

The Centre Reporter

CENTRE HALL, PA.
THE BUSYBODY.

We shun them at every opportunity, those busybodies who pose as our friends when really they are quite the contrary, and who seem to think they are endowed by a special act of Providence with regulating the affairs of their neighbors as well as of those who would rather not be their neighbors. It is easy to comprehend how such persons earn their characterization and easier still for us to apply such a description to all those who in any way display what we may regard as an undue interest in our affairs, says the Christian News and Courier. It is possible, however, that the cap which we place so unhesitatingly upon the heads of certain persons would prove a better fit for us if we could persuade ourselves to "try it on." Unquestionably the mere suggestion to some of us that we could ever overstep the limit of our friendly interest in others is distasteful, and in many cases probably unwarranted, yet it is true that one of the distinctive characteristics of the present age, with its freedom of living and its consequent sacrifice of many of those refining and restraining influences that were so vital a part of another and more distant day, is the readiness with which we indulge our curiosity. Not satisfied nowadays with the bestowal of a confidence which is sufficient, perhaps, to pique our interest it is not unusual for some persons to solicit further details and in other ways to evince a too eager concern in the affairs of others.

Gustav Frensen's "Klaus Hinrich Baas" reminds one of "David Copperfield" in its long deliberative unwinding of a life history up to middle age, and a little, too, in its general plan, with its unhappy love marriage followed by a more satisfactory union, says the London Times. But Frensen plows deep in the field of moral and social problems, and his plot is convincing—we are not obliged to take the facts on the honor of the narrator. The hero is a peasant's son—a piece of tough, proud, full-blooded North German humanity. In one moment of bitter disillusionment he asks himself what his too great teachers, school and church, had done for him except mislead him. They had given him fables, impossible idealisms, "two gospels, the gospel of the Savior and the gospel of Schiller, but of true, genuine knowledge of life not a vestige." How he gets this knowledge is the theme of the book; a fine and moving story which flows on in a broad stream of incident and character that gives a singularly powerful impression of the massiveness and variety of life.

New York is protesting against a new danger in the reckless driving of automobiles by boys and girls through the streets, and legal means are to be sought to prevent the lives of citizens being put in danger by children. The automobile, in some way, seems to be associated with disregard of the rights of pedestrians to an extent which has rendered it a menace of civilization, as well as one of its luxuries. But as far as children are concerned, they should be legally restrained from being allowed in charge of any vehicle. They are too fond of any kind of power and too irresponsible in its use—an exceedingly dangerous combination.

Now it is discovered that the famous pirate, Captain Kidd, who, according to the old song, "much wickedness he did as he sailed," was really no pirate at all, but an honest and good-tempered old sailor. But there are some cherished illusions to which the mind will always cling, and it will require more authority than is given to induce the popular imagination to accept a romantic and picturesque pirate as an uninteresting and commonplace good honest man.

Another rich American girl is to marry an English nobleman. The next generation of the British peerage will be as much American as English, if these international marriages keep on, and with such an infusion of Americanism, even the famous British conservatism and love of tradition may give way to a startling extent. But the nation seems not to care for this American danger as long as it can assimilate so much of the American coin.

A dreadnaught is a formidable object, but it affords a shining mark for a little aeroplane flitting hither and yon among the clouds. In a few years, perhaps, somebody will build an aeroplane destroyer.

From Honey Creek, Ia., comes the story that a bolt of lightning dug a well and found water after a farmer had tried in vain for years. Evidently Honey Creek is trying to compete with Winsted, Conn.

FAST TRAIN LEAPS INTO THE RIVER

Twenty-Five Dead and Sixty Are Injured.

G. A. R. MEN IN CRASH.

Train of Fourteen Coaches and Two Locomotives Jumps the Track While Approaching Bridge on the Lehigh Valley Road.

Manchester, N. Y.—Speeding eastward behind time, Lehigh Valley passenger train No. 4 ran into a broken rail on a trestle near here Friday and two day coaches from the mid-section of the train plunged downward 40 feet, striking the east embankment like a pair of projectiles.

In the awful plunge and crash at least 25 persons were killed and nearly 60 injured. The injuries of several are so serious that it is feared they will die.

The wreck was the worst in the history of the Lehigh Valley in this State and one of the most disastrous ever recorded on the system.

Was G. A. R. Train.
Crowded with passengers, many of whom were war veterans and excursionists from the Grand Army of the Republic encampment at Rochester, the train, made up of 14 cars, drawn by two big mogul engines, was 40 minutes late when it reached Rochester Junction and from there sped eastward to make up time before reaching Geneva.

The engines and two day coaches had just passed the center of a 40-foot trestle over Canandaigua Outlet, 150 yards east of the station at Manchester, at 12.35 o'clock, when the Pullman car Austin, the third of a long train, left the rails.

It dragged the dining car with it and two day coaches and two Pullmans, in this order, followed.

Ran on Ties.
All bumped over the ties a short distance when the coupling between day coach No. 237 and the rear end of the diner broke.

The forward end of the train dragged the derailed Pullman Austin and the diner over safely, after which both plunged down the south embankment and rolled over.

The free end of an ill-fated Lehigh Valley day coach, in which most of the victims were riding, shoved out over the gulf and, followed by a Grand Trunk day coach, stripped the rear guard off the south side of the trestle and plunged to the shallow river bed, more than 40 feet below.

The end of the first day coach that went over struck the east embankment of solid masonry and, with the other 60-foot car behind it, both shot against the wall with terrific force.

Passengers Buried.
Both cars were filled with passengers, in a few moments the cars lay a mass of crumpled wood, metal and glass, under which a hundred men, women and children, many of whom were killed instantly, were buried.

The greatest destruction occurred in the day coach No. 237 and a dozen persons were taken later, dead, from the second day coach, which, after following the first over the trestle, snapped its rear coupling and thus saved the rest of the train from being dragged along.

The second day coach struck on the bottom and stood end up, the rear end projecting a few feet above the top of the trestle.

All of the passengers in this car were piled in a tangled mass of broken seats at the bottom of the car.

Help Long Coming.
Indescribable pandemonium followed. The Pullman car Emelyn, which remained on the bridge with one end projecting over the gulch, and several cars behind it derailed and in immediate danger of going over on the mass of wreckage below, were soon emptied of all their passengers, who, aided by gangs of railroad employes from the big freight yards at Manchester, rushed to aid.

It was several minutes, however, before anybody reached the cars at the bottom to help the victims.

The cars did not catch fire. Axes were secured and body after body was removed and carried by the rescuers, knee deep in the creek bed, to the bank on the west side of the trestle.

There the dead and injured were laid out on the ground while planks and timber were requisitioned and a field hospital established.

Trains Bring Doctors.
It was more than an hour before many of the injured could be removed and special trains from both

Y. M. C. A. Membership.
New York.—More than half a million young men are now members of the Young Men's Christian Association—536,037 to be exact, a gain of 100,000 from the association's year book of North America, just received. Of these 157,850 are industrial workers and more than half take physical training in 648 gymnasiums. The net property gain for the year was \$7,162,000, bringing the grand total up to \$67,539,000. Throughout the continent the association employs 1,351 officers.

THE CANNING SEASON



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Geneva and Rochester brought physicians, nurses and medical supplies. Hundreds awaited treatment, and the railroad station at Manchester, a cider mill and an icehouse were used to give temporary shelter and treatment to the sufferers.

It was necessary to chop through the sides and bottom of the day coach at the bottom and the work of removing the victims moved with painful slowness.

Death had come swiftly to many, a large number of the dead having had their skulls crushed in when they were thrown against the car seats and projections.

The mortality was high among the older passengers, most of whom were veterans of the Civil War and their wives.

Twenty-Three in Morgue.
The dead removed from the wreck and brought to a morgue at Shortsville, near here, numbered 23. Two other persons died in Rochester from their injuries. Several other persons with probably mortal injuries are lying in the hospitals at Rochester, Geneva and Clifton Springs.

HARRY K. THAW NOT INSANE.

So He Declares in Answer to His Wife's Petition.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—An answer was filed here by Harry K. Thaw through his attorney, former Governor William A. Stone, to the petition of his wife, Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, in which Judge L. L. Davis was asked to appoint a lunacy commission to take charge of the income of Thaw in this State and provide for the support of the wife. Thaw's income is said to be \$60,000 a year.

Thaw claims that the verdict of the jury in New York State was not a finding that he was insane and that the decree confining him in Matteawan was a statutory one and not a proceeding as to the lunacy of Thaw. He claims that the fact that he is still confined in the Matteawan Hospital, under the order of court, does not judicially or in any way establish his present insanity. The answer alleges that the petition asks the court to do what it has no authority to do.

In the second part of the answer Thaw states: "Your affiant is not at present insane. He is quite capable of attending to his own affairs, and does attend to his own affairs. He transacts his own business. If there was ever any derangement mentally the affiant has entirely recovered from it, and is now in possession of all his mental faculties."

JOKE ENDS IN TRAGEDY.

Boy Tied to Cow By Playmates Is Dragged to Death.

Utica, N. Y.—Falling from a cow to which he had been tied by his playmates, Lewis Burns, the 7-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Burns, was dragged by the frightened animal around a field until he was dead, according to word just received here from Pulaski. Lewis, with his two sisters, 8 and 11 years old, went out to the pasture to take turns riding a cow that long has been a pet of the family. It was a sport the youngsters had enjoyed frequently during the summer vacation. The cow was gentle and had never tried to throw or harm the children while they were driving it around the field. Laughing merrily, Lewis started off on the ride. He had not gone far when the rope began to slip. The boy tried to cling to the cow's back, but his hands slipped over its hide and he fell. This frightened the cow. It dashed off on a wild circuit of the pasture, dragging the boy along the ground. His skull was fractured, right arm and jaw broken and nearly all his clothing torn off. He was dead when picked up.

Miss Cleveland Engaged.

Tamworth, N. H.—It is understood that the marriage of Miss Esther Cleveland, oldest daughter of the late ex-President, whose engagement to Randolph D. West, of New York, was announced Wednesday, will take place in October. The family say nothing about the affair. Miss Cleveland is devoted to athletics, being an enthusiastic tennis player and motorist. Mr. West is the son of a Princeton professor and has been attentive to Miss Cleveland for some time.

ARSON TO HIDE TERRIBLE CRIME

Farmer, Wife and Son Are Slain and Burned.

A SON IS PLACED IN JAIL.

Mr. and Mr. Lee Killed With Hammer and Young Son Shot While They Slept—Doors Bolted and House Set Afire.

Boonville, Ind.—A triple murder was committed in Boonville. Richard Lee and his wife and their 17-year-old son, Clarence, were killed in their beds with a hammer and the house set on fire.

The house was discovered on fire at 4.30 o'clock Thursday morning and by the time firemen reached it, was blazing from all sides. Trying to enter, they found that all the doors and windows were locked. Breaking down the doors, the firemen found the incinerated bodies of Lee, his wife and his boy.

Examination of the bodies resulted in the discovery that the skulls of the father and mother had been crushed in with a hammer, while they were lying in bed asleep. The 17-year-old boy had been shot.

Robbery, it is believed, was the motive. It is known that the Lee family, consisting of the father and mother and two children, had sold a small piece of property in Newburg and divided up the money between them.

The mother and father and younger boy took their money and went back to their home in Boonville. The older son, William Lee, who is 21 years old, remained in Newburg and then returned to Boonville after his family had gone to bed.

William Lee was arrested by the sheriff of Warrick county on the charge of murdering the other members of the family. William Lee, it is said, ran out of the home at the time of the fire, fully dressed and spread the alarm. He claimed at the time of his arrest that he was awakened by the blaze and barely escaped with his life, not having had time to rescue his parents and brother.

Information also came out that Lee and his father had quarreled frequently over money matters. William, the son who is now in the Warrick county jail, was engaged to wed Miss Myra Taylor, of Newburg, daughter of a wealthy farmer, and the nuptials were to have taken place Thursday. Insurance policies amounting to \$5,000 were found on the lives of Richard Lee, the father, and his son, Clarence, both victims of the tragedy.

DYING FROM BLOW.

Schoolboy Received Blow Last Month in Abdomen.

Edwardsville, Ill.—Gilbert Jenkins, a 15-year-old schoolboy, who fought for the entertainment of a dozen women and several hundred men on the steamer Keystone State last month is lying at his home here of injuries received in the bout. His life is despaired of by two physicians who are attending him. Young Jenkins went on with Bobbie Brendle in a curtain-raiser. He was knocked down in the second round with a blow on the left side of the abdomen. He fell limp to the floor, and while unconscious, was unable to regain his feet.

\$400,000 in Old Postage.

Chicago.—Three hundred members of the American Philatelic Society opened their twenty-fifth annual convention here. The private stamp collections of the members are said to be valued at \$3,000,000. The largest individual collection is that of George H. Worthington, of Cleveland, O., valued at \$500,000. An exhibit of canceled stamps valued at \$400,000 is displayed at the Art Institute. F. N. Cornwall, of St. Louis, was chosen president of the society at the annual election of officers.

BANDITS MUST RETURN LOOT

Gen. Madero Issues Notices at Joluita—Guilty Will Be Punished.

Cuautla, Morelos, Mexico.—That Francis I. Madero's method of restoring peace is not lacking in energy was indicated Wednesday when, as a result of his visit to Joluita notices were posted stating that looters would be given just one day to return stolen property; that failure to do so would result in summary court martial and probable death sentence.

In Joluita Madero investigated the work of the mobs whose members are said to have been bandits rather than Zapatistas. Most of the larger stores have been looted. Madero assured the citizens that the guilty ones would be severely punished. General Hernandez, a former revolutionary officer, is in command of the local garrison. After conferring with Madero Hernandez announced that drastic measures would be instituted. One looter caught in the act was shot. A number are imprisoned.

At Ixtla Madero conferred with General Ambrósio Figueroa, who departed in pursuit of the bandits.

MADERO VERSUS REYES.

Former Mexican War Minister Accused of Treachery.

El Paso.—It is to be war to the finish between Francisco I. Madero and Gen. Bernardo Reyes, according to friends of Madero. They declare he gave Reyes a chance to return to Mexico and become a useful citizen, and that Reyes has been a traitor. Friends of Reyes declare that Madero is only jealous of the popularity of the former war minister. Madero has thrown the challenge to the General and accuses him of treachery and of planning to have him shot in battle, to assure the success of Reyes in the presidential election.

Returning from his trip of pacification in Morelos, where he went to urge the Zapatistas to lay down their arms, Madero says that while he cannot produce the evidence asked by President De La Barra of the treachery of Reyes, he has enough proof to satisfy himself. In the capital the people are saying that if Madero is elected President Reyes will have to leave the country again, as was the case when he became too popular for President Diaz or head a revolution against Madero for self-preservation.

MINERS HAULED THROUGH FIRE

Seven Killed and Three Mortally Hurt in Disaster.

Ely, Nev.—Of 10 men who were working at the 1,400-foot level of the new five-compartment shaft of the Giroux Consolidated Mines, when it caught fire Wednesday night, seven are dead and three lie at the point of death after passing through the flames to reach the surface.

The men on the 1,400-foot level heard a noise which they thought was caused by an explosion. They looked up and saw the shaft in flames. They at once boarded the cage and started for the surface, but encountered the flames at the 1,200-foot level and stopped.

Five men left the cage and started to walk through the 1,200-foot level to the old Alpha shaft, 700 feet away, through which they hoped to climb out of the mine.

The five remaining in the cage gave the signal to hoist and were pulled through the blazing shaft. One was dead when the top was reached and the four others were badly burned.

Rescue of the men remaining in the mine was then attempted through the Alpha shaft. At the 400-foot level one was found dead; another body was recovered at the 600-foot level; a third may lay dead at the bulkhead, but two men were not found and are still in the burning mine.

This is the same mine in which three and a half years ago two men were killed and four others entombed for 46 days on the 1,000-foot level of the Alpha shaft.

Will Exchange Land.

Washington.—The State of Idaho and the United States government have agreed to exchange about 400,000 acres of land in that state, so that each may have its lands in a more compact body than at present. Acting Secretary of Agriculture Hays signed a co-operative agreement with the state.

Thunder Causes Death.

New York.—Mrs. Daniel Ferguson, of Atlantic Highlands, N. J., fell unconscious at a window in her room when a vivid flash of lightning and a loud crash of thunder frightened her. Dr. E. E. Falling responded to a hurried summons and found that she was dead. Mrs. Ferguson had always dreaded lightning. The first peal of thunder during any storm brought terror to her.

Price of Beef Soars.

New York.—The wholesale price of beef soared to a new high level in New York Tuesday. As announced at various local wholesale centers the price of ribs and loins in the best grade of beef is now 16½ cents a pound, as compared with 12 cents on January 1. It is an advance of 1½ cents since last week. Best rounds of beef are advanced to 11½ cents as compared with 9 cents at the first of the year, and a proportional increase is made in second and third grade beef.

FIRE PANIC IN PICTURE THEATRE

Twenty-Five Killed and Score Injured.

FIGHT TO GAIN THE STREET.

Narrow Stairway a Horrible Death Trap—Pile of Writhing Bodies—The Little Ones Are Trampled on and Suffocated.

Canonsburg, Pa.—Twenty-five persons were killed and more than 60 injured Saturday night when a moving picture film exploded in the Canonsburg Opera House.

Immediately following the flash of the film some persons shouted "Fire!" There was a rush for the exit and in a moment there was a writhing, screaming mass of humanity, 10 feet high, in the narrow stairway leading to the entrance of the theatre.

Most of the dead were smothered. A majority of the audience was composed of women and children. In the fierce rush for the exit they were thrown from their feet and trampled by men fighting their way to the streets. Others were thrown upon them, and those at the bottom of the human pile were suffocated.

When two volunteer fire departments reached the theatre the sight staggered them. Those of the audience who had escaped from the building and other spectators drawn to the scene were rushing about the front of the building. No person, it seemed, was making any effort to aid the struggling mass within the theatre.

The firemen pushed into the building and practically threw persons into the street.

As they regained their feet they ran shrieking into the streets in terror.

The fireman neared the bottom of the pile and began to bring out the unconscious forms of the injured and later came the dead.

The dead were laid tenderly in a row along the sidewalk. Relatives struggled to break past the guards and reach the victims.

Within a few moments after the film flashed and the panic started the fire whistles were blown. Practically the entire population of the town responded and packed in narrow Pike street, from which the fatal theatre entrance led. All of them were apparently terror-stricken and could give little aid. The only cool persons were the firemen and the several members of the police force.

John McCullough, operator of the moving picture machine, had just thrown the subject of the next series of pictures on the screen entitled "A Little Girl Shall Lead Them" when the film exploded and the asbestos cabinet was filled with flames. For several moments the audience, numbering upwards of 1,500 persons, was totally unaware of the accident, and the operator heroically fought down the flames and succeeded in extinguishing them.

Then, his hands burned and almost suffocated, he opened the door of the little box and staggered out. With the opening of the door a dense cloud of smoke poured into the auditorium.

At this moment some person yelled "Fire!" The spectators turned in their seats, saw the smoke, jumped to their feet and then started the awful rush for the lone doorway leading to the narrow, eight-foot stairway.

At the stairway they collided and jammed into probably 200 other persons who were awaiting the end of the performance to take the places of those who had seen the show.

Immediately the narrow stairway was packed and jammed 10 feet high with the dead and dying, the shrieking injured and the screaming unhurt, while the crowds of townspeople rushed to the scene and added confusion to the din.

The list of dead probably would have been greater but for the heroism of Miss Mary Craig, pianist at the theatre. When the cries of "fire" sounded and the rush to safety started Miss Craig began playing a slow march. Over and over she played the selection, never faltering, and many in the crowd caught the swing of the music and assisted in holding back the crowd. When the audience had swept from the building Miss Craig left uninjured.

Kills Countryman, Is Caught.

Meunt Holly, N. J.—Salvatore Argona, who shot and instantly killed Giuseppe Materi during a quarrel on a farm near Centreton, was captured at Moorestown. Before his arrest Argona gave an armed posse a long chase. The murderer was brought to the county jail.

Socialist Victory Is Rumor.

Washington.—At the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor here it is rumored that the election of William H. Johnson, of Rock Island, Ill., as president of the International Association of Machinists, and the defeat of James O'Connell, who has held that position 18 years, is a victory for the Socialists in the labor organization of the United States who are fighting Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.