

CONGRESS GUILTY

CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT IN THE RECENT HORROR.

Congress Fully Aware of the Unsafe Condition of Ford's Theatre.—Attempt to Locate the Responsibility.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 11.—If the Congress of the United States were liable to criminal indictment it would have to stand trial on the charge of murder in the first degree for having killed the 22 employes of the Surgeon General's office who lost their lives by the falling of the floors of Ford's old theatre, where Lincoln was assassinated, which occurred last Friday, a catastrophe which can never be forgotten by any who were at the time in Washington, and which still is the leading topic of conversation wherever one goes. In addition to the 22 men killed outright there were 68 injured, a number of whom may die, and many of whom will be permanently crippled. Congress cannot claim in extenuation that it did not know the condition of this building, because its condition had been repeatedly called to its attention, and it actually appropriated money some six or eight years ago to erect a new building to contain the Army Medical Museum and library which had been in this building. Just think for a moment what damning evidence is given by this action. Congress erects another building because this isn't safe enough for the museum and library with their comparatively few attendants to remain in, and then allows 500 clerks to be crowded into the unsafe building. Had a private employer been guilty of this crime he could have been legally executed for murder; but Congress—well, the families of the dead and crippled, who are now being aided by private contributions, can spend the remainder of their lives in asking Congress to recompense them for their lost bread-winners. Meanwhile there are half a dozen buildings in Washington containing many times the number of Government employes who were in the collapsed building that are known to be equally dangerous, among them the Government Printing Office, with its nearly 3,000 employes; the Patent Office, the annex to the Post Office department and the Winter building, where a large branch of the War department is quartered.

An attempt is being made by an army court of inquiry to locate the personal responsibility for the disaster at this old death trap, if there be any, and a coroner's jury is also at work with the same end in view. It is said the direct cause of the accident was an excavation which was being made, for the purpose of putting in new boilers. This may be true, but even if it is that furnishes no excuse for Congress for having allowed a building which was officially condemned twenty seven years ago to be occupied by 500 Government employes. In consequence of this accident there is a feeling of excitement among those employed in the other buildings that are known to be unsafe. Secretary Smith is trying to allay this excitement in the Patent Office by having all the heavy stuff stored on the upper floors of that building transferred to the ground floor.

President Cleveland was one of the first contributors to the fund that is being raised for the help of the families of the clerks that were killed and wounded; he also directed that all flags on the public buildings be half masted for the dead clerks, an honor never before paid to any except high officials or ex-officials.

The number of appointments during the past week was unusually large, particularly in the consular service, but the new government printer has not been named, although it is daily expected that he will be.

There are indications that Secretary Carlisle has in view a complete reorganization of the immense clerical force of the Treasury department. He has addressed a circular letter to all of the heads of bureaus directing them to prepare and send to him not later than the 25th inst., a list of all employes under them, showing age, number of years employed, those who entered the service under the civil service law of 1883; those who have wives, husbands, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters or other relatives employed in any branch of the Government; those employed as clerks or otherwise, with compensation exceeding \$840 a year, who are doing work that properly belongs to messengers, assistant messengers and laborers; and those who are doing clerical work but on the rolls as messengers, assistant messengers or laborers. This has raised a commotion in the department, and no wonder, for the information, if correctly given, and there is no doubt about that, is bound to lead to a grand shake-up and a large number of dismissals. In taking this step Secretary Carlisle has set another good example for the heads of all the other de-

partments. A grand shake up all around will be beneficial to the country as well as to the democratic party.

The Latest Form of Swindle.

The smooth-tongued young man, with the sanctimonious face, has again swindled a New England farmer. This time the town of New Canaan, Connecticut, is the scene, and Goodrich Hubbell the chief actor. The story of the swindler runs as follows: One day lately the oily-tongued youth called on Mr. Hubbell and represented himself as a preacher. He asked shelter, which was readily given. Presently a man and woman came along in quest of a clergyman to marry them. Farmer Hubbell asked his new acquaintance if he would perform the ceremony, and the latter at once agreed. After the usual formula had been recited, the marriage certificate was signed by the bride and groom, the farmer and his wife acting as witnesses. The couple withdrew, as did the minister, and the following day Farmer Hubbell discovered that the supposed marriage certificate was a note for \$275, which he was called upon to cash.

The New Holiday Law.

The act making the Saturday half-holiday in all-the-year-round playday goes further and codifies the entire legal holiday system of the Commonwealth, not only fixing and enumerating all the legal holidays, but defining the method for presenting, collecting or protesting negotiable commercial paper falling due on any holiday. The legal holidays from and after the approval of the act are New Year's Day, Washington's Birthday, Good Friday, Decoration Day (May 30), the Fourth of July, Labor Day (the first Saturday in September), Election Day (the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November), Christmas Day, Thanksgiving Day and every Saturday after 12 o'clock.

The new holidays created by the act are election days and the Saturday half holidays between September 1 and June 15. The changes made in the matter of the collection of bank or other negotiable paper falling due on a holiday is that it becomes due and payable the first secular day after the holiday, instead of the day before, as formerly. If a note falls due on Christmas, July 4 or any other holiday it is not collectable nor protestable till the following business day. Sight or demand paper falling due on Saturday is made payable before 12 o'clock on that day, but it is not necessary to protest such paper for non-payment until Monday to maintain the liability of indorsers or others whose signatures may constitute part of its security.

53 Horses Gone.

With the Walter L. Main's circus, which was wrecked at Tyrone, on the 30th, were 119 horses, colts and ponies. Of these fifty were killed in the wreck and three died since from injuries received, making fifty-three in all dead, as the past result of the wreck. The show is exhibiting again, and on Thursday gave an exhibition at Tyrone to over 8000 people. For two days it exhibited at Altoona, and on Monday filled a date at Lewistown. When the wreck occurred it was thought the show would be unable to pull itself together this season, as near all the paraphernalia was a complete wreck, but at the exhibitions given the full programme was gone through and the show gave satisfaction. The railroad company is engaged in supplying and replacing the wrecked parts, and is assuming the expense. The circus is composed of seventeen cars, each one sixty-five feet in length and all in the best of order.

Summer Excursion Routes and Rates.

The 1893 edition of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's annual book of Summer Excursion Routes has just been issued. It is tastefully gotten up and presents in a most practical and comprehensive manner about four hundred popular summer resorts, from which excellent selections may be made for either limited trips or extended sojourns during the summer and early fall months.

The great variety of routes suggested the complete schedules of rates, the graphic and exhaustive descriptions of the different places, the explanatory maps and the illustrations, make this volume a most valuable guide.

Copies of the book may be obtained at any ticket office of the Pennsylvania Railroad on payment of ten cents, or upon application to the General Passenger Agent, Pennsylvania Railroad, Philadelphia, it will be forwarded upon the receipt of twenty cents.

—Go to Lewins, Bellefonte, for your clothing. Their styles are perfect in every respect. Suits neat in pattern, stylishly cut and elegantly made. Nothing quite so good anywhere.

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THE LICE PLAGUE.

The Plague of Lice Which has Invaded Lancaster County.

John Snyder is a Mennonite. One of his daughters learned the millinery trade and started a shop at the family home in Ephrata township, Lancaster county. The Mennonites are not much on millinery, but other people are.

One day, some weeks ago, a thrifty housewife of Ephrata township opened an old chest that had been lying in her garret for years, tightly closed. She found no treasure in it. An antiquated but physically sound bonnet frame was all she found. It was too good to be wasted and she immediately sent it to Miss Snyder's millinery store to have it remodelled and modernized and made into a new Sunday bonnet. A few hours later Miss Snyder took up the frame to fashion it according to the prevailing style thereabouts. She threw it on the floor the next instant and exclaimed, in good Pennsylvania Dutch:

"Der Hut ist voller Flohe!"

But they were not fleas, but lice. The hat was at once destroyed, but enough of the insects got away to soon populate the house. They don't seem to care for human flesh and blood, and only swarm on people to feed on clothing. The binding of books they are also partial to. The Snyder family quit going abroad, and did everything possible to rid themselves of the insects. Then they called in assistance. First the premises were fumigated for days with burning sulphur, the family having abandoned the house and sought shelter in tobacco sheds and the barn. Two barrels of sulphur were converted into suffocating smoke, which entered every crack and crevice and remote hiding place the insects could possibly find. This done, the Mennonite good Samaritans tore out their brother's petroleum smoked and sulphur smoked walls, floors and partitions from cellar to garret and made the house new inside. All the bedding and clothing belonging to the family were soaked in strong salt brine for a day and in boiling water for another day. Then the Snyder household took possession of their house again, and to their joy found that they were rid of the pests. It cost Farmer Snyder nearly \$1,000 to evict them.

But the good brethren who aided in bringing about this pleasant result soon found that the fleas, as they were still called, had sought revenge for their ruthless unhousing. Next day, after the work at Snyder's was done, every man who had taken part in it made the appalling discovery that his own house had been taken possession of by the insects, and that they were playing havoc there just as they had been doing at Snyder's.

They have now spread through several townships, and there is a panic, as the insects spread rapidly.

Costly Laces Stolen.

Last Saturday evening a startling disclosure was made at the World's Fair grounds when the priceless laces sent here by Queen Margheretta, of Italy, were unpacked. While the laces were being taken out of their cases and each piece counted out it was found that thirty pieces were missing. Cablegrams were sent to Rome apprising the queen of her great loss, for it seems as developments thus far indicate, that the loss will not fall upon the exposition company, their bond not covering the safety of laces in transit. An effort was made to keep the discovery a secret, but custom officers divulged the startling news. These rich possessions out of reverence for the memory of her countryman, the discoverer of America, Queen Margheretta consented to send to Chicago for the fair. She sent a noble, trusted lady, the Countess Di Brazza, to watch and guard the treasures, and the government of the United States gave a bond of \$100,000 to guarantee their safe return to Italy.

Centre Hall's Fourth.

Now that a big celebration has been decided to a certainty for Centre Hall on the Fourth of July, it behooves every body in the county to come to Centre Hall and help celebrate with us. A number of attractions are already down on the bills, and an invitation is extended to all to come, and they will be heartily welcomed. Accommodations will be made to entertain an immense crowd, and there will be no lack of facilities in that direction.

Died in Millin County.

Miss Tillie Bell died last week at Sigleville, Millin county, of consumption, after an illness of several months. She had resided in Centre Hall over one year living with Mrs. McCully, and moved to Millin county, only early this spring, and was taken ill shortly after leaving Centre Hall.

—C. P. Long & Co. have just received a large stock of chain and lever pumps. Come and see them.

HOW TO SEE IT

HOW TO DO THE CHICAGO EXPOSITION IN SIX DAYS.

Suggestions for World's Fair Visitors Prepared by Mr. M. R. Riebenack, for the Benefit of His Friends.

The following suggestions for World's Fair visitors were prepared by Mr. M. R. Riebenack, Assistant Comptroller of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, for the benefit of his personal friends; but it is so complete an itinerary that one of the friends aforesaid, deeming it of general interest, has very properly forwarded it to "The Phila Record" for publication:

FIRST DAY.

Enter grounds through Midway Plaisance from Cottage Grove avenue entrance, which is between Fifty-ninth and Sixtieth streets, and can be reached by cable cars from the city, or carriage from any of the hotels in the vicinity of the grounds. The points of interest and attractions at this place would consume more than a day's time, although it is best to avoid many of the exhibits.

Lunch can be had at very reasonable rates and good service at the Vienna Bakery establishment.

At the entrance to the main buildings from the Plaisance, take Intramural Railway to north loop. Remain in the cars and pay fare for return trip to the south loop. This ride will give a general view of every building on the grounds.

Remain in cars at south loop, and get off at Chicago Junction; descend steps and enter Transportation Building through the golden door. This building is very interesting and well worth visiting.

SECOND DAY.

Enter grounds at Sixty-fourth street; finish up Transportation Building, then visit the Mining Building, and the Electric Building, and if any time is left take in Machinery Hall, which is in a very incomplete state at present and does not require much time, unless specially interested in electric power.

There is a very good restaurant in the Electric Building on the second floor; the party running same has five restaurants in the different buildings on the grounds. They are well managed, somewhat on the New England plan, and reasonable in price.

THIRD DAY.

Enter grounds again at end of Midway Plaisance. Visit Woman's Building, Horticultural Hall, and put in balance of time at Art Gallery; the latter will require two or three visits.

FOURTH DAY.

Enter again at end of Midway Plaisance. Take in Eskimo Village, State Buildings and revisit Art Galleries. Go to naval exhibit, and then to the Fisheries Building and United States Government Building, which are within easy access.

There is a Polish restaurant between the Fisheries Building and the United States Government Building. Quite good and reasonable; somewhat on the style of Reisser's Ratskeller, but there are rooms upstairs on the second floor preferred by ladies, the charge is a little higher than downstairs.

FIFTH DAY.

Enter at Sixty-fourth street and visit the most important building of all, which is the Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building. It covers over 40 acres, and is filled with interesting objects. No directions can be given, as a week's time would not be sufficient to carefully inspect the exhibits. The best way for any one visiting would be to take the guide book and pick out the exhibits which would interest them, and then search for them, which can easily be done, as the classification of the exhibits is in good shape.

SIXTH DAY.

Enter at Sixty-fourth street, and visit Agricultural Hall, the Convent of La Babilonia (filled with Columbus relics) and Krupp's exhibit. The Leather exhibit, Forestry exhibit and Cave Dwellers are in this vicinity. I did not get into these, but understand they are quite an attraction. There are also stock exhibits and other matters adjacent, which can be taken in if desirable, but were not open when I was there.

GENERAL.

From the Agricultural Building is the starting point for taking a ride on the Lagoons by electric boats. These boats are greatly to be preferred to the gondolas, as they do not have the swaying motion, and run much smoother. A pleasant way to make the trip is to start from the Agricultural Station, terminating the same at the Horticultural Building and Music Hall. The rate for the round trip is 50 cents, which covers about four miles and takes 45 minutes. One-way tickets to any stopping point cost 25 cents.

As the trip through the grounds is necessarily very tiresome, the best way to rest is to take a ride on the electric

boats.

Do not fail to visit the Pennsylvania State Building, and register. It is well worth seeing, as it is tastefully arranged and a credit to the State.

The Administration Building should be visited on any day when passing from one building to another. There is nothing interesting except that the building is fine from an architectural standpoint.

Always be sure to remain in the grounds and take dinner on the nights when they are illuminated—Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. The grounds, etc., are lighted by electricity, and it is one of the grandest sights imaginable and well worth remaining to see whenever an opportunity offers. The best place to see the illumination is from the Casino, which is next to the Agricultural Building, and is a very fine restaurant to dine at, being the best in the grounds. It has a seating capacity of 3000. Stepping out from the Casino a full view can be had of all the buildings which are lighted by electricity.

If sufficient time can be had, it is very enjoyable to take a ride on the electric boats while the illumination is going on.

There is a daily paper published called the "Columbian," which gives all the information and advice as to what is to take place in the grounds and the various buildings, which should be consulted daily. It would be well before starting in to view the buildings to carefully go over the Official Guide, (cost 25 cents) so as to get a general idea of what is to be seen.

Russia's Future Empress.

The statement in the *Berliner Tageblatt* that the betrothal of the Czarowitz of Russia to the Princess Alice Victoria Helen Louisa Beatrice, youngest sister of the reigning Grand Duke of Hesse Darmstadt, and granddaughter of Queen Victoria, will soon be proclaimed is likely to be true, as the heir to the Russian throne is said to have been paying attention to the princess for some time past. She is described as a worthy young woman, and is said to resemble her mother, the late Princess Alice, a favorite daughter of Queen Victoria.

Should the Princess Alice become Empress of Russia, Queen Victoria's family will be represented on the throne of another great empire. The Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India is the grandmother of the German Emperor and of the Grand Duke of Hesse Darmstadt, both sovereign princes. One of her descendants is in the order of succession to the throne of Greece, and with Russia added to the list Queen Victoria will indeed be a mother of princes.

Rights of Way.

1. A bicycle is a vehicle or carriage and so decided by the authorities, therefore, a bicycle has every privilege and is amenable to every law that a carriage or vehicle is.
2. Drivers have no exclusive rights in the roads as against travelers by any other mode.
3. The supreme law of the road is: Thou shalt use it so as to interfere as little as possible with the equal right of any other person to use it at the same time; and thou shalt be reasonably careful that no one suffer injury thereon by act or neglect of thine.
4. To turn out to the right is a statute regulation everywhere in the United States.
5. A bicyclist is amenable for danger if, through his negligence or wrong doing, anyone is injured—the same as if by any other carriage.
6. Anyone who injures a bicyclist or his machine, wantonly, mischievously or maliciously, is a trespasser and liable criminally and civilly.
7. A person has a right to ride on the sidewalk if (a) There is so much travel on the street as to make it impassable. (b) Repairs are being made rendering it impassable. (c) The streets are impassable because of mud, or any surface of danger to bicyclers.
8. A person has a right to ride on private property if the street or sidewalk are as described in preceding section.
9. Bells by day and lanterns by night are almost universally required in the ordinances of the cities and towns, and in the majority of places strictly enforced.

The Centre Magnet.

The *Centre Magnet*, the new fledged prohibition paper, made its first appearance on Wednesday. It is published at Bellefonte by N. S. Bailey, from material of the defunct *Centre County Times*. The *Magnet* is a four page six column paper, and for its first issue comes out looking rather clean, with plenty of apologies and prohibition editorials. The paper will improve as the proprietors gradually wear off the rough edge and become accustomed to the affairs. We hope the gentlemen at the head will succeed in the new venture.

A DISGRACEFUL SCENE.

Two Sons Fight Around the Body of Their Mother.

Mrs. Clymer, wife of the late John Clymer, of Hepburn street, died on Monday evening, says the *Milton Standard*. Mr. Clymer was well known in this community as a well to do man and had a good record as a soldier. His wife was also respectable. He had three sons, who during his lifetime gave him a good deal of trouble, and they are doing their best to maintain their unsavory reputation. Wednesday morning both Jake and Bill were drunk. They got into an altercation about their mother's will and engaged in a disgraceful melee. Several shots were fired, one of which is said to have entered the ice box containing the dead woman's body. Last evening one of the brothers started out of the house avowing his determination to go and commit suicide. This plan seemed to meet with such universal approbation among the neighbors that he changed his mind. John, the other son, is not in the neighborhood. He, it will be remembered, had a penchant for beating his wife and abusing his family, and frequently figured as a defendant in the police records.

THE BLUE LAWS.

Specimen Statutes From the Archives of Connecticut.

The words "blue laws," says the *Youth's Journal*, are often seen in the newspapers of to-day, but just why they are thus named is known to comparatively few persons. We therefore name a few of them.

They were called blue because they were printed on blue paper. They belonged to the State of Connecticut. Here are some of them:

"No one shall be a freeman or have a vote unless he is converted and a member of one of the churches allowed in the Dominion."

"No dissenter from the essential worship of this Dominion shall be allowed to give a vote for electing magistrates or any officer."

"No food or lodging shall be offered to a heretic."

"No one shall cross the river on the Sabbath but an authorized clergyman."

"No one shall travel, cook victuals, make beds, sweep houses, cut hair or shave on the Sabbath day."

"No one shall kiss his or her children on the Sabbath or feasting days."

"The Sabbath day shall begin at sunset Saturday."

"Whoever wears clothes trimmed with gold, silver or bone lace above one shilling a yard, shall be presented by the grand jurors, and the selectmen shall tax the estate £30.00."

"Whoever brings cards or dice into the Dominion shall be fined £5."

"No one shall eat mince pies, dance, play cards, or play any instrument of music except the drum, trumpet or jewsharp."

"No man shall court a maid in person or by letter, without obtaining the consent of her parents; £5 penalty for the first offense, £10 for the second, and for the third, imprisonment during the pleasure of the Court."

See the World's Fair for Fifteen Cents.

Upon receipt of your address and fifteen cents in postage stamps, we will mail you prepaid our souvenir portfolio of the World's Columbian Exposition, the regular price is fifty cents, but as we want you to have one, we make the price nominal. You will find it a work of art and a thing to be prized. It contains full page views of the great buildings, with descriptions of same, and is executed in highest style of art. If not satisfied with it, after you get it, we will refund the stamps and let you keep the book. Address H. E. BUCKLEN, Chicago, Ill.

Read It.

In the inside pages of the REPORTER will be found an accurate account of the recent horror at Washington, along with other telegraphic matter, falmage's sermons, and general reading matter, a fund of which is contained in no other sheet published in this section. No paper published in the country gives its readers the amount of space and pure reading matter that the REPORTER does. It is bristling with local matter and during the coming campaign should be in every household.

Wheat's Lowest Price.

Wheat sold on the Board of Trade in Chicago, on the 8th at the lowest point ever touched in the history of that market. On August 8, 1887, after the collapse of the Kershaw corner, cash wheat was quoted as low as 66¢ cents; on 8 inst. it sold at 63 cents.

Electric Railways.

The new electric road between Altoona and Hollidaysburg, is now in running order. Tyrone is making a move for electric street cars.

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