

SNAPSHOTS AT STATE NEWS

All Pennsylvania Gleaned for Items of Interest.

REPORTS ABOUT CROPS GOOD

Farmers Busy in Every Locality—Churches Raising Funds for Many Worthy Objects—Items of Business and Pleasure that Interest.

Mormons have established a mission in Altoona.

Twelve hundred persons signed petitions asking that Newberry be made "dry."

Theodore Madar, working in the Enterprise mine, Shamokin, was killed by a fall of coal.

The Harman-Cogger steel plant at Bloomsburg has been purchased by John H. Bodine, of New York.

The Slavic residents of Summit Hill are getting in readiness for the erection of a handsome \$25,000 church.

Alfred Snyder has sold the famous old Fountain Hotel at Allentown to Albert Roth and will retire from business.

Adele Kramer, a student at Allentown College for Women, fell on an icy sidewalk and sustained a fracture of the right leg.

Frank Kent, of Easton, walked around with a broken shoulder for a week before he discovered the extent of his injury.

At an old-fashioned flying-board shooting match held at Gouglersville, Aaron White and James Epler won a 400-pound hog.

By the upsetting of their sleigh at Topton, Charles Fasnacht and John Hoff were thrown out and the former's left arm fractured.

Ethan A. Bickel, for 70 years a resident of Spring City, was stricken in the street with paralysis, and is in a critical condition.

The Washington Fire Company, of Reading, has presented a fine mahogany clock to Washington Fire Company, No. 7, of Wilmington.

The choir of the Spring City Lutheran Church last evening presented the sacred cantata, "The Holy City," under the direction of Miss Katie Cook.

Hunting a broken gas pipe, snapped by the fall of a drunken man, at Mahanoy City, James Trainer was overcome by the deadly fumes and almost suffocated.

The Rev. W. K. Fisher was installed as pastor of the Shoemakerville Lutheran parish by the Rev. C. E. Kistler, president of the Reading Conference.

An innovation at the meeting of the Century Club, of Pottstown, was the admission of men to hear a song recited by Miss Esther B. White, of Summit, N. J.

The first United Evangelical Church, Reading, presented to its pastor, the Rev. A. J. Brunner, a purse containing \$117, as he left for the annual conference at Bangor.

George Eberly, formerly of Hollidaysburg, has been appointed division engineer of the Wheeling division of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, with headquarters at Wheeling, W. Va.

Blinded by snow and unable to hear the whistle, while his overcoat collar was over his ears, Frank Geist, 48 years old, was run down by a Reading freight train near Mertztown and killed.

Work on the Manataway Railroad, near Pottstown, will be resumed, because the company has agreed to the West Pottstown supervisory demands to place a watchman at the proposed Crosstown crossing.

It took the services of an attorney and a constable to recover a loaned baby which George Gudis had given to Mrs. John Houser, of Hazleton, to keep for him when his wife left him a few weeks ago.

Because oil is trickling through the water in Charles Dilliplane's well, at Manataway, an oil company whose pipes run through that part of Berks County will drill an artesian well 250 feet deep through solid limestone rock.

Philip Alexander, a saloonkeeper, of Hazle township, was arrested by State police, charged with having sold liquor on Sunday.

John D. Baxter, of Scranton, a Lackawanna Railroad dispatcher, is on his way home with his lost son, who recently served four years in the United States Army Signal Corps. The youngster was found by means of an advertisement in a Chicago newspaper. Young Baxter went West after leaving the service, and his father has traveled 2,400 miles to bring him home.

DEMAND MADE UPON HUERTA

Must Punish Those Who Killed Clemente Vergara.

VILLA ALLOWS EXAMINATION

General Villa To Allow the Body To Be Examined By Representatives Of the British and United States Governments.

Washington.—Two hours of discussion of the Mexican situation in all its phases by President Wilson and his Cabinet developed a unanimity of opinion that the time had not yet arrived for any change in the policy of the Washington government.

Though still reserving judgment on the facts surrounding the execution of William S. Benton, British subject, the President and his Cabinet, it was learned authoritatively, were inclined to regard as of serious moment the hanging by Mexican federals of Clemente Vergara, an American citizen. Immediately after the Cabinet meeting Secretary Bryan cabled Charge O'Shaughnessy to demand of the Huerta government the punishment of those responsible for Vergara's death. An explanation will be sought by the American government of why any harm befell Vergara when assurances had been given to the American consular representative that he was safe.

Incidentally the memorandum circulated by the Huerta government among the diplomatic representatives in Mexico City pointing out to the United States that the constitutionalists were unable to protect foreigners and therefore ought to be deprived of the right to get arms in the United States, did not reach the State Department. Secretary Bryan said it had not been received, and there were intimations from high officials that the memorandum meant little in view of the wanton murder of Vergara.

Practically every move that has ever been suggested for the protection of Americans and foreigners in Mexico and for the restoration of peace in that country was discussed by the cabinet. No conclusion was reached as far as could be learned, except that there should be aggressive pursuit of the facts in both the Benton and Vergara deaths.

Late in the day Secretary Bryan conferred with Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, whom he informed that General Villa had consented to allow the body of Benton to be seen or examined by two representatives of the American government, two representatives of the British government, two physicians and the widow and any relatives of Benton who desired to accompany the party.

MIGHT REGULATE WEATHER.

Hill's Comment On Government Ownership Of Railroads.

New York.—James J. Hill, the king behind the throne of the Hill railroads, declared that he believed supervision of railroad securities by the Interstate Commerce Commission would be better than by 48 state commissions, as at present. Asked if he favored government ownership of the railroads, he said: "If the government will put reins on the active people and provide them with food and raiment, this would be a fine country. After that the government might undertake to arrange the weather."

WASHINGTON A CHRISTIAN.

Dr. McKim Says the Great American Was Not a Deist.

Washington.—Rev. Randolph H. McKim, former president of the Episcopal House of Deputies, gave out a statement in which he denied that George Washington was not a Christian, but a Deist. Dr. McKim asserts that the great American was not only a baptized member of the English Church in the colonies, but a communicant as well. In support of his statement he produced a copy of a prayer written by George Washington, which expressed faith in the divinity of Christ.

WOULD RESIGN FIRST.

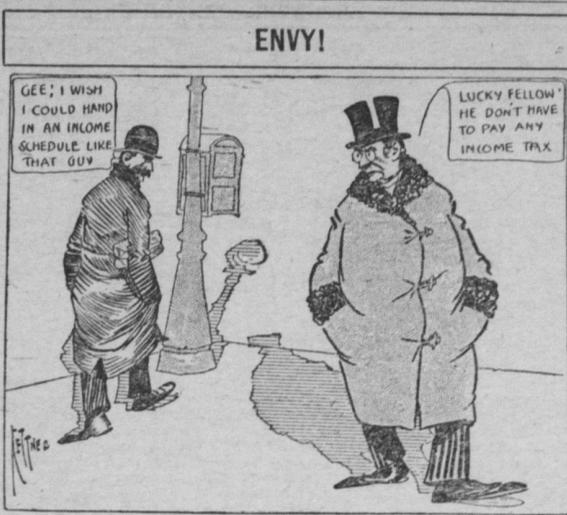
Governor Bleese Raps Legislature In Vetoing a Bill.

Columbia, S. C.—"Before I would sign such a bill I would resign and go off into eternal oblivion," declared Governor Bleese, vetoing a bill for medical inspection of children attending public schools in Richland county. The Governor characterized such legislation as "outrageous, uncalled for, ill-advised and dictatorial."

FUNERAL SERVICE BY 'PHONE.

Dying Judge Has Wire From Parlor To Bed-room.

Paterson, N. J.—A delicately adjusted telephone installed for the purpose made it possible for former Judge James Inglis, who is dying of pneumonia, to hear the funeral service read over the body of his wife, Mrs. Ella M. Inglis. Though the service was held in the parlor of the Inglis home, Mr. Inglis was too weak to leave his bed-room upstairs.



THE OPERATOR TAKES BLAME

Wireless Man on Nantucket Did Not Report Monroe's Calls.

WAS READING NOVEL, HE SAYS

Admits That Had He Been Alert the Collision Might Have Been Avoided—Rules May Be Changed.

Philadelphia.—Adolph Doehler, wireless man on the Nantucket, which sunk the steamship Monroe on the morning of January 30, causing the loss of 41 lives, testified that on the morning of the accident he had heard the Monroe and her sister ship, the Hamilton, of the Old Dominion Line, exchanging wireless signals and said he had been alert and caught these signals the catastrophe might have been avoided.

The testimony was given at the trial of Capt. Osmyn Berry, who is charged with negligence in causing the accident, but the probe is more far-reaching, and for the purpose of making travel at sea safer by promulgating additional laws to govern ocean travel. As a result of the testimony of Doehler, the naval laws probably will be changed, especially those pertaining to wireless.

Doehler said he was reading a novel when he heard the exchange between the Monroe and the Hamilton and he did not put down his book long enough to jot down the respective positions of the vessels. He explained that under the rules of the Marconi Company, he was not required to report every message he heard to the captain of the Nantucket.

Hereafter, if the rules governing wireless can be changed, operators will be required to take every message crossing their zone and in case messages give the position of a vessel, the operator will be required to send a copy to the officer in charge without delay. Had Doehler taken the positions of the Monroe and the Hamilton that night, he acknowledged that Captain Berry would have known he was in close proximity to the Monroe and would have proceeded with caution.

"I didn't think what they were saying was important enough," Doehler explained, when asked why he had not copied the crossing.

"I only take down messages about derelicts and so forth," he said. "We used to note down on our daily report all messages we picked up, but the Marconi Company ordered us to stop that some time ago. It took too much paper and too much time and kept the wireless man so busy he didn't have time to send."

AN AMERICAN HANGED.

Huertans Capture and Carry Him Over Into Mexico.

Laredo, Texas.—Clemente Vergara, an American citizen captured and carried into Mexico recently by Mexican federals, was hanged, according to advices brought here from Hidalgo, Mex. Vergara had been ordered released by the federal commander at Piedras Negras as the result of representations in his behalf by American authorities. Vergara, it was reported, complained that Mexican federals were stealing his horses from an island in the Rio Grande near Palafox, was lured to the island by promises of pay for the horses, knocked in the head and carried into Mexico.

FOLK ACCEPTS NEW POST.

To Become Chief Counsel For Commerce Board.

Washington.—Joseph W. Folk, solicitor of the State Department, decided to accept the new post of chief counsel for the Interstate Commerce Commission. He came to his decision after conferences with President Wilson and Secretary Bryan. He probably will take up his new office this week. No announcement has been made as to his successor.

FEDERALS ALSO VIOLATE LAW

Hanging of an American Starts New Angle to Complication.

INQUIRY PROMPTLY ORDERED

The United States Looking To Clarify the Situation.

Washington.—The Mexican situation, which was centered chiefly for the last few days upon efforts to determine how and why the constitutionalists executed Dr. E. Benton, a British subject, was broadened when Consul Garrett, at Nuevo Laredo, was instructed to inquire into hanging by Mexican federals of Clemente Vergara, an American citizen.

The Consul was directed by the State Department to demand the body of the dead American from officers of the Huerta government in the vicinity of Hidalgo, Mexico, where Vergara was killed. Earlier in the day Marion Letcher, American consul at Chihuahua, had been instructed to insist that General Villa permit the delivery of the body of Benton to the widow for burial where she may wish.

General Villa's message offering to permit the widow of Benton or relatives and an American official to see the body when exhumed is being taken to mean by the American government that a complete medical examination may be performed. Secretary Bryan told the senators that the United States was insisting that two American representatives be permitted to see the body and that one of these be an army surgeon. He also has made inquiry as to exactly where the grave is located.

General Villa has not replied to the last request of Secretary Bryan for the surrender of Benton's body, but it is understood that the British Ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, for the present, will be satisfied if there is an opportunity for an autopsy which would determine whether Benton was shot by a pistol bullet or by rifle bullets from a firing squad.

It is thought the British Ambassador is anxious that evidence be secured first, believing discussion of the disposition of the body can be taken up afterward. The same army surgeon who will be detailed by General Scott, at Fort Bliss, to act with the British Consul, Charles A. Percival, when he arrives at El Paso, will report to the American government on the condition of the Benton corpse.

MORE MARINES FOR MEXICO.

Transport Prairie Sails Today; the Cruiser Chester Friday.

Mobile, Ala.—The naval transport Prairie will sail for Mexican waters with 300 marines after visiting Pensacola, following her departure from this port tomorrow. The scout cruiser Chester will depart for Vera Cruz Friday. She has 300 marines aboard.

NO TOGA FOR GLYNN.

New York Governor Denies He Is Out For the Senate.

Albany, N. Y.—When the attention of Governor Glynn was called to a report that suggested him as a candidate for United States senator to succeed Elihu Root, the governor said merely: "I am not a candidate for any office."

BECOME GOOD SAMARITANS.

Rural Carriers Can Scatter Grain For Birds On Their Routes.

Washington.—The Postoffice Department has become the good Samaritan of the birds of the field and will permit the rural free delivery carriers to scatter grain for the birds on their routes. Representative Samuel E. Winslow, of Massachusetts, obtained permission for carriers in his district to perform this kindly act.

LIEUT. BECKER GETS NEW TRIAL

Appellate Court Says He Did Not Have a Chance.

CENSURE FOR JUSTICE GOFF

The Court Decides That the Presiding Judge in the Court Below Manifested His Prejudice Against Accused Officer.

Albany, N. Y.—The conviction of Charles Becker, a former New York police lieutenant, of the murder of Herman Rosenthal, was reversed and the convictions of the four gunmen for the same crime, was affirmed by the Court of Appeals.

Justice Goff, the court held, erred in many of his rulings in Becker's trial and appeared to be prejudicial in his attitude toward the defendant. The reversal was based solely on these grounds. No attempt was made by the court to say whether the weight of evidence against Becker was sufficient to warrant his conviction. It was pointed out, however, that the testimony against him was given by witnesses of low class and as much of it was open to doubt, he therefore, was entitled to a fairer trial than he received.

All of the seven members of the court, except Judge Werner, who acted as presiding judge when the appeal was argued, concurred in the prevailing Becker opinion, which was written by Judge Hiscock. In a dissenting opinion Judge Werner said that the main contentions of the State had been amply proven to warrant conviction.

The much-mooted question as to the status of Sam Schepps, whom the jury in the Becker case decided was not an accomplice to the crime, still is unsettled. The prevailing opinion merely said that there was doubt in the minds of some of the court as to the propriety of excluding Schepps as an accomplice.

The decision in the case of the four gunmen, Gyp the Blood, Whitey Lewis, Dago Frank and Lefty Louie, was unanimous. They had agreed that the evidence against them was insufficient to warrant conviction and also that the court had erred in handling their cases, but these contentions were held by the court to be groundless.

The date for the execution of the gunmen will be fixed by the court within a few days. The death warrants are in the clerk's office ready for the signatures of the judges when they decide when the electrocutions shall take place. The law provides that the date of execution shall not be deferred more than six weeks after the judgment of conviction has been announced. The Court of Appeals, however, usually allows only five weeks to elapse. If precedent is followed the gunmen will be electrocuted during the latter part of March.

Judge Werner held that the conviction should be affirmed because the main facts tended to prove Becker's guilt. He said that the fact that the main witnesses were gamblers, criminals, degenerates and murderers should have nothing to do with the decision. He said that there was nothing to authorize the Court of Appeals to invade the province of the jury "nor to decide in advance what must be done upon another trial upon a similar state of facts."

TO REVIVE STYLES OF 1830.

Powdered Hair and Pompadour Effect With Flowers To Return.

New York.—Powdered hair and a general tendency to the revival of the styles of 1830 is predicted by J. M. Giddings, president of the J. M. Giddings Company, of this city, who returned from a visit to Paris, where he spent several weeks in purchasing models from Paris dressmakers. In addition to the powdering of the hair Mr. Giddings says a pompadour effect given by flowers will also be favored by the fashionable women in the coming season.

NO MATRONS AS POLICE.

Married Women Barred From the Pittsburgh Force.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Married women are barred from appointment to the Pittsburgh police force, according to regulations issued by Charles S. Hubbard, director of public safety, on the ground that single women will have more time to look after their official duties. Twenty applications have been filed for the four positions to be filled by women on the local force. The successful ones will not be required to wear uniforms and will each be paid \$75 a month.

200 IN CROSS-CONTINENT HIKE.

California Unemployed Start On Way To Washington.

Richmond, Cal.—Two hundred unemployed men, equipped with blankets and cooking utensils, left here Friday on a march to Washington to petition Congress for work. The men recruited at San Francisco, across the bay. On their arrival here they were fed by the local authorities. The men expected to obtain rations from the various towns on the line of march.

\$6,000,000 IS DISPOSED OF

Wishes of Banker, Dying Without Will, Respected

FELL DEAD ON THE STREET

Family of William Kistler Announces There Will Be No Contest—Deceased Had Left Memorandum of Gifts With Attorney.

Lock Haven.—The family of the late William Kistler, a wealthy banker, who fell dead on the street a few weeks ago, announced that the wishes of Mr. Kistler regarding the distribution of his estate as he had outlined them to his lawyer shortly prior to his death, would be carried out. This includes a gift of \$20,000 to the Lock Haven Hospital; \$20,000 to the Anna M. Ross Library. Other gifts to public institutions were not made public, but it is understood a large sum is given to the Tuskegee Institute, and several thousand goes to a school in Egypt in which he became interested during his travels. A number of items of the will had been outlined by Mr. Kistler to his attorney shortly before his death, but the document had not been completed. The value of the estate is estimated at \$6,000,000.

Ends Mayor's Vice Area.

Scranton.—One hundred and five women in Mayor Jermyn's segregated vice district were driven from the city by District Attorney Maxey, who later, at a public meeting, attended by 3,000 men, stated that his action was simply the carrying out of a campaign promise he had made previous to election, to clean up the city and county. Every house in the city was visited by county detectives, and warned to close, the proprietors being informed that if they did not they would be placed under arrest and sent to the county jail, while the girls were given one day to shake the dust of the city from their feet.

At a mass meeting 3000 men tendered Maxey their support and subscribed \$500 cash to continue the war on vice in this city.

Freed of Creek Pollution.

Norristown.—Judge Weand sustained the appeals taken from summary convictions by a Magistrate by William H. Lunt, and Benjamin Crothers, well-known manufacturers of Upper Merion. The Judge decided that the defendants were not guilty of polluting the Gulf Creek, and directed that the costs be paid by the county. Fish and Game Warden Charles Gebman was the prosecutor. He contended that dyestuff from the defendants' mills poisoned the water and killed the fish. On the part of the defendants it was shown by chemists that the water discharged from the mills was not poisonous or destructive to fish. The matter complained of was not dyestuff, but waste water from the engine.

Calls Hospital Shocking.

York.—A public statement was issued by a committee of the Woman's Club of York, appointed to investigate alleged mismanagement at the York Hospital, declaring that the recently issued report of life members' committee gives an inaccurate idea of the nature of testimony it submitted. "The testimony," the woman's committee states, "indicated the existence of shocking and intolerable conditions in the hospital."

Find Body of Embarrassed Man.

Myerstown.—The body of Frank Snyder of this borough, who disappeared on December 26 last, was found floating in the waters of an old Union Canal lock, near here. Snyder, 45 years old, and a widower, is believed to have committed suicide, as he was in financial difficulties.

To Defend Alleged Slayer.

Chambersburg.—Bill Barnes, in jail here, charged with the murder of Policeman William Daywalt, in a field on the outskirts of Waynesboro, on the night of February 3, petitioned Judge Gillan for the appointment of an attorney. State Senator John W. Hoke was named.

Arrest for 20 Wire-Cutters.

Huntingdon.—Because a gang of 20 linemen employed by the Penn Central Company cut transmission lines and destroyed property at Ganister, near Williamsburg, the Raystown Water Power Company of Huntingdon has prosecuted three of the ringleaders.

City Excitement, Then Divorce.

Norristown.—Charles E. Hebaer, of Lansdale, was granted a divorce in Court as his wife, Beatrice C., had deserted him, saying she wanted to live in a place that had more excitement than Lansdale offered.

Prison for Check Kitters.

Hollidaysburg.—Henry Hesse and Thomas Stanton, check kitters and forgers, were each sentenced by the Blair County Court to three years' imprisonment. Hesse played the Wallingford game on Altoona Chamber of Commerce officials by pretending that he was going to establish a large industrial plant in that city, and is said to have played a similar game at Reading.

Stanton was guilty of shady financing at Erie and Butler, where he will be taken after his sentence expires.