

MYSTERIOUS WORK IN JERSEY PINES NEAR LAKEHURST

Big Tract of Land to Be Made Best Proving Grounds in Country

UNCLE SAM INTERESTED

In the very heart of the scrub pine forests of New Jersey the Edgystone Ammunition Corporation has taken over a vast tract of land, and, under the direction of officers of the United States army released from active duty, is clearing and leveling a tract of land...

The tract was chosen with the view of keeping all activities there strictly secret by the location of the proving grounds. The nearest town in this sparsely settled section is Lakehurst, four miles distant, and having only about 700 inhabitants...

The only road leading to the proving grounds winds through the scrub pine forest and at one point passes through extensive cranberry bogs which are virtually impassable except by way of the road. The judicious placing of watchmen at this point will enable the corporation to prevent strangers from coming within two miles of the spot where the big guns will be built...

Although no quarries are retained by the corporation, it is expected to keep strangers from the grounds, the road through the forest is studded with signs warning against trespassing, and others prohibiting employees from bringing liquor on the premises...

TRESPASSING FORBIDDEN

"No trespassing, that means you" is the pointed remark on such occasions. More than 200 men are busy chopping down the thousands of pines which still obstruct the tract...

At infrequent intervals the woods lining the great clearing are studded with wooden shacks to house men and materials. All day long two-horse teams ply back and forth over the woodland road to the railroad to bring cement, lumber and other materials needed at the proving grounds.

The gun platform at the eastern end of the grounds is nearing completion. It will be surmounted by a number of field pieces, which will be fired over a 700-yard range, a 1650-yard range and a 1000-yard range. The effect of the fire from these guns will be watched from four observation huts at various points on the grounds.

TO ERECT MANY BUILDINGS Other buildings will be two testing laboratories, an administrative office and an office for inspectors, buildings to house laborers and other employees of the corporation and an iron and concrete chamber in which dynamite will be fired for testing purposes.

Officials in charge of the work near Lakehurst assert that no ammunition will be manufactured at the proving grounds, but that the munitions turned out by the corporation at the Edgystone plant will be transported to Lakehurst by rail and to the proving grounds by automobile trucks.

Strict secrecy is enjoined on all connected with the proving grounds, and inquisitive persons are referred to Captain Rockwell as the only person authorized to give out information. The only method by which inhabitants of Lakehurst have been able to visit the proving grounds is on the pretext of wishing to see "Ivory" Curtis, the foreman who employs wood cutters and other laborers.

UNCLE SAM INTERESTED

The Federal Government has interested itself in the activity of the Edgystone Ammunition Corporation to the extent of releasing Captain Walter M. Wilhelm from active duty so that he could assume the vice presidency of the corporation. The work at the proving grounds is under the supervision of Captain C. K. Rockwell, a lieutenant and a sergeant, all of them similarly "on leave," that they may promote the success of the venture.

It is even whispered that patrol wagons will be decorated with cotton and evergreens so that they may have somewhat the appearance of the proverbial reindeer sleigh.

COPS AS SANTA CLAUSES

Kensington and Frankford Poor to Get Christmas Presents

In many sections of the city, particularly in the congested part of Kensington and Frankford occupied by the destitute poor, policemen will become Santa Claus on Saturday morning or Friday night. And, incidentally, poor Johnny Hobbs, if he happens to tumble too much Christmas "joy" in the form of Hot Scotch, need not expect a free ride to a warm station house.

All the wagons in that part of Philadelphia will be busy assisting the policemen to help make the boys and girls and papas and mammas happy by distributing the loads of pretty and useful gifts that benevolent Philadelphians are providing for them.

TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

ROOMS WANTED

TWO COMMUNICATING ROOMS with board, 547 1/2 Chestnut St. Adults reasonable. 179, Ledger Central.

FAMILY INSISTS OLD MAN WAS MURDERED

Autopsy Will Be Performed on Body of Victim, Who, Jury Said, Ended Life

An autopsy will be performed late today on the body of James J. Corcoran, found last Thursday in a drift of snow in Cobb's Creek Park, with his throat cut, to determine whether the man committed suicide or was murdered. A coroner's jury yesterday rendered a verdict of death by suicide, but Miss Anna E. Corcoran, the dead man's daughter, called on Coroner Knight today and demanded that an autopsy be performed. Miss Corcoran asserts that members of the family were not notified that the inquest was to have been held.

Miss Corcoran believes firmly her father, who was 52 years old, was murdered, she received his home, 527 1/2 Addison street, last night, from the West. She told Coroner Knight that a reporter, who arrived on the scene shortly after the body was found, assured her that there were footprints in the ground, pointing to murder. The family also asserts that the man's jaw and three ribs were fractured, strengthening the theory of murder.

A knife was found beside the body, but Miss Corcoran said today that this was not her father's knife. She declared that a knife owned by her father had been stolen a few days prior to the finding of his body.

"I want to be convinced that it was suicide," Miss Corcoran said to Coroner Knight. Dr. William S. Wadsworth, coroner's physician, will perform the autopsy at the Corcoran home.

The police, as well as the coroner's jury which acted on the case yesterday, are firmly convinced that Corcoran killed himself. They explain that, admitting that the knife found beside the body had never been seen before by members of the family, and that he had lost his own knife, it would have been easy for him to purchase another one. The police record says that the man was ill two years and that he had acted childishly at times.

Dr. Anthony Estabro, of the West Philadelphia Homeopathic Hospital, who pronounced the man dead, said that it was his belief that the law was only broken and not fractured. He said, however, that he did not make an examination of the body. He expressed his opinion to the effect that if the jaw and three ribs were really fractured it was impossible that these injuries could have been inflicted by the man falling to the ground after cutting his own throat, but that the injuries must have been caused by some one else.

Mrs. Emily Corcoran, wife of the dead man, said that there was no doubt in her mind that her husband was murdered.

Attempts Suicide in Jail

WEST CHESTER, Pa., Dec. 21.—Mike Thillie, 49 years old, a Contoxtville Hungarian, serving a term of six months in the Chester County prison here, attempted suicide last night by plunging 30 feet from the third, or upper, corridor in the institution. His fall was broken when his body struck the edge of the second corridor, but when he struck the concrete at the bottom both arms were broken and he sustained serious injuries about the head. He will recover.

Spain Rearming Troops

GIBRALTAR, Dec. 21.—Great significance is attached by English military officers to recent activities among the Spanish forces. An order issued today authorized 60,000 Spanish carabinieri to surrender their Mauser rifles and substitute Remingtons of the latest design. Large numbers of Spanish recruits are constantly training.

PURPOSE OF WOMEN'S DIVISION FOR NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS



MRS. GEORGE W. CHILDS DREXEL.

In response to a request from the Evening Ledger for a brief statement outlining the purpose of the Pennsylvania Women's Division for National Preparedness, Mrs. George W. Childs Drexel, founder of the movement, today issued the following statement:

"Patriotic women can play their part in aiding a nation in time of war as well as men. The Pennsylvania Women's Division for National Preparedness calls for nothing more than a willingness to sacrifice, when the need arises, those comforts and luxuries that ample means afford, to the greater end that the Commonwealth shall be preserved.

"Individually, women of the United States have always played their part nobly in time of war and trouble. With organization, they can accomplish so much more.

"The division hopes to so concentrate the work of women that it will be a tangible asset to the defenders of the United States.

"This, in a nutshell, is our aim. To accomplish it we need volunteers, and we are calling on the women of Pennsylvania to band themselves together under the standard of preparedness.

"Sincerely,

Mary J. Jacobs Drexel December 18, 1915.

METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE RETURN ENGAGEMENT BY POPULAR DEMAND BOSTON GRAND OPERA CO. PAVLOVA IMPERIAL BALLET RUSSE TWO NIGHTS ONLY MADAMA BUTTERFLY TAMAKI MIURA, CHAIRMEN SNOWFLAKES, PAVLOVA PAGLIACCI, ZENATELLO COPPELIA PAVLOVA

Rich Richards Almanac If thou wouldst sell silken suitings, speak not entertainingly of the light of last night's moon. 'Thine a u d i e n c e p r e f e r r e t h to know the mode of its garb, remarketh Rich Richard.

COAL PRICES STATIONARY

Ohio Competition Will Prevent Rise in Local Figures

Though the shortage in soft coal for general consumption is real enough, exorbitant prices will not prevail in Philadelphia for the fuel, according to a statement made today by Frank Wigton, member of the Bituminous Coal Association of Central Pennsylvania and former president of the organization. The competition of the Ohio bituminous coal fields

will keep down local prices, in the opinion of Mr. Wigton. "The trouble is," he added, "that nearly all the coal operators in this State have sold their entire supply under contract and will not be able to supply the independent demand that has sprung up. The railroad congestion has tied up coal so that Philadelphia will have a chance to store her supply till the embargo is lifted. The price of the coal has doubled in the last several months, but I do not think it will increase any more," said Mr. Wigton.

"Curbstone" Vestry Decision Reserved Judges McMichael and Ferguson are holding under advisement, following the argument of exceptions by opposing counsel, action on the recent decision of the "curbstone" vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church, and ordering the Rev. George Chalmers Richmond to turn over to them keys, property and books of the church. Edgar N. Black, suspended for one year at an ecclesiastical trial, argued against the admission of certain evidence at the civil trial.



Let the Columbia Grafonola furnish the music this Christmas!

There never was a Christmas without music—and you never had a Christmas with such music as the Columbia Grafonola can bring! In place of the old-time Christmas waits caroling an ancient hymn or two, you have at your command this Christmas "All the Music of All the World, and Most of the Fun of it, too."

All you have to do is to see your dealer—but be sure to see him QUICK! All Columbia factories are rushed to the very limit, so the only sure way of getting the model you want in time is to select it from your dealer's stock.

Don't forget to make your reservation NOW—tomorrow may be a day too late.

And let your dealer make up a few groups of records for Christmas gifts. Your friends who own Grafonolas or other similar instruments would like nothing better than Columbia Records—and a similar group is an ideal gift to go with YOUR Christmas Grafonola.

New records go on sale the 20th of every month. Columbia Records in all Foreign Languages. This advertisement was dictated to the Dictaphone.

COLUMBIA DOUBLE-DISC RECORDS and the COLUMBIA GRAFONOLA

- FOR SALE BY CENTRAL CUNNINGHAM PIANO CO., 1101 Chestnut St., Phila., Pa. GRANT, W.M. & CO., 1925 Arch St., Phila., Pa. PENNSYLVANIA TALKING MACHINE CO., 1109 Chestnut St., Phila., Pa. SNELLENBURG, N. & CO., 12th and Market Sts., Phila., Pa. STORY & CLARK PIANO CO., 1705 Chestnut St., Phila., Pa. STRAWBRIDGE & CLOUTHER, 8th and Market Sts., Phila., Pa. NORTH FLEISCHER, FRANK, 6527 North 4th St., Phila., Pa. FUTERNIK, BENJ., 140 North 8th St., Phila., Pa. GOODMAN, L. L., 327 West Girard Ave., Phila., Pa. PHILADELPHIA TALKING MACHINE CO., 500 North Franklin St., Philadelphia, Pa. REICE, I. S., 919 Girard Ave., Phila., Pa. SCHERZER'S Piano Waterrooms, 559 North 8th St., Philadelphia, Pa. SCHELL & MEGAHAN, 1712 Columbia Ave., Phila., Pa. NORTHEAST KENNY, THOMAS M., 8224 Kensington Ave., Phila., Pa. KRYGIER, JOSEPH, 3132 Richmond St., Phila., Pa. NORTHWEST IDEAL PIANO AND TALKING MACHINE CO., 2335 Germantown Ave., Phila., Pa. JACOBS, JOSEPH, 1605 Germantown Ave., Phila., Pa. TOMPKINS, J. MONROE, 5147 Germantown Ave., Phila., Pa. WEST PHILADELPHIA GEO. B. DAVIS & CO., 3539 Lancaster Ave. EAKINS-HUGHES PIANO CO., 261-62 R. 52d St., Phila., Pa. FLOOD, CHAS. W., 4914 Baltimore Ave., Phila., Pa. LEDANE, HARRY, 416 N. 52d St., Phila., Pa. MELCHIORI BROS., 4932-40 Lancaster Ave., Phila., Pa. WEST PHILADELPHIA TALKING MACHINE CO., 7 South 60th St., Phila., Pa. SOUTH LUPINACCI, ANTONIO, 730 South 7th St., Phila., Pa. MILLER, B., 604 & 2d St., Philadelphia, Pa. PHILADELPHIA PHONOGRAPH CO., 1836 Passyunk Ave., Phila., Pa. PHILADELPHIA PHONOGRAPH CO., 322 1/2 9th St., Phila., Pa. STOLFO, HARRY, 512 South 9th St., Phila., Pa. NEARBY OUT-OF-TOWN DEALERS BROWN, H. H., 21 East Gay St. West Chester, Pa. CARR, H. F., 512 Main St., Darby, Pa. COLUMBIA GRAFONOLA PARLOR, 1229 Pacific Ave., Atlantic City, N. J. GODFREY, CHAS. H., 2510 Atlantic Ave., Atlantic City, N. J. KEENE'S MUSIC HOUSE, 11 Cooper St., Woodbury, N. J. RAMSEY & DONNELLY, Salem St., Salem, N. J. ROBLEN PIANO COMPANY, 710 Market St., Wilmington, Del. ROSENBERG, HARRY, C., 204 High St., Millville, N. J. THOMPSON, W. C., 140 Main St., Coatsville, Pa. TOZER & BATES, 641 1/2 Vineland Ave., Vineland, N. J. WINTERSTEIN, A. F., 209 Radcliffe St., Bristol, Pa. WOLSON, A. W., 604 Edgmont Ave., Chester, Pa. YOUNGJOHN'S, ERNEST J., 129 W. Main St., Norristown, Pa.

Sterling Silver For Christmas

Table with columns for TOILETWARE, NOVELTIES, TABLEWARE, and JEWELRY, listing various items and their prices.

A large part of our new catalogue is devoted to sterling silver-ware. It will give you an excellent idea of the extent of our stock and will be of great assistance in making selections.

It contains over 20,000 photographic illustrations of everything desirable in Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry and Silverware. Call or write for a copy. It is free.

S. Kind & Sons Diamond Merchants Jewelers-Silversmiths 1110 Chestnut Street Closing Hour: Six o'Clock Until Christmas

SIGNS OF THE MERRY YULETIDE

Humorous cartoon illustrations depicting holiday scenes: 'THE WELL KNOWN "KRIS"', 'DELIVERY WAGONS', 'THE ANNUAL PROBLEM', 'THE DEMON SHOPPER', 'KIDS', 'CROWDED STREETS (AND THIS)', 'TOY DEPT.', 'DID I STEP ON YOUR FOOT?', 'IF YOU DIDN'T, THE CITY HALL MUSTA FELL ON IT!'.