



HIGHWAYMEN ABROAD.

HOLD-UPS BECOMING NUMEROUS IN OUR COUNTY.

A Gang of Five Armed Men Tried to Loot a Milesburg Hotel—Shots Freely Exchanged.

One of the boldest and most daring of attempted robberies occurred at Milesburg, last Wednesday night. About 8 o'clock five strange colored men walked into the bar room of Alois Kohlbecker, across the tracks from the railroad station, and while two of the negroes with four revolvers covered four of the villagers who were lounging in the room the other three strode behind the bar and, ordering Kohlbecker to throw up his hands, attacked the cash register and safe.

In the safe and register were nearly \$300, which the proprietor determined to defend with his life. Regardless of the revolvers pointed at his head, he struck out right and left, and being of powerful build, each blow hurled his assailants back. Twice the negroes succeeded in getting the cash register and safe both open, but only to be driven back by a blow from Mr. Kohlbecker's fist. One of the men grabbed the proprietor's gold watch from his pocket, but quick as flash Kohlbecker snatched it out of his hands, at the same time knocking the man sprawling on the floor.

At this juncture the negroes, finding Kohlbecker too powerful to cope with, began shooting. Ten or a dozen shots were fired, but, though two balls pierced Kohlbecker's clothing, he was not injured in the least.

Scarcely had the shooting begun when one of the gang left outside on guard gave the alarm of the approach of a crowd of citizens, and the entire gang, with a full volley of shots, fled from the room and ran west on the railroad. Kohlbecker grabbed a Winchester rifle and shot at the fleeing robbers, but failed to hit any of them. The negroes jumped a freight train for Tyrone, and word was telephoned ahead for their arrest. At East Tyrone officers were in waiting, but the negroes drove them off at the point of the pistol and escaped to the woods.

District Attorney Singer said he did not think the gang really were negroes but white men in disguise, very likely the same gang that during the past few days robbed and terrorized communities in Union and Clinton counties. A reward is offered for the arrest of all or any of the gang.

THE SAM RUNKLE HOLD-UP.

Blood-Curdling News of Bellefonte Origin

Much startling Centre county news is manufactured for the city dailies by Bellefonte news-wags.

The latest is the story about Sam Runkle, of our town, having been held up by three robbers a few nights ago in the gap, while driving home from Bellefonte. We give what is true and untrue about it:

It is not true that Sam was held up, nor did he hold up any one. No shots were fired at Sam nor did he shoot at any one. His buggy top was not riddled with bullet holes.

But, as Sam was driving homeward that night, a fellow came into the road and followed close behind the buggy; as Sam drove on a short distance, he observed the forms of two persons ahead, one having a dim light, and driving up to within a few yards of the two, the one stepped across to the side of the road, and Runkle thinking they were robbers ready to hold him up, he quickly turned his horse and hurriedly drove back to Pleasant Gap, remaining there until next morning. This is the whole story as given by Mr. Runkle to the Reporter.

The Richest Man.

It is stated in Wall street that John B. Rockefeller's personal holding of Standard Oil certificates amounts to 250,000 shares, which, at the present market price, are worth the enormous sum of \$112,000,000. And this is only a portion of the wealth of this man, who is probably the richest person in the world.

That Rockefeller might rock many a poor fellow into ease and never feel it. When the Republican legislature three years ago repealed the pipe line bill, it simply rocked several millions rocks into Rockefeller's coffers, which is taken from the pockets of coal oil consumers.

A fatal accident occurred Saturday afternoon at McCalmonts quarries near Bellefonte. Jacob Yarvie, a Finlander, was at work taking out stone, on a shelving rock, when the ground gave away under him. His head was crushed in and his left leg was cut off. His death was instantaneous. He leaves a wife and six children in Finland and a brother in Wyoming.

LAND OF CHURCHES.

Half a Hundred in the Eastern Half of This Valley.

If many churches are an indication that Christian ethics are firmly rooted in such a section, then the portion of Penns Valley from Centre Hall east to Woodward, should rank high in that respect, and we are not inclined to dispute it.

The distance from Centre Hall to Woodward is some 19 miles, and the average width of the valley about 2 1/2 miles, and in this territory there are no less than 45 churches, all in good condition and a majority as good as new. The finest and most costly of these edifices are in this town.

The seating capacity of these 45 houses of worship will average 225, or a total of 10,125. The population of this territory, as per the last census, is 7061, or room enough for all the men, women and children, and space to spare for 3084 heathens.

Here we have one good church for every 157 of population!

We judge the average attendance at these churches is not much above 75 at the regular services during the year. In other words, one third the number of churches would amply accommodate the regular church attendance.

Miles township, with a population of 1438, has some eleven good churches, or, one place of worship for a little over 100 of its population. This we do not include in the territory first mentioned, but it will be seen that the ratio is nearly the same.

In view of these facts, if there are any souls lost, it will not be want of opportunities to hear the preaching of the Word and the plea of ignorance on the day of Judgment will be of no avail, and there would be more consideration for Sodom and Gomorrah, than for the unrepentant souls of church-blessed Penn and Brush valleys.

A Town That Has No Taxes.

At the meeting of the board of trustees last Monday no tax levy was made. There appeared to be no good reason why any tax at all should be levied for the current year. There is some money on hand, and that, together with the licenses, etc., will meet estimated current expenses. La Grange is likely the only incorporated village with a population of 1,100 where a tax of no kind is collected. The streets are in splendid condition. The trees set out last spring look thrifty, and taking it all in, we are pretty well, we thank you.—La Grange Era.

Fatal to Vermin.

A writer in the Scientific American says he has cleared his premises of vermin by making whitewash yellow with copperas and covering the stones and rafters in the cellar with it. In every crevice in which a rat might go he put the copperas, and scattered it in the corners of the floor. The result was a complete disappearance of rats and mice. Since that time not a rat or a mouse has been seen near the house. Every spring the cellar is coated with the yellow whitewash as a purifier and a rat exterminator, and no typhoid, dysentery or fever attacks the family.

Two Brothers Die Suddenly.

Lewisburg Journal: On Thursday, 3rd, while Wm. Fessler, of Centreville, was hauling lime from Dry Valley X Roads, he died very suddenly of heart disease. His brother, Reuben Fessler, of the same place, went to Middleburg to telephone about the occurrence to a sister. On the way home he too was suddenly stricken, and died very shortly afterwards. The sister is also reported in a critical condition of heart trouble.

A Much Discussed Question.

There has been considerable newspaper discussion as to when the 20th century will begin. The New York Sun settles the question with the following apt illustration: "The 20th century will begin at midnight, Dec. 31, 1900, Jan. 1, 1901. If you had 2,000 silver dollars to place in piles, containing 100 each, your first pile would end with the number 100; your second pile would begin with 101 and end with 200, and your 20th pile would begin with 1901 and end with 2000. It is the same way with the centuries."

Marriage Licenses.

The following marriage licenses were issued during the past week:

Geo. Shipley and Ada Peters, Union Twp.

John A. Weight, Bellefonte, and Florence Cole, Spring Twp.

John Henry Kyle, Huntington Co., and Annie E. Ellenberger, Guyer, Centre Co.

Edward Derstine, Bellefonte, and Annie Barger, Roland.

The Lenten Season.

Ash Wednesday occurs on February 23 this year, and Lent will continue until Easter, which falls on April 10.

FLORIDA.

Personally-Conducted Tour via Pennsylvania Railroad.

One must appreciate the advantages of modern railway travel when he can leave the land of blizzards one day and find himself in the land of flowers the next.

To do this take the Pennsylvania Railroad tour to Jacksonville, which will leave New York and Philadelphia by special train of Pullman Palace Cars Tuesday, February 22, allowing two weeks in Florida. Excursion tickets, including railway transportation, Pullman accommodations (one berth), and meals enroute in both directions while traveling on the special train, will be sold at the following rates: New York, \$50.00; Philadelphia, \$48.00; Canandaigua, \$52.85; Erie, \$54.85; Wilkesbarre, \$50.35; Pittsburg, \$53.00, and proportionate rates from other points.

For tickets, itineraries, and full information apply to ticket agents, Tourist Agent, 1196 Broadway, New York; or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia.

Weather Forecast.

My last bulletin gave forecasts of the storm wave to cross the continent from the 17th to 21st, and the next will reach the Pacific coast about the 22d, cross the west of Rockies country by the close of the 23d, great central valleys 24th or 29th, eastern states 27th.

A warm wave will cross the west of Rockies country about the 23d, great central valleys 24th, eastern states 26. A cool wave will cross the west of Rockies country about the 25th, great central valleys 27th, eastern states March 1.

Temperature of the week ending February 26th will average a little below normal in the southern and much below in the northern states. The heaviest rains and snows of the month will have fallen before the 22d. The week ending the 21st will bring snows in the north and rains in the south.

Texas will continue deficient in rainfall, and the Ohio valley and New England States will have more than their share of moisture.

In many places crop conditions during 1898 will radically differ from the average of the past five years. Average conditions will not prevail and the unusual may be expected.

Fought Like Tigresses.

At Escalopia, Ky., a few mornings ago, constables Cropper and Thacker attempted to arrest an old lady named Crow, who was at her home with several grown up daughters. Before the officers realized it one of the girls flew at them like an enraged tigress, with a long knife, dangerously wounding both officers. By this time the old lady and another daughter drew revolvers. The battle raged for a few moments, and after the smoke had cleared old Mrs. Crow and one daughter were dead. Those who survived are in a dangerous condition.

Kind Words for the Reporter.

"I enclose c/k for year in advance, the Reporter is my favorite and did such noble service, in years past, for my native county, that I feel gratitude is due it."—W. Miller, Lincoln, Neb.

"Enclosed find check, for am't Centre Reporter. I must give you credit for the best county paper, and for the fearlessness with which you always advocate the truth."—G. W. Spangler, Tusseyville.

"I can't do without the Reporter, it is so reliable in its home news, and unflinching in its democracy."—E. F. Kern, Stephenson county, Ill.

Political Bugology.

An exchange says: "The goldbugs make the laws, the straddlebugs make the platforms, the humbugs make the speeches, and the doodlebugs endorse the whole thing; while the tumblebugs do the voting, the slickbugs get the offices and the moneybugs get the game."

What We Die Of.

It is estimated by a competent foreign authority that only 900 persons out of 1,000,000 die from old age, while 1,200 succumb to gout, 18,400 to measles, 2,700 to apoplexy, 7,000 to erysipelas, 7,500 to consumption, 48,000 to scarlet fever, 25,000 to whooping cough, 30,000 to typhoid and typhus and 7,000 to rheumatism. The averages vary according to locality, but these are considered accurate as regards the population of the globe as a whole.

The Golden Secret of Long Life.

Keep the head cool, the feet warm and the bowels open. Bacon's Celery King for the Nerves is a Vegetable preparation and acts as a natural laxative, and is the greatest remedy ever discovered for the Cure of Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, and all Blood, Liver and Kidney Diseases. Call on G. H. Long, Spring Mills, sole agent, and get a trial package free. Large sizes 50c. and 25c.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

THE INSULT OF THE SPANISH MINISTER.

His Recall May Still Further Strain the Friendly Relations Between the Two Countries.—Sherman Ignored.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The adage, "The occasion always produces the man," like some other adages, sometimes lies. The President of the U. S. has been insulted by a Spanish blackguard who held the commission of his government as Minister to the U. S., and our department of State has been held up to the ridicule of the world for allowing itself to be gulled by Spanish shams labeled autonomy for Cuba and negotiations for a reciprocity treaty; the insult was in writing, the authorship of which was acknowledged by Senor de Lome, and has been published throughout the civilized world. Surely this was an "occasion," but no "man" has yet been produced. The natural thing to be expected after de Lome acknowledged having written the published letter, was that Mr. McKinley would at once send de Lome his passports. Instead of that, he sent a request to Madrid that de Lome be recalled, and before it was presented to the Spanish government, de Lome had resigned and his government had accepted his resignation, and now, Mr. McKinley is waiting to learn what Spain will say about it all. It has been proven time after time by Congress that politics cuts no figure in the solid backing always given a President who stands up firmly for any question affecting our honor or rights, and Congress was and is still ready to back Mr. McKinley, even to the extent of a declaration of war, but he does nothing. It is now in order for Congress to make him do something, and its members are in the humor to do it.

Even prominent Republicans ignore the very existence of Secretary Sherman when discussing anything relating to our foreign relations. Senator Lodge, who takes a more cheerful view of the situation than many of his colleagues do, said: "Spain is evidently practicing duplicity towards us, and the administration will be forced to this conclusion if Spain does not express regret for the utterances of her late Minister, and no matter what Spain may say officially, the general belief will be that de Lome told the truth about the use of autonomy and reciprocity to delude this government. I cannot predict what the future will bring. I only know that in Judge Day, we have a Secretary who is firm, patriotic and capable, and that he will see that this country does not lose cast among the nations of the world by reason of this incident."

The House Judiciary Committee has hung up Senator Tillman's bill to permit the states to control liquor carried into them in original packages, and it will remain so unless some member of the Committee who voted against reporting the bill can be induced to get the matter up again. Representative Latimer is working with that end in view, and thinks he will succeed. The bill has passed by the Senate some time ago and was intended to aid the S. C. authorities to enforce the liquor dispensary law, which was weakened by a U. S. Supreme Court decision. The principal objection to the Tillman bill by members of the committee who voted against reporting it was that it would be a step towards giving states the right to control interstate commerce.

Not having the fear of Czar Reed before its eyes, the Senate increased the amount carried by the fortification Appropriation bill from \$4,144,912, appropriated by the House, to \$9,052,494. It remains to be seen whether the Czar can compel the House to insist upon its original bill.

The addresses of the National Organization of the Democrats, the People's party and the Silver Republicans, have been approved by a joint caucus and will all be made public this week. The keynote of the addresses is co-operation by the friends of silver in the Congressional campaign.

Unless all signs fail, as they sometimes do, the treaty for the annexation of Hawaii will have its fate settled this week. The Committee on Foreign Relations, acting upon the expressed doubt of Senator Teller, one of the strongest annexations, as to their ability to ratify the treaty, will get a test vote in the Senate. If the vote shows that the two-thirds are for the treaty, its early ratification is certain, as the opposition would not prolong the fight with certain defeat ahead of them; if the vote shows, as it probably will, that the treaty cannot be ratified, it will at once be dropped, and a joint resolution for annexation brought to the front.

Czar Reed's latest bit of suppression was to wipe Friday and Saturday off

the House calendar. Friday is private bill day in the House and on the last Friday that the House was in session, enough Republicans voted with the Democrats to pass a number of private bills, in defiance of the opposition of Czar and his agents on the floor. In order to prevent a repetition of such tactics the Czar made the House adjourn from last Thursday to Monday, and it is said that he intends to do the same thing every week, in order to make sure that no more private bills are passed.

EXPLOSION OF THE CRUISER MAINE.

The United States battle ship Maine lying at Havana, exploded on Tuesday night and many lives are believed to be lost.

The city was shaken to its foundations and all the glasses were broken.

The death roll will reach 250. The cause of the appalling disaster is not known, but a rigid investigation is not to be made.

There are different theories; one that the Spaniards may have caused it by use of a torpedo; another cause, spontaneous combustion; still another, explosion of the boilers, and a fourth that it was caused in the powder magazine.

Should a Spanish plot have been the cause of the disaster, then woe to old Spain! The United States would tear her to pieces.

The Maine sunk but it is believed she can be raised and fitted for service. The cruiser was one of the best battle ships in the American navy.

The Spanish authorities at once rendered all possible aid to save the injured.

The Spanish government has expressed deep regret at the awful catastrophe.

De Lome, before boarding a vessel at New York for his departure, expressed deep regrets of the explosion, saying he loved America notwithstanding the letter he had written.

The steamer Flachet, bound from Marseilles to Colon, was wrecked and 87 persons drowned.

The Mouth.

A boy was made to write an essay on the mouth by his teacher for some infraction of the school rules, and this is what he said: "Your mouth is the front door to the face; it is the aperture to the cold storage of your anatomy. Some mouths look like peaches and cream, and some look like a hole in a brick wall to admit a new door or window. The mouth is a hot-bed for toothache, and the bung hole of oratory. It is the crimson aisle to our liver. It is patriotism's fountain and the tool chest for pie. Without a mouth the politician would be a wanderer on the face of the earth and go down in an unhoneered grave. It is the grocer's friend, the orator's pride and the dentist's hope. It puts some men on the rostrum and some in jail. It is temptation's lunch counter when attached to a maiden, and tobacco's friend when attached to a man. Without it married life would be like a summer dream and a dude would lose half his attraction."

Must Have More Room.

The Central Pennsylvania Odd Fellows' orphan home, near Sunbury, is to be enlarged by the addition of an annex 16x42 feet. The dining room is to be enlarged, a school room 17x34 feet fitted up, and a porch added to three sides of the building. At present the orphanage labors under great disadvantages because of the scarcity of bed rooms for the children. The annex will add a number of comfortable rooms and furnish accommodations for about two dozen orphans.

A Hill Suddenly Falls.

At Carlin, fifteen miles south of Holidaysburg, Sunday, a solid limestone hill, 175 feet high, 100 feet long and 125 feet deep, moved from its base and went crashing into the valley below. There were 150,000 tons of loose rock in the avalanche, and the thunderous noise was heard for many miles. The Hungarians who work in the quarries there were away on a Sunday excursion, or there would have been wholesale slaughter.

Telephone Not Sold.

The report that the Millheim telephone company had sold out to the Bell company is not correct. There is a dicker under way but the parties did not, as yet, arrive at a conclusion.

Send picture; will copy artistically 6 times larger than stamp photos, 10 for 40c; 30 for \$1. On mantello cards 10 for 50c; 20 for \$1; taken of yourself same price. Address, Lukenbach, photographer, Centre Hall.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Cuttings of More than Ordinary Interest from Everywhere.

De Gruntsov see leakt, Un see betriekt; Hot uns sex Woeha Koit Wetter fersproche.

Ferderly Grundsov, Des soz ich deer now: Pum Wetter waste Nix, Now stup dy olte Tricks.

Bliss in dime Nesht, 'S ware 'saller besht; Koshit uns nimme foele, Un 's Wetter net roole.

Bisht en alte sow—en alte Gruntsov Kum noch mol rous dann fongt dich dar Bow-wow.

That cuss De Lome, Had to mosey home. Gone to old Madrid, Of him Uncle Sam's glad he's rid.

This Castilian haughty, Penned an epistle so naughty, Said our President's small, But the yanck did the note overhaul.

So De Lome did vamoose, Having cooked his own goose. He faces his queen, Says she, A bigger fool I never seen.

Never return to the yanck, He's hell on a spunk. You may thank your stars, Didn't boot you on boarding the cars. Calm again and clear to-day.

No sleighing—storm blew off all the snow.

Well, the groundhog didn't made it this time.

The thermometer registered 8 above zero this morning.

Leslie Jacobs limps, reason: kicked on the leg by a horse.

Advertise in the Reporter if you desire to push business.

Wm. R. Griffith, of Philipsburg, has been granted an \$8 pension.

The tongue of slander is more to be feared than a serpent's tongue.

The groundhog, according to our record, has as many misses as hits.

Forty-two applications for licenses are published in another column.

Jealousy is more difficult to eradicate in some persons than Canada thistles.

Lewisburg, Milton and Watson town trolley cars started Wednesday of last week.

The Philadelphia dailies get much bogus news imposed upon them from Centre county.

At the elections held on Tuesday in this state, the Democrats made large gains in many places.

All last week was spring-like in spite of the groundhog's prophesy, and the thaw caused muddy roads.

Eli Townsend, of Philipsburg, announces that he is willing to be a Republican candidate for assembly.

Phoebe Hoover a Philipsburg school marm, has made arrangements to leave for the Klondike gold fields early in April.

Monday night's and Tuesday's storm was terrific. Fortunately there was not snow enough to block the roads.

Rev. Rarick's appointments for Sunday Feb. 20, at Centre Hall at 2 p. m.; at Spring Mills at 10 a. m.; at Tusseyville at 7 p. m.

Monday, after eight days of spring-like weather, winter set in again, and in the morning it suddenly began to snow at a heavy rate.

The employees of the South Williamsport Nail Works have been notified that they must submit to a fifteen per cent. reduction. About 100 men will be affected. Prosperity Odenkirk.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Porter Odenkirk desire by this means to express their appreciation of the kindness and favors shown them by neighbors and friends during the illness and death of their little son.

Lawrence Cowher, of Fillmore, fell and broke his collar bone, a few days ago. This is the second time he has met with the same accident and there are some doubts of his permanent recovery.

While out with a sleighing party John Kelley, of Bellefonte, froze both his feet so terribly that amputation is necessary to save his life. He was sent to the hospital at Williamsport for that purpose.

The Pennsylvania Photographers association will hold their annual convention at Bellefonte, the last week in February, 22d to 25th inclusive. The Armory building has been secured for the various sessions.

The wife of John Wiseleather died at her home in Sunbury a short time ago, aged 89 years, of typhoid fever. She is survived by a husband and six children, the youngest one year old. She was a daughter of John Musser, of Gregg township.—Journal.

For Rent.

Score room, and four rooms on second floor of building suitable for dwelling; will rent all together or separately. A good opening for a bakery or a confectionery. Apply to MRS. MARY A. DINGES, febl72 Centre Hall.