

WAS DARLING POISONED?

Sensational Charges Against Mrs. Francis Spranger.

DENIALS FROM WASHINGTON

The Stories in Regard to the Alleged Poisoning Are Compared to the Works of Rider Haggard--Effects of Mysterious Medicine.

New York, April 19.—The district attorney's office continued its investigation of the charges laid before it by Mrs. Flora Adams Darling, widow of yet known federal general, in which she avers that her son, Edward Irving Darling, who died at Mount Clemens, Mich., on Feb. 13, 1894, was poisoned. The investigation of the case is now practically completed, but what action the district attorney will take is not yet known.

John Quincy Adams, the brother of Mrs. Darling, and uncle of the dead man, had some further details of the story to make public this morning. "My sister and I know just what we are about in bringing these charges," he said. "We have submitted to the district attorney after which we consider the best proof of all is in some medicine which we have submitted to the district attorney. When young Darling was visiting my sister here in 1893 he brought some medicine with him. For a few days he stopped taking it, and immediately began to improve. My sister naturally thinking that the improvement was due to the medicine, innocently asked him at once to resume taking it. He did so one morning in her presence.

"Instantly he was seized with convulsions and came near dying then and there. He took no more of the medicine, but it was preserved, and is now, as I have said, in Colonel Fellow's hands.

"The way in which the poison was administered was in some whisky, which my nephew took several times each day."

Compared to Rider Haggard's Tales.

Washington, April 19.—An afternoon paper publishes the following card in reference to the charges Mrs. Flora Adams Darling has made against Mrs. Francis Xavier Spranger, of having poisoned her first husband, Edward I. Darling, a son of Mrs. Darling.

"The charges of Mrs. Flora Adams Darling, of New York, to the effect that her son, the late Edward I. Darling, who died in Michigan in January, 1894, was poisoned by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Spranger, who married his widow, merit with little credence here, where Darling and his wife lived for some time, not in very happy accord it appears, if the Washington friends of the Darlings are correct in their assertions. This sensation has reached an attorney and gives it more than ordinary interest owing to which United States District Attorney Birney, of this city, has addressed a letter to the Post, in which he says that he is in a position to state unqualifiedly that the charges made by Mrs. Flora Adams Darling are wicked to the extreme; prompted by the utmost hatred for her daughter-in-law, that hatred being caused by her defeated attempt to obtain part of the property which belongs to Mrs. Spranger and which came to her, not from her husband, who married her when she was a child of 17, but through her father's death."

Death from Tuberculosis.

When Darling died, as Mr. Birney states, his wife was in a smart from him and maintaining a suit for divorce. She had not seen him for months and his attending physicians certified that his death resulted from tuberculosis. District Attorney Birney further writes that upon the death of Darling his widow, hearing of the stories of his having been poisoned and acting under the advice of one of the most reputable attorneys of Detroit, sent two physicians, Dr. Byron R. Erkin and Dr. Joseph N. Croman, to his mother to request that a post mortem examination be made and it is shown that the autopsy was not allowed. Mr. Birney, in his correspondence, includes a letter from Dr. Erkin verifying the assertion made by him which is further indorsed by Dr. Croman, and Mr. Birney concludes his communication as follows: "After the death of Mr. Edward I. Darling, which occurred in February, 1894, his mother endeavored to force her daughter-in-law, through threats of these charges, to pay her money and discharge her debts, amounting to several thousand dollars. This she refused to do, having no love or affection for the woman who had, more than any other person, been the cause of her unhappiness with her first husband, and who had even gone so far as to endeavor to get her incarcerated in a lunatic asylum.

"My acquaintance with the present husband of the young lady has been brief, but from his reputation in Detroit, where he is known from his appearance and manner, he is beyond question an honorable and upright gentleman, of the best standing in his profession, who so young a man could attain, and utterly incapable of entertaining the idea of such a horrible crime as is here charged against him by the wicked woman, who seeks to blast the married life of this young pair."

Murders Released.

Harrisburg, April 19.—The pardons of Peter Kreskman, Philadelphia, and John Bradford, Allegheny, both in prison for voluntary manslaughter, were ordered to issue by the governor today.

VERDICT AGAINST DURANT.

He is Charged with the Murder of Minnie Williams.

San Francisco, April 19.—The coroner's jury today charged Theodore Durant with murder in the first degree, the murder of Minnie Williams, one of the girls killed in Emanuel Baptist church.

Durant awoke this morning in a cheerful and even flippant frame of mind. He laughed and cracked jokes with the prison officials, to whom he has hitherto shown an intense reserve, and when Captain Douglas entered the prison for the purpose of escorting the prisoner to the inquest, Durant greeted him pleasantly and smiled as the handcuffs were snapped upon his wrists.

BIG CUSTOMS FRAUDS.

Government Said to Have Been Swindled Out of Thousands of Dollars by an Importing House.

New York, April 19.—One of the most startling stories of fraudulent evasion of customs duties which has developed in the port of New York for years, came to light today. It involves the name of one of the best known bric-a-brac dealers in the country and implicates possibly one or more customs employees who have until now enjoyed the unlimited confidence of the collector of the port, and the heads of the various departments.

The discovery of the frauds came from the former secretary, and more recently head salesman of the house of O. L. Sypher & Co., of Fifth avenue and Twenty-sixth street. The informant is L. H. Todd, who, while the concern was a corporation, acted as its secretary, but who for the last year or so, since the corporation dissolved, has been its head salesman. Todd was discharged in January last, it is said, for drunkenness. Two weeks ago he appeared at Collector Kilbreth's office and astounded that official with information so startling that he hardly credited the man's statements. These statements, however, have since been verified and the customs authorities have gathered indisputable evidence that Todd's statements are true, and that O. L. Sypher & Co., have profited to the extent of thousands of thousands of dollars during the last fifteen years, at the expense of the customs, and that with what looks like collusion of one or more customs employees.

Todd claims that for the last fifteen years Sypher has been importing into the port bric-a-brac, tapestry, antiques, artistic silver articles and relics at a rate of duty abnormally below their proper valuation, and cites numerous importations of artistic and valuable silver articles from Great Britain.

Sypher has made strenuous efforts to make light of the charges. He, it was learned today, had secured passage on an outgoing steamship, which sails tomorrow, but his counsel, ex-Judge Dittenhofer, prevailed upon him to stay here and face the matter. Ex-Judge Dittenhofer assured the collector that Sypher would be ready when called upon by the authorities to meet the charges.

The amount of money out of which the government has been swindled will run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

TWO WORKMEN KILLED.

Terrible Results from the Fall of a Derrick in a Chicago Ship Yard.

Chicago, April 19.—The lives of two workmen were instantly crushed out, and three others were fatally injured and one seriously hurt by the fall of a great derrick today in the yards of the South Chicago Ship Building company. Three others were hurt about the head and arms, but were able to walk to their homes.

The killed were: Harry Blake and Patrick Harvey; fatally injured, John Conly, J. J. Hand and William McCullon; seriously hurt, Michael Cusick.

The accident occurred on the deck of the big steel merchantman, Arcadia, which is being built for John Corrigan. The derrick was used for hoisting the steel beams and plates that were being placed in the hull of the vessel. One of the guy ropes broke, having been spliced yesterday, and the various parts of the hoisting apparatus gave way before the victims employed under and around the machinery could save themselves. Harvey and Blake, who were instantly killed, were together in a stooping position riveting plates and a 100-foot iron beam caught them as they rose. About thirty men were at work on the deck, which resembled that of a battleship after action.

Killed on a Trestle.

Sharon, Pa., April 19.—A catastrophe that cost two lives occurred today near here. Mrs. Ellen Hannah and Thomas Purdy, while crossing a trestle on the Erie and Pittsburgh branch of the Pennsylvania lines, were run down and instantly killed. They were well known residents of this place, and their ages were the same—54 years.

Murdered by His Comrade.

Zacatecas, Mex., April 19.—Thomas L. Laford, an American civil engineer, who has been in Mexico several months, was killed west of here a few miles by another American named Gordon, with whom he was making a prospecting trip. The killing occurred on Wednesday. Mr. Gordon escaped after robbing his victim of all the money and valuables he had.

Sixty Houses Burned.

Ardmore, I. T., April 19.—The main business portion of Ardmore, for six solid blocks on Caddo street, north and south of Main street, were destroyed by fire this morning. Sixty business houses were entirely destroyed. The loss will aggregate \$500,000.

CONDENSED STATE TOPICS.

On the road near Wrightsville Joseph Blotter shot himself to death Wednesday night.

The international convention of the Young Women's Christian association is in session at Pittsburg.

The last of five prisoners who escaped from Smithport jail, Fred Mayle, has been captured near Olean, N. Y.

Quick consumption is the ailment that has brought Assemblyman M. B. Lemon, of Allegheny, to his death in New York city.

The three buildings at Spring Grove composing the Spring Grove Farm works, at York, owned by Glatfelter & Agent, were burned yesterday. Loss, \$100,000.

The loom hands of the silk mill of John N. Stearns & Co., Philadelphia, were granted an advance in wages yesterday of one cent per yard. About 400 women operatives will be benefited by the advance.

STATE OF OUR FINANCES

Treasurer Jackson Submits a Report at Request of House.

THE GREATER PITTSBURG BILL

It Will Come Up for Final Reading on Wednesday—Special Orders Granted—Discussion Aroused by the Smith Bill

Harrisburg, Pa., April 19.—The house met at 9 o'clock. State Treasurer Jackson submitted a statement in response to a resolution from the house, showing balance in the treasury March 31, 1895. Treasurer Jackson reports the following balance in the treasury March 31, 1895, less advances made to the legislature, \$3,284,395; the amount still due on account of appropriations, \$0, 1895, and which include the common school appropriation balance for 1895 of \$5,500,000, amount to \$7,370,321. In this total sum there are appropriations to five charitable associations and to the soldiers' orphans' industrial schools, of which no part has been drawn from the treasury, amounting to \$103,500. The estimate of the ordinary revenue of the state for the current year, ending Nov. 30, 1895, amounts to \$9,825,100. From this is to be deducted \$989,371, transferred to the sinking fund, leaving an estimated revenue of \$8,835,729; a total for the two years amounting to \$18,671,428. In reply to the fourth question, as to the probable amount of revenue which would be derived during each of the next two years from a tax of 15 cents per barrel on malt liquors brewed in the state, State Treasurer Jackson says: "I desire to say I am not prepared to give a definite answer to that question, but I believe that the number of barrels brewed in Pennsylvania annually could probably be had from the internal revenue department of the general government."

Special Orders Granted.

Mr. Culbertson, of Allegheny, offered a resolution making the "Greater Pittsburg" bill a special order for second reading next Tuesday and final passage on Wednesday. It was agreed to.

Other special orders were granted as follows: Increasing the salary of the adjutant general from \$3,500 to \$5,000. The senate bill providing that school boards shall not be changed more than once in five years; providing for the taxation of aliens.

The Smith bill, providing a new method for the distribution of the state school fund, caused a great deal of discussion when an effort was made to secure a special order for it. It was vigorously opposed by the members from the larger cities, and in order to prevent advancing this bill an attempt was made to stop it by special orders, but the roll call resulted in a special order being granted to the Smith bill.

Mr. Rees, of Luzerne, offered a resolution, which was adopted, providing for the appointment of a joint committee of six to wait upon the various coal communities for the purpose of expressing the feelings and desires of the members of the house on the subject of the desire of the house to co-operate in any measure intended to promote the welfare of a most needy and deserving people. The committee must report not later than May 16.

OIL CRAZE SUBSIDING.

Excitement Dying Out from a Speculative Point of View—The Standard in Control.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 19.—The Standard again, this morning, gave those interested in oil something to guess on. For the first time since the Standard has been fixing the amount it would pay for crude oil, the price was set back this morning from the previous day's figures. Yesterday 200 was paid for Pennsylvania oil, and it is estimated that nearly \$1,800,000 was paid producers during the day at that figure. At 10 o'clock this morning 240 was posted at the purchasing agencies at the price for today. This was a drop of 20 cents, and those who did not sell their product yesterday have, for the moment at least, cause to feel a little put out at not getting their stuff in at the top figure.

The drop of 20 cents by the Standard was felt on the exchange. The opening quotation from Oil City was 240, which was posted on the local board. The market was bid up to 242 and then took a big drop, being offered down as low as 220. A reaction to 225 followed, and the market remained at this figure until nearly 1 o'clock, when it was bid. At Oil City probably 20,000 barrels changed hands at different prices between the high and low figures. For cash oil 225 was paid for a lot of 28,000 barrels. In this city a few scattering sales were made.

Brokers appear to be satisfied that there is no hope for a revival in speculation. It has been clearly shown to them that Standard, having the big end of outstanding certificates, will make a market to suit itself and pay no attention to existing prices. The excitement is dying out from a speculative point of view. At times during the exciting hours this afternoon there was not a single broker on the second floor, and only one or two spectators. It is pretty generally believed, however, that the present prices being paid by the Standard will not go much lower and may go higher any day.

Demand Restoration of Prices.

Dubois, Pa., April 19.—Over forty delegates, representing northern and central Pennsylvania miners, met here today and resolved to demand a restoration of the prices in all classes of work which prevailed previous to the last reduction. The demand will be presented to operators by the various delegates, and an answer is requested on or before April 27.

Fire at Williamsport.

Williamsport, Pa., April 19.—The plant of the Williamsport Table works was totally destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning. The loss is estimated at from \$10,000 to \$12,000, partially covered by insurance. Opinions are diverse as to the origin of the fire.

Damages for Miss Walker.

Philadelphia, April 19.—A jury in the common pleas court today awarded Miss Walker \$25,500 damages against the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad company for injuries received in a collision at the South street crossing in this city on Feb. 2, 1895.

JUSTIFY THE MURDER.

Crumpacker Shot at the Man, but Killed His Wife.

Spokane, Wash., April 19.—At Patacha City Wednesday evening David Crumpacker, a butcher, shot his wife and a man named Eben Johnson. Mrs. Crumpacker and Johnson were standing near the door, and Crumpacker intended to kill Johnson, who had been the despoiler of his home. Crumpacker had warned Johnson to keep away from his house.

Wednesday evening when he saw Johnson there Crumpacker procured a shotgun, and as he took aim the woman moved and one buckshot struck her in the right breast and passed through and went out at the back. Johnson received one shot through the hand, and Crumpacker fired the other barrel, but in the darkness Johnson escaped. Mrs. Crumpacker died today. No attempt has been made to arrest Crumpacker, who has the sympathy of the community.

NEW OIL WELLS IN OHIO.

One at Bluffton Said to Open Up an Extensive Field.

Lima, O., April 19.—Oil was struck near Bluffton yesterday, and the well is flowing at the rate of 100 barrels a day. The well was regarded as a "wild cat," and it opens up an extensive new territory.

A special from Massillon says that oil was struck in Pike township, Stark county, today at a depth of 900 feet. Other wells will be put down at once, and the land is being rapidly leased.

NICARAGUA SITUATION.

It Will Be Absolutely Impossible for the Country to Comply with Great Britain's Demands.

Washington, April 19.—Official confirmation of London despatches that Nicaragua had been informed that her counter proposition was not regarded as satisfactory by Great Britain was received here today.

It is not doubted that in the end Nicaragua will pay the indemnity demanded, or offer to Great Britain in lieu of the \$75,000, a part of her territory. The report has reached here that Mr. Gosling, the British minister to Central America, declared in Guatemala, a few days ago, that "England especially wanted some interest in Nicaragua, with view to preventing the Yankees from controlling absolutely the Nicaragua canal."

This statement, it is said, was made publicly and without reserve. The particular patch of territory most available for this purpose would be the so-called "Corn Islands."

These islands are situated in the Atlantic Ocean, about forty miles from Greytown. They would be of great value to Great Britain for a coaling and naval station, and an effective British control over the Nicaragua canal. It is said to be absolutely impossible for Nicaragua to immediately comply with Great Britain's money demand, as she has not \$75,000 in her treasury.

The proposition of a "Pacific blockade" of Nicaragua ports to enforce payment is quietly laughed at. "Nicaragua," it is said, "has no ships, the blockade would only hurt the commerce of Germany, France and other countries as well as the United States."

There are those who suggest that if Nicaragua should propose to cede the Corn Islands to Great Britain as an equivalent for the "dam money" the immediate payment of which is demanded, this proposal might be regarded as a shrewd move to force the hand of the United States. Nicaragua is not suffering for lack of diplomatic adroitness in her representatives, either abroad or at home.

WILDE AND TAYLOR HELD.

Committed for Trial at Criminal Court Without Bail.

London, April 19.—Oscar Wilde and Alfred Taylor were arraigned in the Bow street police court at noon today for further examination. Wilde looked greatly fatigued and really ill. Several witnesses were called to the stand and gave damaging testimony against the accused.

At the conclusion of the examination Wilde and Taylor were fully committed for trial in the Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey. Applications were made for bail, but it was refused. Wilde, in reply to the question whether he had anything to say, said: "Not at present."

Counsel for Wilde announces his intention to apply to the court of queen's bench for the admission of his client to bail on the ground that the admission to bail of the accused is charged with or indicted for a misdemeanor is compulsory under the statute law.

RECEIPTS FROM TAX.

Commissioner Miller Expects Fifteen Million from Tax Law.

Washington, April 19.—Commissioner Miller, of the internal revenue bureau, gave to Secretary Carlisle his official estimate of the returns under the income tax law. The commissioner says: "Telegraphic advices received from the collectors of the several internal revenue districts indicate that the aggregate amount of income tax shown by the returns which were filed before the 16th inst., will be about \$14,365,000. Delayed returns and corrections, it is believed, will considerably increase this amount. The total expenditures on account of the work, including the necessary salaries and allowances, to the end of the present fiscal year will not exceed \$135,000."

Cuban Rebellion Spreading.

Madrid, April 19.—Despatches from Havana inform the government that the rebellion in Cuba is spreading, but the insurgents are badly armed and equipped. The despatches say that if the uprising spreads further General Martinez Campos will ask for reinforcements.

TELEGRAPHIC TICKETS.

Under the crazy impression that enemies were after him, J. Henry Doyle, a Chicago inventor, shot himself.

Dr. J. P. Wall, of Tampa, Fla., dropped dead while reading a paper before the State Medical association.

As a last hope, the counsel of Dr. Buchanan, the New York wife murderer, will appeal to Governor Morton for clemency.

Judge McDonnell, president of the Trocadero club, of Chicago, a silverite, has resigned because of his views on the currency.

READING IS STILL DEFIANT

The Tail Evinces a Disposition to Wag the Anthracite Dog.

WANTS 21 PER CENT OF OUTPUT

Officials of the Tempest-Tossed Board Will Not Recede from Original Demands—Individual Operators Combine for Protection.

Philadelphia, April 19.—The report that the Reading would recede from its demand for 21 per cent. of the coal output and a settlement of the dispute between the anthracite coal carrying companies would follow, is apparently without foundation, and from a statement made by President Harris today, peace is further off than ever. Mr. Harris was at his office today for the first time for several days after an illness that has confined him to the house, and in answer to the question of Reading receding from the position, he said that his company would adhere to its demands of 21 per cent. of the output. The strongest statement of the Reading's unalterable decision was made by one of Mr. Harris' fellow receivers.

This gentleman said: "You can have no uneasiness about the Reading receding from its demand for 21 per cent. of the output. Reading has been pushed down and down, and if necessary we will all go over the precipice together. We will get that 21 per cent., and the other companies can divide the remaining 79 per cent. among themselves if they please. We will adhere to our demands if it takes three years for us to have them granted. It is better to finance and reorganize the company under existing conditions than to make concessions and reorganize upon such a basis which at best can be but temporary and which would in a short time again confront the company with insolvency. Better lose the money now than a greater amount later on."

While the war is being waged between the anthracite companies rate cutting goes merrily on. Upon the authority of a Lehigh operator it is stated that the Lehigh Valley company is selling stove coal in Philadelphia at 175 per ton at the mines, a cut of 65 cents from open circular rates.

Operators Banding Together.

The individual operators of the Lehigh region are banding together for mutual protection and against this rate cutting of the great anthracite companies. They are endeavoring to make arrangements with several of the companies to haul their coal upon the same basis as the Lehigh Valley does now.

The individual operators claim that it is unfair in the Lehigh Valley railroad to offer rates in the open market that compels them to load cars at a mine at the loss of 40 cents a ton. A gentleman in iron and steel the situation is rather disappointing, although the output continues large, as the demand for finished products does not seem to increase. Structural forms are in large demand, but sales of wire are about 30 per cent. less than last year, and in other branches there is no perceptible gain.

Labor troubles are comparatively less serious this week, and the tendency is toward larger returns for labor, which will increase the consuming power for other products. The cotton mills are encouraged by improving prices and are fairly busy.

Stocks have also been stronger, the average rising being about \$1.41 per share in spite of comparatively poor earnings. The hopeful outlook for the principal crops gives more encouragement and also the increase in distribution of merchandise. The volume of business represented by exchanges through the principal clearing houses is only 32 larger than last year for the week and 245 per cent. less than in 1893.

Money markets are comparatively dull, and the accumulation from the interior continues, although there is no material increase in the commercial demand. Foreign trade shows a heavy balance due abroad, and gold would undoubtedly go in large amounts but for the negotiation of bonds by the syndicates.

Failures during the past week have been 24 in the United States against 29 last year, and 24 in Canada against 45 last year.

MURDER AT YATESVILLE.

John Sartin Fatally Shot by an Unknown Assassin—The Foreign Element Suspected.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., April 19.—The mining village of Yatesville was thrown into a state of excitement last night when it became known that John Sartin, a popular young man of that place, had been fatally shot.

He, in company with Miss McDermott, left the house of Thomas Fleming, in Brownstown, and walked toward Pittston. On the way down they sat along side of the roadway with their backs toward the road. Sartin was accompanied by a small dog, who barked at somebody who passed by. Some person fired a shot, which struck young Sartin about two inches from the base of the skull and penetrating the brain about four inches. He fell prostrate to the ground and was later removed to his home, unconscious.

Sartin died about noon today. There is no suspicion as to who the person is that did the shooting. Miss McDermott's account of the affair is substantially as follows: "We had left Flemings, and were walking along the road, when we heard the Brownstown drum corps out playing and sat down on the log to listen to them. After a while a Hungarian came along toward Yatesville carrying a lantern in one hand, as the night was very dark, and a pair of beer in the other. Every few steps he would stop and take a drink of beer, and we were laughing at him, when our dog, which was quite a distance away from the log, growled at some one approaching. Our backs were toward the road, and neither of us turned to see who it was. The stranger was within three yards of us, and just opposite me, (the log lay diagonally along the road) when he fired. Sartin shrieked and fell back, and the stranger skulked away in the darkness. He had to pass the Hungarian, who was ahead of him on the road."

It was learned today that Sartin had an encounter with a gang of Italians, near Sandy McDowell's, about a year ago, when one of the foreigners shot at him, the ball just grazing his head.

The log on which the couple sat was quite high, resting on broken limbs, so that it would be next to impossible for a person shooting at a small dog, probably ten feet away, to hit Sartin in the head, as his head was nearly if not as high sitting, as if he were standing.

MRS. PARNELL ASSAULTED.

Attacked by Highwaymen Who Secure Her Cash.

Bordentown, N. J., April 19.—At 8:30 o'clock last night Mrs. Della T. S. Parnell, mother of the late Charles Stewart Parnell, was murderously assaulted by highwaymen, who robbed her of a suitcase and a small sum of money.

Mrs. Parnell was in a highly hysterical state when help reached her, in answer to her screams, and was so wrought up by the assault that she became unconscious.

Mrs. Parnell, who is nearly 80 years old, had walked from her residence to Bordentown, a distance of one mile, to get a small check cashed. Her movements were watched by the highwaymen, who saw her receive the money. The men followed her until she had reached a lonely spot near the entrance to her home, which is situated outside the city limits, and there attacked her. Dr. Shipp's said at 5 o'clock this afternoon that his patient's skull is not fractured and that her condition is much improved. She had regained consciousness.

TRADE IMPROVING.

Dun's Weekly Review Indicates That Good Times Are Apparently at Hand.

New York, April 19.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade tomorrow will say:

In every speculative department business is growing, but this is really the least satisfactory feature of the situation. Cotton, oil and wheat climb above the export price, so that the marketing of products abroad must be checked and money is absorbed which ought to be employed in productive industry and in distribution of products to consumers. Everybody knows that oil has not risen 200 per cent. because it is intrinsically more valuable, nor is wheat actually worth more than it was two or three weeks ago, but the expansive and uplifting force has unfortunately taken to speculation rather than to production, and so we have higher prices in all speculative markets without a larger demand for consumption.

Outside of speculative markets, the most important feature is the rise in the price of beef, but which is largely due to the control of sources of supply by a few strong corporations. There ought to be, but apparently is not, sufficient power in the hands of the government to meet any such conspiracy against the public, and the proposal of Secretary Morton to admit Mexican cattle and cattle from Canada on easy terms for the benefit of consumers is heartily commended, though it is not likely to have much influence.

In iron and steel the situation is rather disappointing, although the output continues large, as the demand for finished products does not seem to increase. Structural forms are in large demand, but sales of wire are about 30 per cent. less than last year, and in other branches there is no perceptible gain.

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LEE GUM CONVICTED.

Verdict of Murder in the First Degree Against a Chinaman.

Philadelphia, April 19.—For the first time in the criminal courts of Philadelphia, a Chinaman was today convicted of murder in the first degree. After a trial lasting several days Lee Gum You, a laundryman, was this afternoon convicted of the murder of Lee Hong Quong, a Chinese merchant and the "mayor of Chinatown," on November 25 last.

Lee Gum was a debtor of Lee Hong, and the latter was unable to obtain the money due him, and the laundryman shot and killed the merchant in the latter's store during a quarrel over the debt. The defense of the accused man was that he had been hounded by his victim and driven to desperation by his astute demands, and that he killed Lee Hong in self-defense while the latter was attacking him with a knife. There was no evidence to bear out the statement, and from the testimony the murder was coolly and premeditatedly carried out. An appeal will be taken to the supreme court of the state.

FOOLISH BOY'S ACT.

Placed Obstructions on a Railroad Track.

Williamsport, Pa., April 19.—The foolish desire of a boy to hear the whistle of a locomotive might have cost a number of lives yesterday on the Beech Creek railroad near Gilettown. The crew of a switching engine found the track obstructed with stones and railroad ties. The obstruction was at a sharp curve on the edge of a fifteen foot embankment, and a passenger train was due a short time after the discovery of the attempted wrecking was made.

Preston Watson, a half-grown boy, was arrested today and confessed he obstructed the track so that he could "hear the engine screech." Watson was committed to jail without bail.

Wilkes-Barre Chopping Block.

Boston, April 19.—A 15-round contest between Kid McCoy, of Memphis, and Jack Wilkes, of St. Louis, was the principal event of the night at the Suffolk Athletic club here tonight. The bout was stopped in the middle of the second round, as it was becoming brutal. Wilkes being a mere chopping block for McCoy.

Wilkes-Barre Dances Celebrate.

Wilkes-Barre, April 19.—The one hundred and twentieth anniversary of the Battle of Lexington was observed here today. The Daughters of the American Revolution took an active part in the exercises. Dr. Warfield, president of Lafayette college, Easton, delivered an address.