference with the president-elect on all matters except the cabinet.

A Good Prospect for Peaches.

MARLBOROUGH, N. Y., Feb. 18.—Returns received from the principal peach growing sections along the Hudson river show that the fruit buds generally are unimpaired. In previous years when the crop proved to be a failure the buds at this date in February were as black as tar. To-day the buds are green, and show a beautiful vitality. Growers as a class are more than pleased, and they say that the prospect is bright.

Mr. Sampson of Maine.

BANDON, Me., Feb. 18.—The strongest man in Maine is said to live in the town of New Limerick, Arrostook county. His name is Alexander Willette, and he is noted far and wide as a man able to carry a log on his shoulder with ease. Last week he was won by picking up a newly felled log, forty-six feet in length, and carrying it some distance. No two of the other men in the camp could even lift the stick.

Pennsylvania's Boundaries.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Charles W. Stone, secretary of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, sent to the senate a certified copy of the act to confirm the boundaries of that commonwealth and the states of New York, Ohio and West Virginia, as resurveyed by joint commissions appointed for that purpose and to ratify and confirm an agreement of June 6, 1887, between Pennsylvania and New York.

Murdered at a Wedding.

SOUTH NORWALK, Conn., Feb. 18.—At a Hungarian wedding in Whistleville at 4 o'clock yesterday morning a drunken fight occurred, in which John Burt, a desperate character, was stabbed and killed by Daniel Bartosh. The murderer was arrested.

Hanged Himself in a Barn.

WATERBURY, N. Y., Feb. 18.—George Case hanged himself in his father's barn in Rutland, Jefferson county. He had been married a year and was 37 years old.

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