



DEATH ROLL OF RAILROADS.

Railroad accidents in the United States are distressingly frequent. Unfortunately, the tendency toward fewer mishaps is not rapid. In the first three months of this year, according to the Interstate Commerce Commission's report, 909 persons were killed, while the injured brought the total casualties of this country to the immense total of 15,809.

That is almost as many as the entire army which General Shafter led to Cuba in 1898 to expel the Spaniards. It was red-hot fighting around San Juan Hill and El Caney on those July days seven years ago. But only about an eighth as many soldiers were hit with bullets as have been killed and maimed by the railroads in one-quarter of the present year.

The details of this Government report show that 28 passengers were killed and 1051 injured, while of employees 204 were killed and 2062 injured in railway train accidents. These happened in collisions and derailments, while the other casualties were from other causes.

ANOTHER TRUST EXPOSED.

The International Harvester company sued Mr. Rodney B. Swift for an accounting, claiming that Mr. Swift had cheated the company. Mr. Swift replies by accusing the Harvester trust of collecting rebates from several railroads to the amount of \$5,000, 000 and of conspiring to monopolize interstate commerce. Whether Mr. Swift is seeking to force the trust to a settlement or really intends to expose the lawlessness of the trust can not be determined, but it is to be hoped that the suit will bring out the facts. The Harvester trust is a constant menace to agriculture and it will be glad day when its inner workings are made known to the public. Why does the president not prosecute the Harvester trust?

Perhaps the most interesting statement with respect to the Panama canal was made by J. D. Yeomans, who served for many years on the interstate commerce commission. He said: "The Panama canal is the biggest humbug of the age. I have no hesitancy in saying that in my opinion there will never be a canal built there. No important American engineer, who was not paid for it, ever hazarded the opinion that there would be a canal there. The last monthly report of work done shows that it will take 110 years to finish it. The weeds grow in one end faster than they carry the dirt out of the other. No engineer has ever found a rock or a clay bed in that celebrated Culiebra cut, where the United States has done the most of its work. There has been a cut of 350 feet there, and thirty inches of rain falls in thirty hours down those banks. Does anyone suppose that the alluvial soil won't wash down in there to make a mud canal too thick for a government dredge boat to keep afloat in?"

The editor of the Clearfield Republican, John F. Short by name, is in no wise short in political news. He is more than piling it into the Republican forces of Clearfield county who were too cowardly to either praise or condemn Pennypacker's administration. The Republicans of that county were too thickheaded to see that Senator Irvin's course was one fit to be endorsed by honest Republicans. The recent Republican convention of Clearfield county passed the conscientious and able senator by with contemptible silence.

If it be true that the horses used by one of the batteries at the late encampment of the Third Brigade were cruelly treated it is eminently proper that the responsible persons should be prosecuted. Yet it does seem curious that misuse of horses should raise an instant storm of protest, while never a whisper is heard about the inhuman punishment meted out to the three mutinous guardsmen who were "spreadeagled" for hours in the broiling sun. Is the horse accorded a higher rating than man in Pennsylvania?

Is money, or the present mania for amassing it, really an evil? Read two remarkable articles in the August Everybody's, dealing both with the direct and the indirect effects of the money-mania; they may help you to a conclusion.

The flag of the rising sun floats over the Russian island of Sakhalin. A trifling accomplishment in military strategy, but momentous in diplomatic strategy. Japan will leave no technical loophole when it comes to making her demand for territory and a cash indemnity.

There isn't a great deal of difference between paying up and planking down.

"QUACK GRASS."

The Weed is Infesting Penna Valley Farms—How to Eradicate It.

At a recent meeting of Progress Grange George Glngrich presented a specimen of weed that is new in this locality and which he claims is becoming very troublesome and liable to kill out the useful grasses and other crops by its persistent growth.

By resolution the secretary was directed to send a sample to Secretary Critchfield, of the Department of Agriculture, who referred the plant to the Department of Zoology. The state zoologist in reply sent the following communication:

MISS FLORENCE RHONE, Centre Hall, Pa.

The letter that you sent to Secretary Critchfield has been referred to this department for answer. The grass which you sent us was what is generally known in this section of the country as "Quack Grass." It is one of the most difficult weeds to eradicate that we have, in some places being even as troublesome as Canada Thistle. The only practical method is thorough cultivation. A good plan is to plow such land in the fall or early spring, beginning to harrow or cultivate early in the spring, stirring the ground thoroughly at least once every week. In this way the long crooked roots are brought to the surface, and exposed to the hot sun. If this is continued for an entire season the weed can often be destroyed, although quite often this is not enough to entirely kill it, and it may reappear gradually inside of one or two years. In doing this work care should be taken to cultivate after each rain, as we have known cases of this kind where the roots have laid on top of the ground seemingly perfectly dry and brittle, yet with a good fresh rain they would sprout and unless cultivated within a day or so, take root and grow luxuriantly. As said before, this is the only method known to be successful. It requires considerable work, but nevertheless we have known it to answer the purpose wherever persistently tried. We know of dozens of fields that were simply covered with this grass, which after a single season of thorough work are at present as free as you would wish.

Hoping to serve you further,
Very truly yours,
H. A. SURFACE.

LOCALS.

The reunion of the Yearick families will be held at Hecla Park, August 15th.

Mrs. Andrew McClintic, of Milroy, who was very ill for some time, is reported much improved.

Mrs. Samuel L. Condo, of Spring Mills, last week, visited the family of James O. Heiter, in Millinburg.

Mrs. Rearick, mother of Rev. J. M. Rearick, is spending the time with her son in this place at present.

There are three vacancies in High Schools on the south side of Centre county—Aaronsburg, Pine Grove Mills and Centre Hall. The salaries paid last year was \$60 at the former and latter places, and \$50 at Pine Grove Mills.

The property belonging to the estate of W. B. Harter, late of Millheim borough, deceased, consisting of a house and lot in Millheim and a tract of timberland in Penn township, says the Journal, was sold by the heirs to Mrs. Emma C. Miller.

The Christie Smith orchestra will give a concert near the court house, Bellefonte, every Saturday evening. According to newspaper reports, the prime movers in the project are Messrs. W. Gross Mingle, R. C. Spiglemeyer, J. Will Conley, all of whom are from the South side.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Strohm, of Scranton, are spending their summer vacation at the home of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James B. Strohm, at Centre Hill. Mr. Strohm is connected with the International Correspondence School, at Scranton, in the capacity of text-book writer.

William Ripka, of Georges Valley, did some fine work on a turning lathe in the planing mill of C. P. Long, at Spring Mills. The wood used was cherry, poplar and birch, and will be used as ceiling decorations in the new Lutheran church at Penn Hall. Mr. Ripka performed his work without the aid of patterns, and it is remarkable how accurately each piece is made.

G. H. Long, accompanied by his wife and family, of Newark, Ohio, came east on a visit to his old home at Spring Mills, and from there with his wife went to Atlantic City for a short stay. He was joined at Philadelphia by his brother P. P. Long, of Uniontown, and together they went to New York City to buy merchandise. The Longs are both merchants. In the meantime the four children of the former are staying with their uncle, C. P. Long, at Spring Mills.

\$1200 INCOME FROM 2 1/2 ACRES.

Berks County Trucker Shows What Can be Done on Small Farm.

Oliver R. Shearer, residing just beyond the outskirts of Reading, has done more on two and one-half acres of ground than any other farmer in the county. He supports his family, and has an income of \$1200 from his products.

The national government has become interested in Mr. Shearer's methods. He says:

"I raise in a season from 5000 to 7000 heads of lettuce, 30,000 to 50,000 small onions for bunching, 1500 bunches of red beets and 400 stalks of asparagus. "These are all marketed in time to raise a second crop, consisting of 5000 heads of endive, 5000 heads of lettuce, 800 stalks of tomatoes, 1500 bunches of red beets and 10,000 to 20,000 stalks of celery.

"Economy of land is an important matter, and it is my constant study how to produce the most on the smallest space. An onion patch, 20 by 30 feet, netted me \$40 for the year."

Large Bank Barn Burned.

The large bank barn on the farm known as the Isaac Bartholomew farm, near Salons, owned by C. G. and J. B. Furst, Tuesday of last week was struck by lightning and entirely consumed, including about six hundred bushels of wheat in the sheaf, the entire crop of hay, and a lot of implements.

Charles C. Burrell, the tenant farmer of last year, was engaged in hauling in the crop of wheat when the bolt struck the barn, which destroyed it. The barn was suddenly enveloped in flames and the men driven away so that nothing could be done in removing that which the barn contained. Everything enumerated above was totally destroyed.

The Messrs. Furst had an insurance of \$500 on the barn and \$300 on the contents. Mr. Burrell had a slight insurance on his wheat.

Massacre in 1778.

Three miles west of Old Fort, the Ephraim Keller farm, was the scene of a horrible massacre in May, 1778. An express rider, named Robert Moore, on his way from Bald Eagle to deliver a message to Arthur Buchanan, at Old Town Juniata [Lewistown], stopped at the house of Jacob Stanford [located on the Keller farm] and found the entire family—father, mother and two children—scalped by the Indians. The Stanfords were buried in one of the fields, and possibly the place is yet marked. Mr. Moore lived at the end of Nittany Mountain.

Well Spouts Salt Water.

One of the most unique sights seen in the line of oil and gas developments for several years is the newly-drilled gas well of the Apollo Oil & Gas Company, in Paint Township, Clarion county, spouting an enormous quantity of salt water at intervals of every few moments.

The well was drilled into the Speechly sand for a good gas; and then it was decided to go to the Bradford sand several hundred feet lower. After drilling several bits below the Speechly a heavy vein of salt water was struck and in a few minutes the gas pressure caused a flow, which has continued at intervals ever since.

Cattle Dying Cause Excitement.

Six head of young cattle belonging to W. K. Cori, tenant on the Charles Snyder farm, near State College, died from a disease that was not familiar to their owner or his neighbor farmers, consequently there was considerable speculation and excitement as to the cause of the loss. The farmers at once suspected "black-leg," and decided to call into consultation Dr. W. H. Fry. After an examination of the dead and living cattle, he diagnosed the disease to be drymurae, a disease not contagious but fatal. The cattle affected were treated, and pasture lots changed, with results entirely satisfactory.

Businessmen's Picnic Privileges.

The Passenger Department of the Central Railroad of Pennsylvania has announced that bids for the various stand privileges at Hecla Park, Tuesday, August 22nd, on account of the Centre-Clinton County Business Men's Picnic will be received up to noon of August 7th. Those desiring any of the following privileges and such others as may be proper, should get their bids in before that time. Sale will be made to the highest responsible bidder, reserving the right to reject any and all bids: Ice cream, restaurant, fruit, soft drinks, peanuts, candy, cigars and tobacco, photography, games, shooting gallery, merry-go-round, etc.

Pomona Grange.

The Centre County Pomona Grange will meet at Milesburg, Thursday, August 24th.

THE SEASON'S BIG HARVESTS.

With the single exception of the cotton crop, which is undoubtedly exceptionally short, the present year's crops in the United States promise a bountiful, even a redundant yield.

If the July estimate of the agricultural department is to be relied on, the new wheat crop is to be of the bumper variety, exceeded only by the record-holding wheat crop of 1901. The fall-seeded crop is now practically harvested and a considerable per cent of it threshed. It is pretty certain that it will yield approximately 400,000,000 bushels. This will be in excess of the winter wheat crop of last year about 67,000,000 bushels. Spring-seeded wheat, while not yet "safe," is far enough advanced to afford a reasonably safe forecast of its probable yield, and the agricultural department places the figures in the vicinity of 300,000,000 bushels. The total of the two varieties of wheat should, therefore, be 700,000,000 bushels, or about 150,000,000 bushels more than was grown last year. The latter crop, it will be remembered, was the largest ever grown, barring the record yield of 748,000,000 bushels in 1901. An abundant wheat crop should mean cheaper breadstuffs, and in this era of high prices we can stand a little surcease.

The corn crop, according to this supreme official authority, is even

more promising than the wheat crop, although, of course, the contingency of late summer droughts and hot winds in Kansas and Nebraska has to be taken into account. It will be several weeks until the western crop is "made," and in several middle western states there is always the danger of insufficient moisture at the critical period. However, according to the acreage and condition as given in the agricultural department's July bulletin, the preliminary estimate for the present season promises the phenomenal yield of 2,634,000,000 bushels of corn. If these figures are realized, 1905 will bear the record as the banner corn year, a record at present held by 1902, when the bumper yield of 2,523,000,000 bushels were garnered. The crop promises particularly well in the south where the corn acreage was never so great, owing to the curtailment of the cotton acreage. And the south's corn crop was very heavily fertilized this season. The season in the southern states has been good, the rainfall having been abundant, in some quarters, perhaps, excessive.

The same redundant condition is promised for the oat harvest. The forecast of the department indicates an approximate yield of 900,000,000 bushels of oats, which will be in excess of Carter's proverbial crop.

PANAMA AND THE "KICKERS."

It is rather surprising to note from the tone of so many American newspapers that the public mind had not been prepared to except unfavorable health conditions on the isthmus of Panama. Judging from many of these articles, the average American had had the idea that the deaths under the old French management were due entirely to carelessness, and that the mere presence of the American flag would drive away all troubles.

As a matter of fact, the isthmus has always been unhealthy. We have reason to believe the conditions will be greatly improved as soon as the work now being done by the American health department bears fruit, but in the very nature of things that will be in the future—a year or two, or perhaps more.

For several years previous to, and during the pendency of, the negotiations which resulted in our acquirement of the canal strip, there had been a studied suppression on the part of official Colombia and official Panama of the term "yellow fever." The purpose of this is well understood. The American health authorities, however, believe in calling a spade by its right name, and in consequence there has been no such concealment

since the American flag was hoisted over the canal zone. People generally do not like to think of this particular yellow fever being in their vicinity, and it is most natural, therefore, that many Americans who went to the isthmus quietly left as soon as they became satisfied of the presence of the dread Yellow Jack.

President Roosevelt has treated with fine scorn these Americans who have declined, in return for government salaries to remain on the isthmus to welcome the entrance of the yellow fever germ into their respective bodies. The president is given to the use of fine phrases about the duty of a citizen to meet every such obligation without murmuring.

Might it not be well for Mr. Roosevelt to be a little more charitable? Some of us remember, if he does not, how the mere rumor of the presence of yellow fever stamped a lot of army officers at Santiago and resulted in the drafting of a famous "round-robin" which, in turn, brought the much desired order for the return of the troops to the more healthful locality of Montauk Point. A certain colonel of Rough Riders has generally been credited with drafting that round robin and leading the protest which it voiced.

HAPPENINGS OF 1872.

AUGUST 30—Philip Mersinger lost his pocketbook, containing \$200 in cash and \$1500 in promissory notes, between Pleasant Gap and Centre Hall. A reward of \$50 was offered for its return.

Jeremiah P. Heckman writes a letter to the Reporter from Polo, Illinois, in which he speaks of the hot weather, the rejoicing of the Greeley men, the value of the Reporter, etc.

A grant was obtained for the road leading from Millheim to the Forks [Coburn.] The road from Aaronsburg intersecting the Millheim road was also granted about the same time.

SEPTEMBER 20—J. L. Spangler made his maiden speech at a Democratic rally held in Centre Hall last Saturday. His effort was a creditable one and his remarks were well received.

Stages leaving Centre Hall daily in the morning, connect with the train at Millinburg at 3 p. m., same day.

Samuel Musser became partner with H. D. Van Pelt in the foundry and machine shop, in this place.

Peter Hoffer has taken a half interest in J. G. Meyer's Pine Creek property, in Haines and Penn townships, embracing the manufacturing of flour, lumber and cement.

Ex-Governor William Bigler addressed a large Democratic meeting in "Witmer's Yard," September 25. A delegation of several hundred from Bellefonte paraded in the evening. Greeley and Brown headed the Democratic ticket.

W. T. Meyer, of Aaronsburg, returned from Birmingham Normal Music School where he recently graduated. P. Gray Meek bought the German paper at Millheim, but it will continue under the management of Mr. Stover.

Granulated Sugar—6c.

Granulated sugar, in two and five pound packages, at six cents per pound—C. W. Swartz, Tusseyville.

Even building a house is a sort of put-up job. General Humidity doesn't put on many airs.

Early Session of Congress.

The President, it is learned at Oyster Bay, will summon the Fifty-ninth Congress to meet in extraordinary session upon Saturday, November 11, thus anticipating by some three weeks the established date of meeting, the first Monday in December.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Drought is threatening to lessen the crops in Berks county.

Harvest Home Services will be held in the Lutheran church, Centre Hall, August 13th.

Hon. J. K. Thompson has been made manager of the Platt Barber Company's branch store in Clearfield county.

The Free Library, Grange Arcadia, will be open to the public Saturday evening from 7 to 8 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. John Neese and granddaughter, Miss Nellie Conley, of Bellefonte, were at Ocean Grove, last week.

The thirteenth annual picnic of the citizens of Pennsylvania Furnace will be held at Baileyville, Saturday August 5th.

The Centre and Clinton county Reformed Sunday schools will hold their annual picnic at Hecla Park, today (Thursday.)

Harrison Bloom, a well-known farmer in Ferguson township, is seriously ill, with little hope of recovery. He is suffering from dropsy.

Work will soon begin at State College on the completion of the new agricultural building. John Noll has been given the contract for the foundation.

Dr. O. W. Fellman and John Kleckner, of Millinburg, and William Bottorff, of Bellefonte, passed through Centre Hall on their way to Millinburg, after spending a week at the home of Jacob Bottorff, at Lemont.

E. H. Zimmerman, the Millheim lumberman, bought of John C. Lingle and Jonathan Lingle a lot of oak and pine timber, on the three tracts of land in Poe valley, and will at once begin to cut the timber into lumber.

John Long, of Selingsgrove Junction, while cutting grass with a mower, with his left hand reached down to disengage some rubbish from the knife. The horses suddenly started and his hand was severed above the wrist.

William H. Miller, express messenger on the Central Railroad of Pennsylvania, has been transferred to a run between Punxsutawney and Indiana, on the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railroad. He is succeeded by Walter Armstrong.

Altoona has been selected as the place for the meeting of the Pennsylvania Educational Association next year. The school authorities expect to have the new high school building sufficiently completed that the convention may be held there.

A correspondent to the Democrat and Sentinel from Milroy writes that the road tax in Archang township is higher than the school tax, and makes this significant remark: "The roads are no credit to the township; what can be expected from the schools?"

Huckleberries are being gathered in large quantities from the numerous berry patches on Egg Hill and the Seven Mountains. Potters Mills, Spring Mills and Coburn seem to be the points at which the largest number of berries are bought from the pickers.

The tram road leading from Milroy into the Seven Mountains to the Richley lumber operations, affords berry pickers in the vicinity of Milroy an easy way to reach large tracts covered with berry stalks. On some days as many as fifty pickers take the trucks for the "interior."

Boyd S. Auman, of Uniontown, Fayette county, returned to that place after having spent two weeks at the home of his parents at Spring Mills. Mr. Auman is cashier for the Adams Express Company at Uniontown, and is well qualified and suited for the position.

In another column will be found the advertisement of Grange Encampment and Exhibition of Patrons of Husbandry of Central Pennsylvania to be held at Centre Hall, September 16-22. This will be the thirty-second annual gathering, and a movement is on foot to make it one of the most interesting yet had.

David S. Glasgow, of Tusseyville, administrator of the estate of David Glasgow, deceased, late of near Woodward, was in town on business relative to the estate Saturday afternoon. Mr. Glasgow is tenant on the Rossman farm, and was feeling just a bit elated over having his grain and hay housed when the rain set in on that day.

Miss Maude Sechrist met with an accident that is proving more serious than was at first anticipated. She was learning to ride a bicycle and fell from the machine, spraining her ankle. The injury has been causing the young lady severe pain, and it may require considerable time before she will have the free use of her limb.