



PETER RITER ACQUITTED.

Commonwealth Failed to Sustain Charge of Murder—Under Bail of \$500 on the Charge of Involuntary Manslaughter.

Peter Riter was acquitted. The commonwealth failed to sustain the charge of murder preferred against him by the grand jury. On his arrest he confessed having fired the shot that killed the Auman boy, and this confession would have convicted him of involuntary manslaughter, but the commonwealth charge at the trial were of such high degree that the state was entirely defeated.

The trial throughout created little or no excitement. Public opinion forecast the verdict, and this prediction was displayed the day previous on bulletins at the Reporter office.

THE RITER JURY.

The twelve men, good and true, who determined the fate of Peter Riter, are: John Lyons, laborer, Howard borough. David Reed, gentleman, Pine Grove Mills. Abednego Williams, farmer, Huston township. Henry Mark, farmer, Penn township. Charles Moore, teacher, Boalsburg. Edward Johnson, merchant, Milesburg. Shuman Pletzer, carpenter, Howard. L. W. Wert, farmer, Haines township. George Maris, gentleman, Lemont. George T. Bradford, farmer, Potter township. John B. Fortney, farmer, Potter township. Thomas Kennely, storeman, Greeg township.

The attorneys for the commonwealth were District Attorney W. G. Runkle, and the firm of Gettig, Bower & Zerbe. The latter attorneys had the case in charge most of the time, owing to the illness of Mr. Runkle.

N. B. Spangler represented the defendant.

A brief recounting of the killing of the boy, Clyde Wesley Auman, a thirteen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Auman, in Penn township, one-half mile west of Coburn, October 3, 1906, follows:

On October 3, Peter Riter and his brother were helping William Vonada to thresh grain, and some time in the afternoon Peter Riter and his brother returned home, the former taking a short cut across the mountain. In the morning he had taken his gun with him, hiding the same along the road at a bridge, and on securing the weapon on his way home he began looking for game.

The Auman boy was perched sixty feet up on a chestnut tree. Riter drew a bead on what he thought was a squirrel, fired and hit the object. Instead of the target being a squirrel it was a human being. The wounded lad fell to the ground, and in doing so broke the bones in one of his arms and leg.

Jonathan Riter, the brother who was also threshing at the Vonada barn, had now come near the scene, and immediately after the shot was fired he heard the cries of the boy. He went to his assistance, carried him home, where the youth died the next morning.

Peter Riter in the meantime became badly scared, crossed the mountain to the home of a relative, and later denied all knowledge of the tragedy.

Weeks passed on, and finally the county commissioners secured the services of the Standard Detective Agency, Philadelphia, to look into the case. It was not long after work was begun that Riter gave the secret to a detective who had become chummy.

In his defense Riter substantially relied on the above story, adding that his eyesight was poor, which he claimed, was largely, if not wholly, responsible for the accident.

The prosecution failed to show any malice toward the Auman family, or in any way support the charge of murder.

The verdict is accepted by the public as just, yet there is this feeling that the man ought to have been tried for a crime of less degree and punished.

Riter is under \$500 bail to answer to the court on the charge of involuntary manslaughter, but it is unlikely that he will ever be brought to trial.

WOODWARD.

N. W. Eby attended court last week. A son arrived at the home of George Sheesley last week.

Harry Grenoble and Harry Guiseville left for South Dakota, Monday.

George Miller made a business trip to Bellefonte one day last week.

Calvin Eby and wife, of Yengertown, are guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Eby.

Herb. Hosterman and sister, Miss Bertha, and Lawrence Miller were to Millheim Saturday evening.

Mrs. Ella Snyder and daughter Susan, of Yengertown, are visiting the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Runkle.

Mrs. Harry Kessinger and children, Verna, May and Marie, and Miss Beesie Ettlinger are visiting friends in Nittany.

Mrs. Joseph Condo having spent the greater part of the winter with her aged father, S. M. Moiz, returned to her home in Moccasin, Illinois, on Monday.

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Closed Up Business Friday Night—New Body Organized Monday Night.

The borough council held its last meeting of the fiscal year Friday night. All members were present.

A topic discussed was a proper place to keep the horse cart in the southern section of the borough. No conclusion was reached.

President Bradford reported that he had corresponded with the bond holders and secured information on the subject of interest rate on the bonds. All bond holders agreed to accept four instead of five per cent. interest. The interest rate will be changed by simply writing a form of contract on the back of the bonds, and signing of a separate contract by the bond holders to be filed with the secretary of the council. This method will reduce the cost to the minimum.

It was also put on record, on the motion of Mr. Weber, that two bonds be given to the school board who have six hundred dollars lying idle. This is equivalent to redeeming a bond, so far as the tax payer is concerned. The proposition was made a year ago by the school board and favored by Mr. Weber and several other members, but groundless opposition ruled.

If the finances permit a bond will also be cancelled by the council. If this is done borough indebtedness will be reduced eleven hundred dollars.

A few bills were also ordered paid.

NEW BODY ORGANIZES.

The borough council met Monday night for the purpose of re-organizing, which was effected by re-electing W. Frank Bradford, president, and W. Gross Mingle, secretary.

The committees appointed are as follows:

Street—Foreman, Brungart, Mingle. Water—Weber, Crawford, Mitterling. Nuisance—Brungart, Crawford, Mitterling.

Light—Weber, Foreman, Mingle. Fire and Police—Crawford, Mitterling, Weber.

Finance—Brungart, Foreman, Mingle.

By motion Wm. F. Floray was elected street commissioner.

The regular meeting was fixed for the first Friday evening in each month.

A partial financial statement indicated the borough finances to be in good condition, and that a bond would be redeemed out of funds in the borough treasury.

The council consists of Messrs. W. F. Bradford, R. D. Foreman, (re-elected), John H. Weber, J. W. Mitterling, Cyrus Brungart, W. Gross Mingle, Ed. L. Crawford, the last two gentlemen being new members.

INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. Oster, of Bedford, providing that commercial feeding stuffs must be marked with a statement of their ingredients.

Mr. Sedwick, of Armstrong, providing a penalty of \$10 for damaging the nest or eggs of any protected wild bird.

Mr. Housler, of Lancaster, giving cemeteries the right of eminent domain in taking land for enlargement purposes.

Mr. Platt, of Allegheny, validating church charters granted without incorporating the provisions of Section 7 of the act of April 26, 1855.

HOUSE BILLS PASSED.

Providing for appeals by real estate owners to Common Pleas Court from tax valuations of real estate.

DR. DIXON REAPPOINTED.

The reappointment of Dr. Samuel G. Dixon by Governor Stuart to be Health Commissioner virtually settles the question of vaccination, as it commits the administration to support the commissioner's views on the subject, which by the way, are very pronounced in favor of continuing the vaccination laws as they now are on the statute books. Under present conditions the possibility of securing a repeal of the vaccination laws, or a modification of them, is very remote. The reappointing of the present Health Commissioner is a signal victory for the vaccinationists.

RIPKS PROPERTY SOLD.

The Ripks property, at the foot of the mountain, was sold by the Centre Hall water company to J. Samuel Rowe, who now occupies the same. This home, years ago, was one of the well-kept and valuable residences in the borough, but of late years has been neglected by its owners. The home was purchased at a very low figure—\$500.

Good news, interesting and up-to-date, of the State National Guard appears in "The Press" every Sunday. A special feature is made of this news and the article is written by a commissioned officer who is recognized as an authority in the matter. Every Pennsylvanian ought to be posted on what the National Guard has done and is doing.

FATHER AND SON ARRESTED CHARGED WITH MURDERING DALE

Detective Millard Arrested Jacob and James From, Accusing them of the Murder Committed on Nittany Mountain, November 12, Last.

A. L. Millard, chief of the Standard Detective Agency, Philadelphia, placed under arrest Jacob and James From, charging them with the murder of Josiah C. Dale, which murder was committed somewhere on Nittany Mountain, on the evening of November 12th, 1906.

Just at a time when everyone thought the murder mystery would



DETECTIVE A. L. MILLARD.

never be cleared up, the arrests were made, consequently the people of Centre Hall were not a little surprised. As to the guilt or innocence of the accused, the Centre Reporter has no opinion to give its readers, although it has pronounced convictions. An expression is withheld, however, not out of either fear or favor.

The Centre Reporter has a word of warning. The charge preferred against these two men is one the penalty for which is death, and no one should say or do ought against them that is not strictly within the law or reason. On the other hand no one should hesitate to give the prosecuting attorneys every particle of evidence that might aid in the discovery and finally punish the cowardly assassins of Mr. Dale. To do less than that is to participate, to a certain degree, in the murder itself.

The laws of the state give a defendant, and especially one charged with a capital crime, every possible advantage to prove his innocence. There need be no apprehension that an innocent person need suffer. In fact, the loop holes are so large that many criminals escape conviction simply that no innocent man may suffer under the law.

HABEAS CORPUS HEARING.

Habeas corpus proceedings have been instituted by the defendants. The hearing will be held by the court Saturday morning, ten o'clock, 10th inst. At that time the prosecution will be obliged to present the evidence against the accused. If the evidence is insufficient to warrant a court trial, the judge will order the discharge of the prisoners; if the charge is sustained to a certain degree a court trial, not earlier than May, will be had.

The following account of the arrest of the Froms appeared in Friday's issue of the Bellefonte Daily News, and the Reporter re-prints it rather than give its own account:

Slowly and securely the web was wound and at last two persons accused of the murder of Josiah Dale have been landed at Fort Kline on the hill. Quietly the detective work has been going on for months and many people were under the impression that the case had been dropped, when Friday morning an arrest was made and caused as much disturbance as though a dynamite bomb had been exploded. Millard is the man to whom should be given the credit for the arrest of these parties.

Mr. Millard is chief of the Standard

Detective Bureau, of Philadelphia, and soon after the murder was committed he was sent for by the county commissioners and put to work on the case.

On Thursday he made his last trip to Centre Hall, and finished his work Friday morning when he caused the arrest of Jacob From and his son James, of Centre Hall borough.

A. L. Millard first went to the From home and asked if Jim was there. Mr. From, who was doing the family wash, told him that the boy was at Meyer's store. Mr. Millard went there and called him out and asked him if he could see his shotgun. At this point Jim flew off the handle and told Millard to—d if he could have or see the gun, but he cooled down and with Millard went back to the house. Then the old man jumped on the detective and gave him a good thrashing and told him he didn't want to see his G—d face again. Thereupon, that he had teased him an awful lot of worry by meddling in his affairs. But Jake cooled down when Millard asked him and his boy to go along with him to the Squires office and swear that the gun they had was their gun and if they would do that he wouldn't visit their home anymore. Jim, the boy, resisted but at



DISTRICT ATTORNEY W. G. RUNKLE.

last he joined the crowd and went before Squire Mingle where they were both placed under arrest. They were committed under the charge of assaulting and killing Josiah C. Dale on the 12th of November, 1906. They were handcuffed and brought to the county jail by Millard, reaching here at 12:15. The arrest was made at 9 o'clock in the morning.

When Millard and his men reached the jail a reporter of the News was present and watched a thorough examination of the two men's clothing and all they had in their pockets were keys. Jacob From immediately asked that Squire John Keichline be sent to his cell. After a full description of the men was taken by Deputy Sheriff Reese, Sheriff Kline locked them up, the father in a steel cell at the east end of the jail and the son in another cell at the other end of the prison. When Jacob was once behind the bars he broke down and cried like a child and said "deed M. Kline not a word of this is true, I'm perfectly innocent." The boy didn't have a word to say and seemed scared half to death.

The gun was brought along over, and is a 10 gauge double barrel shot gun, manufactured by the New Ithaca Mfg. Co., of Ithaca, N. Y.

From gives his age as 52, and is a laborer by trade. Mother and father both dead, but his wife is living and is at home ill. The boy is 17 years old. Detective Millard is pleased with his work and feels certain he has the right men.

The Froms have retained Attorneys J. C. Meyer and J. M. Keichline to conduct their defense.

Ex-Judge John G. Love and N. B. Spangler will assist prosecuting attorney W. G. Runkle.

THE EARNING OF THE DOLLAR.

[BY J. M. STIFFLER.]

[The author of the following article is a native of Potter township, who began life without a dollar. He is now one of the substantial citizens of Stephenson county, Illinois. His expressions are from experience.—EDITOR.]

"No child should be trusted with a dollar until he has learned the value of the same by earning it by the sweat of his brow."

Discussion of the child labor question seems to be one of the fads of the times. Every one interested in child development, and especially those who have made child training a study and

profession, has more or less decided views and opinions on this important question, as they have a perfect right.

The writer, who, in common with many other ordinary laymen, has caught the inspiration, hereby wishes to submit a few thoughts through the columns of your paper, in addition to the twaddle of the times.

As a rule, the normal child inclines to work and seems eager to exert. Healthy and natural growth makes a requisition on the powers of exertion. The bodily functions are built up and strengthened by work or labor. An indisposition to work is an abnormal

Church Charters Again.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature which, if it becomes a law, will validate all church charters without incorporating Section 7 of the act of 1855, published in last week's issue of this paper. In view of this, it may be well to defer action until the outcome of the measure just introduced is seen.

As a side remark the Reporter wishes to say that church councils can not assume the authority to have charters amended without an action on the part of the congregation regularly called under the constitution and by-laws of the corporation. Councils have authority only so far as is delegated to them by action of the body itself.

Temperance People Score One.

The bill to oblige judges to give reasons for refusing liquor licenses was defeated. That was right. A judge in granting liquor licenses occupies relatively the same position as jurors, and consequently should not be compelled to divulge reasons for decisions.

(Continued from previous column.)

condition and is due, very often, to functional derangement. Any one of thought and with ordinary powers of observation will take this sensible and philosophical view of this matter.

In all probability the Beveridge bill, now before Congress, which proposes to prevent interstate commerce in the products of child labor, will be assigned to the legislative scrap-heap for recasting. The bill gives evidence of masterly thought; it is a marvel in the elaboration of idea and especially so in the effusion of word and phrase.

Is it not true that we sometimes discern in theorists of the Beveridge type a combination of genius and a species of eccentricity? Mr. Beveridge has, seemingly, failed in his preparation to take into account some very important considerations. Let us suppose that Congress, under the constitution, has the right to prohibit commerce in the products of child labor, would it seem a square deal for such states as have proper laws in the regulations effecting child labor? Would it be fair to the employer who takes especial interest in every detail that contributes to the health and welfare of his employes? Would it seem fair to parents who may need the support of their children, (as is very often the case) or who may long to have their children educated along lines of usefulness and thus avoid the danger from bad or criminal habits, very often the logical result of idleness? Would it be fair to children, who early in life, should receive impressions through industrial pursuits? Admitting the existence of certain irregularities in a few isolated instances in certain localities,—granted that a small percentage of the children of tender years in this country are overworked, amid environments detrimental to healthful development of child life,—is it fair and just that every employer of labor in mine, shop or factory; every father and mother in this country, should be placed under indictment, just because a relatively few unprincipled persons are disregarding the laws of decency?

It seems that a more sensible way to effect a regulation of these irregularities is through the functions with which a state or municipality may be invested. These may provide for a system of competent inspection and also provide for and exact a penalty from the ones found guilty of violating the common laws of decency.

Wearing the guise of social reformers, a few overzealous old grannies have evolved a scheme that may mean disaster for future generations. We should be guided by our lamp of experience and the traditions of our fathers. Shall we consent to a system that invites to vagrancy or places a premium on idleness?

Certain theorists have come to the conclusion that the American fiber is deteriorating. Doubtless this is true. But it is all due to the pampering processes, the hot-house methods, with which we often afflict child life. We must weigh well the sentimentalism of our modern, would-be reformers. Every child should be permitted to act out the natural instinct that prompts toward honorable self support. The boy who is allowed to drift until he is sixteen years of age without any demand for physical exertion, seldom, if ever, will be equal to a life of strenuous requirements, in the physical sense. Child life must be moulded and impressed in the tender stages, when cells may be developed.

All normal children, early in life, manifest an aptness along certain lines or in certain directions. This is the hereditary or inherent principle. According to phrenologists, the native principle exerts to the extent of about one-tenth for everything that is good or bad in the child. All else is controlled by environment. This would imply that we must exert to prepare a proper environment for the child.

They do it in Brush Valley, too. That is, chickens are stolen in that quarter. A raid was recently made on the hen house of Emanuel Harter, at which time about sixty-five Plymouth Rock hens—about half the flock—were captured. A horse hitched to a spring wagon was tied to the fence near the Harter home, and it is thought from the indication of the tracks that the birds were hauled in the direction of Millheim.

One of the Reporter's most appreciative patrons is James A. Moyer, at Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, who just advanced his subscription by a cash payment to 1910, and all because he thinks so much of the Reporter; reads in it about his old neighbors in Penns Valley, and usually about their good deeds.

Misses Stella Kane and Ella Alters, of Bellefonte, were taken to the University of Pennsylvania hospital, Philadelphia, last week, to be operated on for necrosis. It will be remembered that Miss Alters has already been in Philadelphia twice and undergone operations and this time it is feared it will be necessary to remove her entire jaw bone.

G. Bruce Goodhart, at White, South Dakota, recently made public sale of his horses, implements, etc., and will hereafter manage a stock farm located near White for a merchant in that town. The farm will be stocked with blooded sheep and cattle. Mr. Goodhart is well acquainted with the care of stock and the management of a farm, which assures his success in the undertaking.

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(Continued on Eighth Page, 21 Col.)

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Charley Stump expects to go south in a few days.

Samuel Rupp moved from Farmers Mills to Lewistown.

A son was born to Prof. and Mrs. C. R. Neff, of Millheim, Sunday morning of last week.

Harry Weaver moved from the Rossman tenant house, near Penns Cave to Aaronsburg.

Miss Helen Hosterman was in Phillipsburg over Sunday, the guest of her brother, John S. Hosterman.

The marriage of M. P. Campbell, of Lewisburg, but formerly of Millheim, and Miss Eva Mertz, took place Tuesday.

B. W. Wyle, who has been employed at Lewistown for some time, concluded to move his family from Aaronsburg to Lewistown.

Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Gress and children Tuesday went to Adamsburg, Westmoreland county, to visit their former home. They will return Saturday.

March has been doing its full share of blowing and whistling around the corners during the past week. There is nothing of the zephyr, breeze about old March.

Merchant J. Frank Smith is the delegate who accompanied Rev. J. R. Sechrist to the meeting of the United Evangelical Conference to meet at Carlisle today (Thursday).

Having purchased a horse in Brush Valley for the use of the Mt. Alto Forestry Academy, R. L. Emerick, of Smulltown, who is a student in that institution, rode the animal to that point.

The contract for the bridge across Elk creek, in Millheim, was awarded by the county commissioners to the York Bridge Company, which concern is represented by Boyl A. Mosser.

John J. Arney, Mrs. Laura Lee and Mrs. B. H. Arney are in Altoona at the bedside of Dr. George F. Arney and wife, both of whom are seriously ill. Mrs. Arney is suffering from paralysis.

The Keen sisters were awarded a verdict for \$105.45. The suit was brought against Alfred Keen, a brother, tenant on the Keen farm, who was charged with not having made full returns for rent.

Millheim's chief Burgess is after the street-corner loafer. The quality of humanity that blockades the side walks in mid-winter must be "hot stuff," and can easily be dispensed with without injury to the rest of humanity.

A water company, with T. F. Miller, president; George W. Homan, secretary, and James Glenn, treasurer, was chartered with a view of supplying the Branch and White Hill community with water. The supply of water will be secured on Tussey Mountain.

Merchandise to the value of over three thousand dollars was damaged in the store of Guy Boon, at Loganton, by smoke and water. The store building took fire at night, and although the flames did little damage, the loss was chiefly on account of smoke and water, as stated above.

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