

RAIN HELPS HALT THE FOREST FIRES

The State Reservation at Caledonia Suffers Heavily in the Sweep of the Flames

MEN FLEE TO SAVE LIVES

Officials of Forestry Department Say That If Precipitation Was General Throughout the State the Worst of the Work of Devastation Is Ended

The rain of last night and early this morning did a great deal toward checking forest fires that have been raging in the Cumberland Valley, according to information received this forenoon at the office of the State Forestry Commission in this city. It was stated at the offices of the Commission that if the rainfall was general throughout the State the greatest danger from such fires has probably passed. The Commission, however, declares that it is keeping a strict watch to prevent renewed outbreaks.

Forest fire fighters in the Susquehanna valley were aided by the rain which was general in this valley, according to reports coming to the local office of the Weather Bureau. The rainfall averaged .15 of an inch in the valley. The heaviest precipitation was at Towanda where .28 of an inch fell. Harrisburg had .19. The weather will remain cloudy with a rise in temperature to-morrow.

The Forestry Commission to-day received reports of two serious forest fires in the oil region, one of which burned oil tanks and derricks, but the fire-fighting system is now reported to be pretty well organized in that section, and the fires are about subdued. Near Kane two derricks were burned and an oil tank went up in flames.

In South Mountain Region

In the South Mountain region the fire raged with awful effect. A big fire, started in the Cumberland Valley near Huntsdale, is believed by the State authorities to have been the work of incendiary. It burned up the side of the mountain, passed the crest and swept down the other side with awful force into the Hunter's run valley, taking a course towards Pine Grove, which fortunately it did not reach. So close did it get to Pine Grove, however, that it burned the bungalow of Dr. C. J. Huntz, of the State Health Department, just as he was preparing to take possession of it for the summer.

The woods surrounding the camp of the famous "Explorers" were burned, just on the edge of Pine Grove. Men started to fight the flames, but had not gone far when they were confronted by an immense volume of smoke that almost suffocated them. Then came the flames, at least twenty feet high. It was useless to endeavor to combat such a fire, and the fighters had all they could do to escape with their lives. "Back-firing" had no effect whatever and it had to be abandoned.

Caledonia Reservation Suffers

The Forestry Department force from the State forestry reserves started to fight the flames with the aid of volunteers, but could do very little. The department had the means to throw a line of patrolmen along the mountains, the fire, it is contended, would not have had such a spread.

Some of the State forestry reserves were burned over, but the greater part of the timber burned belonged to individuals. Neither the Pine Grove nor Mont Alto reservations suffered, but some of the Caledonia tract was devastated.

FLAMES SWEEP A TOWN IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY

(Special to the Star-Independent.)
Carlisle, Pa., April 23.—At 1 o'clock this morning, about the time that the forest fires in the South mountains, which had for the last three days been destroying thousands of acres of valuable timber land, were extinguished by the rain, a big fire broke out in Jacksonville, four miles from Newville, Cumberland county. The loss amounts to \$11,000.

Jacksonville, known also by the name of Greythorne, has no fire protection and the flames were fought entirely by bucket brigades. Water was drawn from the wells in the vicinity, which practically all went dry by the time the fire was extinguished. There is today a lack of water in the town.

The fire had its origin—how is unknown—in the big building which accommodated the store of Jacob Meebeth, the town hall and the hall of the Junior Order United American Mechanics. It entirely destroyed the building and its contents. Meebeth's store was valued at \$3,000 and was uninsured. The contents of the lodge hall included all the instruments and other equipment of the Jacksonville band, and the loss, apart from the store room, was \$5,000, partly covered by insurance.

Other Buildings Destroyed

The house and stable of Jacob Snok next caught fire and burned to the ground, involving a loss of \$2,000, partly covered by insurance. The sporting goods store of M. N. Fall, which was also completely destroyed, was valued at \$1,000 and was uninsured. The home of John Campbell was slightly damaged.

More than 400 men fought the flames during the early hours of the morning, including owners of the burning buildings, residents of the town and two circus advertising men who were

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START CITY FOREST BY PLANTING 5,000 TREES

School Children Put Out the Saplings in Wildwood Park To-day as Part of the Arbor Day Exercises—Gov. ernor's Proclamation Is Read

More than 600 pupils of the Camp Curtin school participated in Arbor Day exercises in Wildwood Park this afternoon in what is planned to make part of a municipal forest. Each of the children aided in the work by planting one or more of the trees. More than 5,000 trees were planted.

The ceremonies took place just south of baseball field and when the trees grown to be giant red pines, white pines and Norway pines the baseball field will be circled and a small run to the south will have a beautiful fringe of trees. The locations of the trees all had been mapped out before the children arrived.

The children gathered at the school building at Sixth and Woodbine streets in the afternoon and marched to the scene of the wholesale tree planting in a body in charge of their respective teachers. It was at first planned to take a number of children from each school building in the city but difficulty of transportation narrowed it down to the Camp Curtin, the building nearest the park. District Supervisor J. J. Brehm had charge of the school children.

Exercises preceding the planting of the trees included the reading of Governor Brumbaugh's Arbor Day Proclamation. It made a plea for the planting of trees on this day. Members of the Civic Club of Harrisburg participated.

The exercises were arranged by Park Commissioner M. Harvey Taylor and City Forester Harry J. Mueller.

Among the speakers were Irvin C. Williams, deputy State Commissioner of Forestry, and Miss Myra Lloyd Dock, for the Civic Club. The children sang several songs.

No general exercises were held in the city schools outside the Camp Curtin building. Schools were open all during the day.

ROB STORE OF EX-MAYOR OPPOSITE POLICE STATION

Thieves Show Little Fear of the Authorities When They Make Away With Cash, Cigars and Medicinal Whiskey

Thieves operated successfully last night in the drug store of former Mayor E. Z. Gross, 119 Market street, almost directly opposite headquarters.

This morning \$8, eight cigars and eight quarts of medicinal whiskey were missing. It's hard to trace cigars or dollars, but the police believe the whiskey, or the effects of it, will lead to the detention of the thieves.

It is a puzzling case, for there is nothing to indicate how the robbers gained entrance to the store. It was learned, however, that a hasp was removed from a back door to permit the robbers to escape. The screws were removed from the inside.

One theory as to how the thieves gained entrance is that while the cellar door was open during the day they sneaked into the basement, waited there and, after the store was closed for the night, committed the thefts.

The cigar case is at the front of the store and the thieves could easily have been seen from the outside had any one been looking in at the time. The other articles were taken from the rear of the store.

GIRL SUES FOR AUTO INJURIES

Miss Gaither Seeks to Recover \$10,000 From George W. Reilly

Although his chauffeur was the lone occupant of the automobile when the accident occurred, George W. Reilly, of this city, whose machine, it is alleged, ran down and injured Miss Jessie Gaither, of Gaitersville, Md., on January 20, last, to-day was made the defendant in a \$10,000 damage suit brought by Miss Gaither. The accident occurred in Reilly street, near Sixth, after nightfall.

Miss Gaither alleges she was hurled thirty feet and that the machine passed over her body, causing cuts on the head, torn and sprained ligaments of the ankle, lacerations of both knees, body sprains and contusions on the back.

The plaintiff was visiting friends in this city when the accident occurred. She has retained as counsel Michael E. Stroup, of this city, and Alex Kilgour, a Maryland lawyer.

"HOP" OUTFIT STOLEN

It Doesn't Belong to Eugene Fairfax, Who Made Complaint

Among the things brought back from Lancaster yesterday by City Detective Bach with Joseph Ure, colored, wanted here on a charge of larceny, was a hop outfit, which is among the stuff the latter is charged with stealing from Eugene Fairfax, 114 Short street.

TREE CHOPPER IS HALED TO COURT

Veteran Axe Wielder Protests He Knows More About Forestry Than the Forester

SPICY SARCASMS ARE EXCHANGED

Nurseryman Who Fells Trunk in Front of Daniel C. Herr's Home, Doesn't Think It Necessary to Obtain a City Permit

John R. Snavely, 125 Liberty street, proprietor of the Dauphin county nurseries, was taken into police court yesterday afternoon by City Forester Harry J. Mueller, charged with violating the city's tree ordinance, the specific charge being that Snavely chopped down a tree in front of the residence of Daniel C. Herr, 19 North Front street, without first getting a permit from the City Forester. It was the first arrest every made under the ordinance.

The charge was specific enough but the hearing developed into a heated controversy between prosecutor and defendant as to which has had the most experience in tree culture. Mueller admitted he had but ten years experience while Snavely said he had more than thirty.

Snavely did not deny the charge of chopping down the tree, but he said he thought it was unnecessary for one of his experience to go to the City Forester for permission. The hearing led to a technical discussion regarding the general health of the tree. Mueller said that the tree could have been "fixed up" for the price it cost to cut it down. Snavely contended that the tree was "sick on death."

Harry B. Saussaman, attorney for the defense, asked Mueller how he determined the condition of the tree, and the Forester replied that he used the "eyeball system."

Saussaman said he was not familiar with technical terms of forestry and wanted that system explained.

"Why, I used my eyes," returned Mueller.

Mayor Royal ruled out of order Snavely's assertion that he once moved a \$2,000 tree, as not being relevant to the hearing and then he discharged the defendant, it being his first offense.

A city ordinance requires that a permit be obtained for removing, spraying or trimming a tree.

"ENDURANCE RUN" FOR 15 WATER METER COMPETITORS

Commissioner Bowman Will Line Up the Machines of the Bidders and Select the Best on the Basis of the Survival of the Fittest

Fifteen firms, manufacturers of water meters, have agreed to enter an "endurance run" which is to be staged by Harry F. Bowman, City Commissioner of Public Safety, under a probably unique plan devised by him to aid in making a selection of meters to be bought by the City for domestic use.

Bids for the meters were opened by Mr. Bowman at 3 o'clock this afternoon, the competing firms all having submitted samples of their products, in addition to their prices. The Commissioner's latest plan of buying meters, he said, means that the meter to be adopted will be, not necessarily the cheapest, but the one which shows up best in the "endurance run" or test that is to be given to all samples during the next two weeks.

This "endurance run" is to be what Mr. Bowman calls a "twelve-year test." From the records in his office he has ascertained approximately the amount of water used in a home during a one-year period. If, for example, a family used 5,000 cubic feet of water in one year, just twelve times that amount will be run through each sample meter.

To accomplish this and at the same time to prevent a waste of water, the tests will be made at the pipe line shop, where at least half a dozen meters will be "hooked" together and tested with the same stream. All meters, if perfect, should register alike at the finish line. However, before any meter is put through this test it first must qualify by undergoing a preliminary accuracy test. If found inaccurate, adjustments will be made.

The principal test will require at least ten or twelve days and nights. There will be no handicaps and cost will not be considered until after the tests are made. As meters fail under the test they will be "flagged" and taken out of the running.

The "endurance run" will be started probably to-morrow or Monday. Bowman's recommendation for the award of the contracts, he said, will not be ready for at least two weeks and possibly not for three.

POLITICIANS AS SEEN BY COLONEL

How He Viewed Them in His Autobiography Told on the Witness Stand

BARNES NOT UP TO PLATT AND ODELL

Didn't Consider Plaintiff in Suit for Damages of Same Importance as Former Senator and Governor—Didn't Change Opinion Later

By Associated Press.
Syracuse, N. Y., April 23.—Theodore Roosevelt again went on the witness stand here to-day for cross-examination by William Ivins, chief counsel for William Barnes. This is the fourth day the former President has given testimony in the trial of Mr. Barnes' \$50,000 suit against him for alleged libel.

Mr. Ivins planned to take Colonel Roosevelt through a series of questions regarding things said to have happened just before he became President. The witness was also to be asked many questions concerning his further relations with Republican "bosses" and with Mr. Barnes.

When court was opened Colonel Roosevelt resumed his seat in the witness chair immediately.

Hill and Croker Leaders

"Did you ever veto a bill in regard to finance, passed by both houses and which has since been passed by the Legislature?" he was asked.

"I may have."

"In 1899 and 1900 was the position of chairman of the Republican State Committee recognized by law?"

"I think not."

"Who was the Democratic party leader then?"

"Up State it was David B. Hill, in New York it was Richard Croker, with the latter growing in power constantly."

Issue Was With Croker

"Here is your autobiography; here you said that during the campaign the issue was between yourself and Croker. Is that right?"

"Did you mention Mr. Hill?"

"In page 301, I mentioned David B. Hill."

"Do you know he got out of politics in this State after he retired from the Senate?"

"No. My understanding is decidedly the contrary."

"In chapter 8 did you refer to Mr. Barnes?"

"No. He was not then of the same importance as Mr. Platt and Mr. Odell. However, when I published my autobiography in 1913, I thought the same of Mr. Barnes as I did when I wrote the article complained of here."

"Why did you do that?"

"I did not want to make any malicious attack on Mr. Barnes. I refused to attack any man in my autobiography that I could help. In my statement I wanted to appeal to the voters of New York State."

Invisible Government

"Since this action was begun have you referred to your autobiography?"

"I think I have."

"Do you know your language on the stand and in your autobiography has at times been identical?"

"I don't know. I do not think that is the case. It might be."

"In your statement you refer to invisible government."

To Boost Land Assessments

Board Is Revising Figures on Unimproved Property According to the "Foot Front" Rule

Harrisburg's board of assessors, W. H. Bickley, Howard C. Townsend and Horace A. Chayne, to-day began revising methods of assessing unimproved land.

Property assessments, it is said, are to be increased in general where conditions permit. There are large stretches of unimproved ground in the Second, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth wards, all of which heretofore had been assessed according to acreage. Under the revised system, which it is proposed to adopt, this ground will be considered on the basis of building lots and assessed according to the "foot front" rule.

NO EXTRA SESSION IS LIKELY

Governor Hints, However, There May Be One If Certain Measures Fall

Governor Brumbaugh was asked to-day concerning rumors of an extra session to consider local option legislation. He said he does not think it likely, but he conveyed the impression subsequently that in the event of other legislation failing, meaning child labor and workmen's compensation and revenue measures, there might be occasion for a reassembling of the lawmakers.

The Governor left this afternoon for Philadelphia, to be gone until Monday.

A JURY WILL PASS ON THAW'S SANITY

Application by His Attorneys for Trial Granted by Supreme Court Justice

VICTORY AFTER LEGAL BATTLE

On a Writ of Habeas Corpus Thaw's Attorneys Succeed in Having Judge Hendrick Consider Case With the Result as Stated

By Associated Press.
New York, April 23.—The question of the sanity of Harry K. Thaw will be determined by a jury. Supreme Court Justice Hendrick in a decision handed down to-day granted the application for a trial made by Thaw's attorneys on a writ of habeas corpus.

May 17 was set for the trial. Thaw was in court when Justice Hendrick announced his opinion. His face at once lighted up with pleasure. His attorneys, friends and others in the court room rushed to congratulate him and he was kept busy for nearly half an hour shaking hands before he was taken back to the Tombs.

"It will be good news to my mother," he told newspaper men, "that's all I want to say for publication."

The Court pointed out in the decision that the jury was called in "to aid the Court by their advice" and that the finding of the jury would not be binding if the Court was satisfied that it was not in accordance with the evidence and with justice.

The Court, he said, could disregard the jury's verdict and render his own decision.

"It is therefore evident," wrote Justice Hendrick, in his opinion, after quoting authorities and precedents, "that in this state there is ample precedent for the impaneling of a jury to aid in trying the issues of fact raised upon the traverse of the return in a habeas corpus proceeding."

After reviewing the Thaw case, the decision continued:

"It should be borne in mind that Thaw is not confined as a criminal. He has been acquitted of the crime with which he was charged and there can be no punishment for one who has been acquitted. He is confined in a state hospital for the insane as a precaution for the public. The commitment can last only so long as he is insane, and he has the right at any time to have his sanity determined."

CITY SCALES ARE HERE AND BRAND NEW SET OF RULES

They Will Be Set Up in the Market Houses Next Week and If You Think You Are Being Cheated, Just Weigh for Yourself and See

Harrisburg's municipal scales were received to-day by Harry D. Reel, City Sealer of Weights and Measures, and will be set up in the markets on Monday or Tuesday of next week so as to be ready for use at the Wednesday sessions of market, so Reel announced this morning.

The closets in which the scales are to be installed all have been constructed and everything is ready to receive them. With a view to preserving and protecting the scales against destruction the sealer has prepared the following rules of regulation which he will post at the scales:

"These scales are installed for the convenience of the public for the purpose of reweighing any commodity."

"Every black line on the dial means one ounce."

"The capacity of the scales is fifty pounds. Articles weighing more than that amount must not be placed on the weight pan."

"If in doubt as to the accuracy of the weight of your purchase do not be afraid to reweigh the same."

"Notify the Inspector of Weights and Measures of any shortage in your purchase, but be sure to remember from whom purchase was made."

"These scales will be tested and their accuracy established not less than once a month by the Inspector of Weights and Measures."

"Any person caught tampering with these scales will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

BULLET KILLS SENATE PAGE

John Stiles, 13 Years Old, Was Accidentally Shot by His Father

Word was received on Capitol Hill this morning that John Stiles, 13 years old, a page in the Senate, who was accidentally shot by his father, Michael Stiles, at his home in Cumboia, Schuylkill county, Monday, died at the Pottsville hospital last evening.

"Dad, you neglected to remove the shells from this revolver this morning," said the boy. The father started to remove them when the weapon was discharged, the bullet striking the boy in the abdomen. The father is prostrated with grief.

STATE IS KILLING 30,000 HOGS IN PHILADELPHIA

Heroic Measures Being Taken to Check Foot and Mouth Disease, Spread of Which Is Alleged to Be Due to the Concealment of Infected Animals

Dr. C. J. Marshall, State Veterinarian, is in Philadelphia to-day personally supervising the killing of from 25,000 to 30,000 hogs in South Philadelphia, all of which have been declared to be infected with the foot and mouth disease.

The prevalence of the disease was discovered at the beginning of the week and at once the force of the State's examiners was sent to the "piggeries," with instructions to make the most rigid examination. The result has been, according to information given out at the Capitol to-day, that thousands of infected animals were found and they have all been put on the list for execution.

At the same time it was ordered that all stray dogs found in the locality should be killed. "Piggeries" that could not be disinfected are to be burned.

This outbreak of the disease is attributed to the alleged concealment by the owners of a number of infected hogs when the first examination was made. In one man's cellar were found half a dozen hogs that had been infected with the disease for some time, but their concealment had prevented inspection. The spread of the disease revealed this concealment, and now, in the opinion of the State authorities, nothing short of heroic measures will eradicate the trouble.

GERMANS SINK TRAWLER IN NORTH SEA; TWO LIVES LOST

Grimsby, Eng., April 23, 1.40 P. M.—The Grimsby trawler St. Lawrence was torpedoed and sunk in the North sea yesterday by a German submarine. Two members of the crew were killed.

Seven survivors were brought here to-day by the trawler Queenstown, whose skipper reports that the submarine fired on his vessel while engaged in rescuing the crew of the St. Lawrence.

GERMAN BOATS ON VISTULA TARGET FOR RUSSIAN BOMBS

London, April 23, 10.13 A. M.—A Reuter dispatch from Petrograd says: "There was much activity yesterday on the part of Russian airships. One dropped fifteen bombs on Plock. Several German boats on the Vistula were struck as were the railroad station and trains."

"Two other machines bombarded the railway station at Mlaw and the German aerodrome at Sanniky (?). Considerable damage was done to German trenches."

CZAR AT LEMBERG; WARMLY RECEIVED BY HIS TROOPS

London, April 23, 3 P. M.—Emperor Nicholas arrived to-day at Lemberg the Galician fortress which the Russians wrested from Austria early in the war. A Reuter's dispatch from Petrograd says the Emperor was met at the railroad station by Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian commander-in-chief.

A crowd gathered in front of the palace of the governor general where Emperor Nicholas is staying and cheered continuously until the ruler appeared on the balcony. Addressing the crowd he said "I thank you for this hearty welcome. Long live indivisible Russia, hurrah."

The foregoing gives the first definite news of the whereabouts of Grand Duke Nicholas since the report of last week that he had been shot by General Baron Sievers, commander of the defeated Russian third army.

LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

The capture of nearly a half mile of German trenches near St. Mihiel, the southern extremity of the German wedge which the French have been attempting for several weeks to force back, is announced to-day in the official communication from Paris. Spirited fighting in Belgium also is reported and the admission is made that the Germans compelled the allies to retire from positions near Ypres.

Two women were killed by the blowing up of a British trawler in the North Sea by a German submarine. The other seven members of the crew were rescued.

An attack by the Russian Black Sea fleet on the Turkish coast near the Russian border is said in Petrograd to have resulted in the demoralization of Turkish forces encamped in that locality. Considerable damage was done to the Turkish barracks and a number of Turkish vessels laden with supplies and ammunition were sunk.

The opinion was expressed by a prominent Italian statesman that

WALL STREET CLOSING

New York, April 23.—Late dealings reflected some confusion, with comparatively heaviness in St. Paul and New York Central. The closing was irregular. Standard stocks moved within narrow limits to-day, while specialties showed conflicting gains and losses.

TURK FORTS AGAIN UNDER HEAVY FIRE

4 British Warships Enter Dardanelles and Hammer Fortifications For 3 Hours

SMYRNA MAY BE IN NEW ATTACK

Heavy Firing Heard Since Yesterday Morning Leads to the Supposition That Forts at Latter Place Are Again Being Bombarded

Paris, April 23, 5.10 A. M.—A Haves dispatch from Athens says advice received from Choix stated that heavy firing had been heard there since yesterday (Thursday) morning, which leads to the supposition that bombardment of the Smyrna forts has been resumed.

Four British warships entered the Dardanelles yesterday and bombarded the forts for three hours. The Turkish fortifications also were subjected to an indirect fire from the gulf of Saros. They replied vigorously to the attack of the warships. French mine sweepers are continuing their operations actively.

Petrograd, April 23, 12.40 P. M.—The Russian Black Sea torpedo boat squadron bombarded the Turkish coast between Archava and Artasichan on April 19. This fifteen-mile strip of coast, in which was located the quarters of the Turkish army operating in this region, was swept with shell and the barrack and provision stores were ignited and destroyed. A large number of Turkish coastwise vessels laden with ammunition and supplies was sunk.

Turkish land forces were initiating a sortie under cover of their artillery at the time. They were thrown into a panic by the unexpected bombardment from the sea and their supporting guns were immediately silenced. On April 20 all the Turkish efforts to start an offensive in this region ceased.

EIGHT DEAD IN TEXAS STORM

Heavy Property Damage and Railroad Washouts Caused by Severe Rains Throughout the State

Dallas, Tex., April 23.—At least eight persons are dead, a heavy property damage, wire communication interrupted and railroad schedules disarranged by washouts, soft track and threatened bridges, was the known result to-day of a rain, electrical and wind storm over nearly all Texas and the eastern portion of Oklahoma late yesterday and last night and which continued early to-day in some localities.

The storm was especially severe at Austin and that city was in darkness last night. It was said about twenty houses had floated to and were packed against a bridge, threatening the structure. Rescue squads were busy all night taking endangered persons to higher ground while the rain continued to fall in torrents.

Probably Twenty Lives Lost
Austin, Texas, April 23.—Floods that swept down Waller and Shoal creeks here last night took a toll of fifteen or twenty lives, according to estimates "to-day." Houses were jammed in Maisee against the bridges and the high water flooded many business houses. Heroic work was done by citizen rescue parties and by the fire and police departments. Eight persons in one house which was swept down Waller creek, all but one are believed to have perished.

County Commissioner John H. Eby, who is confined to his home in Lyken suffering from a nervous breakdown, was reported still very weak to-day.

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