

The Centre Democrat.

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BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1911.

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MINISTER HAD A NARROW ESCAPE

LAMP EXPLODED AND HOME WAS BURNED.

WIFE WAS RESCUED BY LADDER

A Desperate Effort to Extinguish Burning Room—Building and Contents Quickly Consumed at Port Matilda.

Our Port Matilda correspondent sends us the following thrilling account of a serious fire at that place:

On Sunday morning, while a great many of us were yet in bed, a bad fire was raging in our town. Rev. H. A. McKelvey, the pastor of the United Brethren church, arose before daylight to get some medicine for his wife who was suffering with a headache. He went down stairs, secured the medicine, and before going back up stairs he stopped to blow the light. He held his hand above the flame and gave a puff, but instead of the light being extinguished the fire was blown down into the bowl. Mr. McKelvey saw what was going to happen and just succeeded in jumping behind the door when the lamp exploded scattering oil and fire all through the room. The fire took such a hold that all his attempts to smother it with rugs, clothing, etc. were fruitless. His wife came down to assist him with a blanket, but could do nothing on account of the smoke. Her clothing caught fire and she was in danger of being burned. They escaped up stairs but the draft of the stairway caused the smoke and flames to follow them, just like the crater of a furnace. They succeeded in getting out a few articles of clothing and then Mr. McKelvey climbed down over the porch roof, got a ladder and rescued his wife, by that time people began to come on the scene. They smashed in the parlor window, and got the fire getting three large chairs and the parlor carpet out before they were driven out by the heat. Besides these articles nothing was saved, but some clothing and those things which happened to be in their bedroom. The parsonage is located at the outskirts of the town, that is why more people were not there to aid, and not there sooner. Many of us did not even know of it until after it was all over. Had it been nearer the centre of town no doubt more would have been saved, and perhaps the building. This is the worst fire we have had for several years. We are told that the trustees of the United Brethren church have about \$1000 insurance on the house and what furniture they owned, and that Rev. McKelvey had \$500 on his furniture. This will partly cover the damage—but it never can replace things that were just as they were in before the fire. It was a terribly hot fire. The kitchen range melted and parts of it ran like molten lead. It is not known what the trustees will do concerning the erecting of a new house on the same site.

A LIVELY HEARING.

Burdine Butler and P. B. Swartz Before Justice Brown.

Chief Justice Henry Brown of the South Ward, Bellefonte, had a very interesting session of court yesterday that furnished considerable amusement. From the number of people in attendance from the lower portion of the Baldeagle one would imagine that that end of the county was largely interested financially in the proceedings.

The principals in the case were Colonel Burdine Butler and Captain P. B. Swartz, of Howard township. The charge against Swartz was not of a trifling character, for a real "rogery" and false pretence, which is enough to make any man sweat. The story is a brief one. Some time ago the personal property of Mollie Miller was sold at sheriff's sale and the same was purchased by John Nestlerode. He held the same at public sale, with Major Hayes Schneck on the block, and the sale lasted for two days and Hayes' wind never flinched.

Col. Butler attended the sale and, knowing a bargain when it comes before him, bid in possibly two dozen articles. The bill of sale was left in charge of P. B. Swartz, and when the Col. came to settle he insisted that Swartz has raised the price on a lot of the articles, and he refused payment. Nestlerode's suit against Butler for the amount, and in Butler's failure to attend got judgment for the amount. In order to have some recourse, Butler had Swartz arrested for forgery and false pretence on the hearing. The first session took place in the justice's office in the forenoon, and in the afternoon was adjourned to the Arbitration room where a large crowd assembled. Cement Dale represented Swartz, while Butler knew enough law to plead his own case. There was a large number of witnesses and in the procedure there was considerable confusion as Butler practiced under the Bald Eagle code which conflicted with the rules of Justice Brown's court.

There was a brilliant exchange of compliments that evoked much amusement. Another difficult point to clear up was just as to who was back of the straw stack.

After the testimony was cleared up the justice rendered a verdict of not guilty for want of sufficient evidence, but Col. Butler insisted that Swartz be bound over for court, and grew eloquent in his demands. Swartz was discharged, and the county will have to pay the costs. Swartz had an attorney's fee to pay while Butler was able to do the work for himself.

Found Dead Baby.

Several small Lewistown boys made a ghastly discovery Saturday afternoon while strolling along the banks of the Juniata river on South Main street. The discovery was that of a tiny little babe placed in a box which had been placed into the river and floated to the water's edge by the rise in the river after the heavy rains.

Group Six, of the Pennsylvania Bankers association, will meet in session on Wednesday, February 22nd.

DEMONSTRATIONS IN CENTRE CO. ORCHARDS

WILL COVER A WIDE SCOPE OF TERRITORY.

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES BEST

No More Going to the Everglades or Western Prairies—Golden Opportunities at Home—Large Money in Good Orchards.

On account of the increased demand for place on the Supervision Model Orchard list of this county, and in general throughout the state, it was found necessary to push the work through the winter months in order to render the service. A one day meeting will be held in each of the following named orchards here given, where it is proposed to give demonstrations in the preparation of the "Concentrated Lime-Sulphur Spray" and its application, the pruning of fruit trees of various kinds and ages, and in general the modern methods of orchard culture. Every one is cordially invited to attend.

D. B. Lowder, Oak Hill, Feb. 15.
Lew Hampton, near Fillmore, Feb. 16.
J. Elmer Clark, near Waddles, Feb. 17th.
Col. W. Fred Reynolds, Bellefonte, Feb. 18th.
S. W. Smith, Centre Hall, Feb. 20th.
W. F. Bradford, Centre Hall, Feb. 21st.
W. K. Corl, State College, Feb. 22nd.
Mrs. G. W. Lonberger, Pleasant Gap, Feb. 23rd.
John N. White, Bellefonte, Feb. 24th.
Geo. Durner, Zion, Feb. 27th.
S. P. Hockman, Hecla Park, Feb. 28th.
W. R. Gardner, Howard, March 1st.
E. B. Way, Stormstown, March 2nd.
H. H. Laird, Port Matilda, March 3rd.
John Elmer Miller, Madisonburg, March 6th.
Benj. Limbert, Madisonburg, March 7th.
John S. Dale, Dale Summit, March 8th.

These meetings will be held rain or shine and will be in charge of the orchard inspector of this district, T. C. Foster, who will be pleased to give any information desired along the line of orchard care and how to grow better fruit.

A Special Plea.

The Centre Democrat is satisfied that here are "Acres of Diamonds" in store, right here in Centre county, for our farmers, if they will only go after them. Millions are being made by the progressive people on the steep slopes in the line of fruit culture, where they raise the most magnificent apples, peaches, pears, etc., ever seen and for which they receive extravagant prices. At the same time it is known that the apples from Oregon and the Washington state, the finest in appearance, are no comparison to the Pennsylvania soil and climate. They raise apples looking fruit in that country, because they give much study and attention to their orchards, and the entire community is banded together to destroy the insects and other pests. We believe that there is not another state in the union that produces the highly flavored apples like are found in Pennsylvania. Our peculiar soil and climate seem specially adapted for this purpose and, strange to say, few have taken advantage of the golden opportunities right here in Centre county. When scores of our best farmers are moving to the South and the West in the hope of finding riches in some uncertain eldorado, where real estate speculators paint the opportunities in glowing colors, and fascinate them, we believe that these same people could have done much better had they stayed right here in good Old Centre County and given some intelligent thought and effort to the question of fruit culture, and especially that of the apple. There are parties now in the Bald Eagle valley who are reaping rich rewards from the apple trees they have planted and cultivated on the hillsides and slopes of the Allegheny mountains, and on land that is commonly regarded as a waste and only fit for grazing.

We urge our farmers to give this matter of apple culture serious thought. They can secure much valuable information from the State and National Bureaus of Agriculture by asking for pamphlets dealing with these crops. In frequent issues the Saturday Evening Post has told its readers of the large fortunes that have been made here in the East by those who have given their attention to the culture of the peach, the apple and other similar fruits. Col. Reynolds has demonstrated that peaches can be grown in this climate to a great profit if the orchards are given attention to rid them of the insects and other pests. Following the experience he has had with the peach crop, he now is going another step further and will have an extensive apple orchard, a crop of equal value and one that will ripen later in the season and give steady employment after the peach harvest is over.

Another instance we may cite is the organization of a company that will start a large apple orchard on Nittany Mountain, west of Bellefonte, a short distance. Too many can not engage in this line, as there is an unlimited market for apples, and the supply never was equal for the demand. The more people in Centre County who engage in the apple culture the better will be the market for choice Centre County apples that could be made famous. Then our Centre County farmers and fruit raisers could go together, like they do in the West, form an association to secure better shipping facilities and to market the product to the best advantage of all. The same thing is done in other states in the culture of fruit and it can be done here if our people just get together and awaken an interest. The more good orchards there are in Centre County the better it will be for all, as in that way the county can develop a reputation for fine fruit and of exceptional flavor, that will command a high market price and the commission.

(Continued on 4th page, 4th col.)

Lewis and Connelly

TWO FAMOUS ROBBERS WHO APPEARED THROUGHOUT CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA ALMOST A FULL CENTURY AGO

Lewis' Complete Confession and Autobiography

This week we give the fifth installment of the confession of Lewis the Robber and Counterfeiter, as made by him while a prisoner in the Centre County jail where he died in 1820 from wounds received while attempting to elude arrest. In the preceding chapters were given that part of his early history in New York, Princeton, Philadelphia, and his escapades in various parts of the Cumberland valley where he was associated with a band of counterfeiters and robbers and was connected with many thrilling escapades that landed him in jail, and from which he invariably made good his escape every time.

The confession of Lewis will be more interesting to our readers in the succeeding chapters for the reason that the story brings him back to Centre county where he is connected with some notorious robberies in the Seven Mountains. Then follows his unsuccessful effort to escape, resulting in Connelly being shot and killed, and himself wounded from which he died in the Centre County jail later.

LEWIS' CONFESSION.

(Continued from last issue.)

Planning Escape From Jail.

After remaining in Bedford jail for some time, and finding the usage not such as should be given to prisoners in our condition, I determined to escape and accordingly put the convicts and prisoners who were confined with me on a plan to escape. We succeeded to my full expectation. We let out all the prisoners that would go, except an ordinary fellow, that had robbed a poor widow, and who, I was determined, should be left behind in the room, we heard some of the neighbors, who we had locked up in the same apartment lately occupied by us.

Connelly and myself proceeded along the mountains to Dublin Gap in Cumberland county, where we came across an old acquaintance, and remained there a few days, and then went to Petersburg in Adams county, where we procured some clothing and other necessities, having left Bedford in a very destitute condition. After we had refreshed our selves, and recovered from our fatigue, we crossed over to the Conewago hills in York county, and having committed several petty robberies and expeditions, we directed our course to East Pennsylvania, one of the most wealthy and populous German settlements in Cumberland county, with the view of robbing some of the rich farmers in that neighborhood.

It was here that I met a man, who had built a new mill and had gathered a good deal of money for that purpose, we lurked about in the vicinity for some time, but could not meet with a favorable opportunity to accomplish our end.

We next visited Kreitzer's tavern, and judging from the largeness of his barn, of the size of his purse, we expected to be more fortunate with him than we had at Reop's, but we were again disappointed. While in his barn, we heard some of the neighbors talk in the absence of Mr. Kreitzer of his not having one cent, for every dollar of his money was in the possession of Mr. Beshore, who was represented as having more ready money than all the rest of his neighbors put together. We immediately laid our plans for an attack on his house, and would certainly have succeeded, but for the presence of mind and bravery displayed by his wife, who blew a horn to alarm the neighborhood, displaying as much courage on the occasion as some men, and more resolution than any other woman I ever met with.

It was not long before a number of the neighbors came to her assistance, and Connelly snatching up a rifle which stood in the house made off, while I who for the first time in the last five years, being intoxicated to excess, was taken prisoner, and after being secured and fastened, some cowardly fellow came up and struck me in my defenceless condition. I was then taken to Carlisle jail, and put in a very strong room, out of which I saw

Taken Prisoner Again.

but little chance of escape, but to my great joy and satisfaction, soon heard that the Sheriff of Bedford county had come down to demand me. I was more pleased with the prospect of an exchange of prisons from the dislike I took to the jail, who seemed to be a very surly fellow, and always looked as if he begrudged the prisoners the common jail allowance. The sheriff was accompanied by a young man who I think was called Hendricks, very unlike another of the deputies, who assisted in bringing me from Mechanismburg to Carlisle, his name I cannot remember, though I shall not forget him, if I was to live a thousand years, as I was very forcibly struck with the contrast of character between the two men, for while the former was modest and reserved, and never pursued me with impertinent questions, the other was continually teasing me with various inquiries, which it did not become him to use to a person in my situation.

I soon discovered that his silly conduct proceeded from vanity, and that he had a great desire to make a display of his learning to me, for he was constantly pulling out of his pocket a

little book, which I took for a pocket dictionary, to find out the meaning of the high flowing words he made use of. During our travel I informed the sheriff that I had met him before at Millerstown on the Juniata, when Connelly proposed our robbing him, but as I concluded he could have little or no money about him. The fact is nothing would have pleased me better at the time, than to have robbed Ritner, as I had long heard the office holders of Carlisle represented to be a hungry, a voracious set of extortioners, whom no sense, justice or feeling of humanity could restrain from grinding the poor.

If there was any class or description of people whom I would sooner have robbed than any other it was those who held public offices, and under color of law had plundered the poor and cheated the widow and the orphan. Against such workers of iniquity, my mind had taken a set, and I was determined never to spare them on any occasion. It was not long, then, before I had made up my mind to do so, and I was determined never to spare them on any occasion. It was not long, then, before I had made up my mind to do so, and I was determined never to spare them on any occasion.

Denouncing Public Officials.

for which I felt a strong attachment, instead of committing a wrong, I conceived that I would render society a service by punishing those official marauders who infest the town, in visiting upon them the same degree of severity which they had visited upon others, and thus make the cruel feel the pain they gave. With this view I at one time proposed to my companions, that we should abandon our plan to rob the public officers, and instead of committing a wrong, I conceived that I would render society a service by punishing those official marauders who infest the town, in visiting upon them the same degree of severity which they had visited upon others, and thus make the cruel feel the pain they gave.

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It is but justice to Sheriff Bitner and Mr. Hendrick, to say, that in conducting me from Carlisle to Chambersburg they treated me as well as I could expect, particularly the latter. In the afternoon of the same day that I left Carlisle I was lodged in the jail at Chambersburg, where I was shortly after my confinement gratified with a private interview, during which we conversed freely on different subjects, not necessary now to mention, but any person will wrong his excellency, if he supposes the conversation relates to an office. He never promised me any such thing, nor did I ask one of him. His excellency did not remain with me longer than half an hour, and on leaving the room, he gave me an affectionate squeeze of the hand.

I did not remain long in confinement before I tricked Mr. Leader, who was confident I would not leave him. My escape was owing to the negligence of the jailor, who in his hurry to see a fight that was going on in the street forgot to lock the door of the

Another Escape From Jail.

last room of the convicts, contenting himself with bolting it, and fastening the wicket door, or rather window with the key that unlocked the other rooms, he omitted to return and secure the door in the usual way. During the day the prisoners had fixed a soaped string over the top of the door, and concealed it in a crack on the outside, and by means of a loop or slit knot, they succeeded in pulling out the key, the plan succeeding, they unlocked the door through the window, having thus got to the entry, and having the necessary key to open the door of the room in

(Continued on Page 2)

NO APPOINTMENT FOR POSTMASTER

TERM EXPIRES END OF THIS MONTH.

OBJECTS TO AN ELECTION

Would Not Suit Harter—Williams Approves the Idea—Rumors Gathered Among Politicians—Who Will Get the "Velvet?"

The public naturally has been looking for something to drop in the matter of the appointment of a postmaster for the Bellefonte office. The four-year term of the present postmaster expires about the 23rd of this month and, as the time is close at hand, the suspense is naturally arousing the curiosity of the statesmen who engineer such things. Several weeks ago general rumor was afloat in the town that Samuel Williams had received the endorsement of Congressman Barclay, and that Congressman elect Patton of Clearfield has made the same recommendation; and that the papers were in the hands of the President and would go before the Senate for confirmation almost any day, but were delayed only in awaiting their turn for the President's consideration. For some reason the bottom seems to have fallen out of that little story, and up to this time there appears to be nothing doing, as far as the outside world knows.

Last Friday another sensation was sprung. Some of our people noticed that postmaster Harter was in perturbed frame of mind as he hastily made tracks to catch the first train to Philadelphia, where it is presumed he sought to catch the ear of Senator Penrose to tell him his tale of woe; how his editorials had saved the Republican party in Centre County from frequent disasters. Of course this was only a surmise of the gossips, some of whom even intimated that he also took with him a copy of his "little German book" with which he expected to win the good graces of the Senator.

The same day there was a rumor on the streets to the effect that Mr. Williams had just received a letter from Congressman Patton to the effect that he preferred the selection of a Postmaster for Bellefonte to be left to a popular vote, and asked whether Mr. Williams would assent to such a course. This met with Mr. Williams' approval and he at once notified Mr. Patton that he favored the suggestion and would abide by such a proposition. Mr. Patton stated in his letter that he had made a similar proposition the same day to Mr. Harter. Up to this time no one has stated that Mr. Harter was in sympathy with a popular vote for the choice of postmaster of Bellefonte. "We have diligently inquired from various sources in vain to find that Mr. Harter has assented to it, and his hasty trip to Philadelphia leaves the impression abroad that he would turn heaven and earth to avoid such a test. As our wireless connections with the Gazette Office have been interrupted for some time, it was useless for us to attempt to get in communication with Mr. Harter, or even to secure an interview from him on this important issue, that interests so many of our people at this time. Some even intimate that he has been counting the bricks in the newly laid pavement more the past few days than ever, and whether it comes from an uneasy state of mind, or that he is concocting some new trick to throw Samuel Williams over his hip, we leave to the public to judge. Back on the outside of the fence and with no finger in the game, we only can give what is current rumor in the town.

Harter objects to a popular election as he claims the democrats would defeat him because he opposes them in his paper. He objects to a vote confined to the members of his party for reasons apparent to him. He knows what would happen, therefore we don't blame him for objecting.

We are told that Congressman Patton is ill at his home in Clearfield, as an explanation for the delay. This is causing some of the prominent politicians of the town to swear in seven different languages and they intimate that his backbone, also, is similar to the iron bar of a safe. Harter, he has no nerve, and falls to keep good faith with his friends. As we are not in the game, we do not know how true the charge may be.

FLIMFLAMED BY STRANGER

Filmore Craig, of Julian, the Victim of a Bogus Health Officer.

On last Wednesday a stranger appeared at the home of Fillmore Craig, near Julian, and at once made himself known as an employee of the State Board of Health. He gave his name as H. B. Hunt, and his address as 108 N. State street, Harrisburg. Mr. Craig's mother, who makes her home with him, has been in ill health for some time, and the doctor (?) offered to give her treatment, for which Mr. Craig was to give him the sum of \$3. Naturally the Craig family were glad to secure the services of so distinguished a physician as would be employed by the State, and consented to him leaving medicine for the patient, for which Mr. Craig paid him \$3, by check.

After securing the check the doctor left saying he did not know whether he would return or not. Mr. Craig, after thinking the matter over, came to the conclusion that everything about the transaction was not right. He decided to communicate with the State Department of Health at Harrisburg, consequently wrote a letter to Samuel G. Dixon for information in regard to the stranger. Mr. Dixon's reply was to this effect: "The name of the man you mention as H. B. Hunt in their employ, and they were in doubt as to whether there was any place as 808 State street in Harrisburg."

Unanimous for His Return.

Rev. Dr. W. F. Shriner has been unanimously requested by the official board of Trinity Methodist church of Lock Haven to return as pastor for another year. The Central, Pennsylvania Methodist conference meets in Bloomsburg next month.

NO MORE POISON IN MAKING MATCHES

THE BELLEFONTE MATCH COMPANY ADOPTS NEW METHOD.

VALUABLE PATENT GIVEN UP

A Substitute for White Phosphorus—No More Necrosis of Teeth—Poisonous Method to Be Stopped—Caused Many Deaths.

On January 28th, 1911, there was recorded in the United States Patent Office a remarkable instrument. This was the formal, legal relinquishment by the Diamond Match Company of its rights under Letters Patent No. 614,350, granted November 15th, 1898, to Henri Sevens and Emil David Cahen, of Paris, France, for an "Improvement in Match Compositions." This action by the Diamond Match Company was the outcome of a series of events which were of international importance. The deleterious effects of the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches has long been the subject of serious investigation, with the result that in European countries the use of this poisonous substance, except in combination with counteracting agents, is regulated by law. It is well known that white phosphorus causes necrosis of the jawbone and teeth, and the principal sufferers therefrom have been those employed in the manufacture of the common parlor match.

The Bureau of Labor at Washington, Charles P. Neill, Director, has conducted a series of experiments, covering an investigation of match factories in the United States, and the conclusions reached were so overwhelmingly against the existing process of match manufacture, through the use of white phosphorus that it led to a recommendation by the President in a message to Congress, looking to the attaching of a heavy tax on those factories using the phosphorus in this form.

The result of such legislation would, of course, compel the manufacturers to devise a suitable substitute for white phosphorus, with the possibility of being charged high royalties for the use of processes already controlled. The suggestion for legislation was looked upon with disfavor among some members of Congress, who considered it an abuse of the tax privilege, and also saw in its operation the possible building up of a huge monopoly on the part of those who controlled patented processes of substitutes for white phosphorus.

The Seven-Cahen patent covered a nonpoisonous sesqui-sulphide of phosphorus, one of the few known adequate substitutes for white phosphorus. The Diamond Match Company was the sole owner of this patent, and the company was thus in a position, if prohibitive legislation were enacted against white phosphorus, of controlling the match output of the country, or else of being able to collect large royalties for the use of the Sevens-Cahen process.

Earlier than he peed in the position of being a beneficiary of legislation that was needed for humanitarian reasons, the Diamond Match Company has abandoned its right to the sesqui-sulphide process and has dedicated the invention described in the patent to the people of the United States forever.

The effect that this will have on the match industry of the United States is far-reaching. It will enable every match manufacturer in the country to operate without the hindrance of the health of his employees or putting up on the market a substance well known to be poisonous and disease-spreading.

The Sevens-Cahen substitute for white phosphorus, while being harmless to the workmen, possesses a definite chemical composition and is easily inflammable. This sesqui-sulphide of phosphorus is obtained in a state of purity by distillation. Described in the patent is as follows: Sesqui-sulphide of phosphorus, 90 grams; chloride of potash, 300 grams; peroxide of iron, 110 grams; zinc-white, 770 grams; powdered glass, 140 grams; glue, 100 grams; water, 250 grams. The advantage of this formula is claimed over the various preparations of mixed pastes for matches, such as a mixture of amorphous phosphorus and sulphur either in powder or the state of fusion, is due to the fact that the sesqui-sulphide of phosphorus is very stable, resists moisture, and can easily be utilized and manipulated industrially.

It is not known whether the action of the Diamond Match Company in thus freely giving to the people of the United States the use of this valuable formula will have the effect of rendering unnecessary the proposed legislation against the use of white phosphorus, but as the Sevens-Cahen process has been used with great success by the Diamond Match Company, it is the only non-deleterious substitute that is commercially practical, there appears to be no good reason why the other manufacturers of matches in the United States shall not now use the harmless process, thus doing away altogether with the use of white phosphorus.

The legality of the document signed by the Trustees and the Diamond Match Company will hardly be questioned. While the patent has about five years to run it is assumed that the contract between the Diamond Match Company and the inventors has been fulfilled, or will continue to be fulfilled. Since the inventors are not recited in the instrument lately recorded in the Patent Office as being parties at interest, it can be reasonably deduced that their claims under the patent have already been satisfied.

There is apparently no "string" tied to this free will offering to the American public, and the Diamond Match Company by this act places itself in the position of a public benefactor. In these days of monopolies and trusts it is an unusual spectacle to find a large corporation relinquishing for the benefit of the public interests which it taken advantage of can be made to yield hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The above is from the Scientific

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