

REVIEW OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR NEWS READERS

Happenings of the Week in the Capitol Building and Throughout the State Reported for Our Readers in Fulton County and Elsewhere.

ALL CROSSINGS MUST BE SAFE

Public Service Commission Directs Conductors Duties

ORDERS SAFETY DEVICES

Steam Railroads and Street Railways Included in Regulations for Protection—Electric Cars Forbidden to Cross Tracks Till Signalled.

(Special Harrisburg Correspondence.)
Harrisburg.—A general order has been issued by the Public Service Commission in the matter of regulations governing the protection of grade crossings and has been sent to the various steam railroads and street railways throughout the State. It provides that before an electric railway car shall cross the tracks of a steam railroad the conductor shall go in advance and ascertain whether any approaching trains. He shall not signal the motorman to proceed until he is assured that there is no danger. At crossings where conditions are especially dangerous safety devices must be provided which must be submitted to and approved by the investigator of accidents for the commission. One of the regulations provides that a light shall be displayed on the dead end of railroad trains when it is necessary to shift cars by night over a public crossing, notwithstanding the fact that the crossing constitutes part of a yard.

Must Tax Penalties.

Acting under authority of State tax laws, the Auditor General's Department will on March 1 begin estimating the State taxes of corporations which have failed to file their reports of capital stock and loans, according to a statement at the Department. The estimates will be based upon information secured by the department's officers and carry with them a penalty of 10 per cent. All corporations are required to file by December 31 statements of their business for the year ended November 30. When this is not done the department has the right to estimate the value of the stock for taxation purposes. Several hundred corporations are said to be delinquent. A demurrer to the mandamus proceedings to test the anthracite tax suit is to be filed within a few days by the Attorney General's Department, and the case will be argued in the Dauphin County Court. Meanwhile steps to compute this tax will be taken by the State's fiscal authorities.

Mine Blast Kills Two.

Two men were killed and two injured by an explosion of gas in one of the shafts of the Williamsstown colliery, the largest one in the Lykens Valley anthracite district. The dead men, Charles Roudenbush and John Crozier, were working side by side, and were killed instantly, while George Seaster and John Fagen, who were a short distance away, were only slightly burned. Crozier leaves a widow and family.

Demands Auto Fees.

State Highway Commissioner E. M. Bigelow has presented another requisition to Auditor General Powell for payment from the automobile license fund of 1913 and 1914. The amount is for several thousand dollars and has been held under advisement for several days. Mr. Powell conferred with State Treasurer Young and when a decision can be reached Mr. Powell will write to Mr. Bigelow, setting forth his position.

Veteran Engineer Dies.

John E. Miller, 83 years old, a Pennsylvania Railroad engineer, whose train carried Lincoln's body from Philadelphia to Harrisburg in 1865, died at his home here. He was born at Honeybrook, Chester County, in 1831, and worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad for more than 50 years, retiring in 1901.

Eyes on Rural Insurers.

The rates charged by mutual companies and their methods will be particularly dealt with by the State Legislative Commission investigating the fire insurance business at its sittings in York. They flourish mainly in such agricultural districts as York county.

State Sells Waste Paper.

The State sold its waste paper for the first time, bids being opened for tons of paper that have accumulated in the Capitol since the legislative session and from departmental businesses.

Named as Asylum Trustees.

Frank L. Smith, of Norristown, and Thomas W. Marshall, of West Chester, have been appointed trustees of the State Hospital at Norristown.

Manage Water Works.

The State Board of Health authorities have taken full charge of the plant of the West Reading Water Company in order to rectify errors and give the residents of the borough a supply of pure water. In the meantime a committee of the Borough Council is seeking available water supply for the purpose of establishing the borough's own water system. The West Reading Water Company was furnishing the citizens with Schuylkill water which was responsible for the typhoid fever epidemic in the borough.

ROAD WORKERS' GRAFT COSTLY

Chester Farmer Tells County Supervisors About Skimpers

SHOULD TOIL FULL HOURS

Quite as Mean to Begin Late and Quit Early as to Shave on Contracts—Two Kinds of Road Hogs Are Specifically Described.

Norristown.—"Too much money is spent on highway improvement in Pennsylvania," declared Thomas McDonnell, a farmer and a road supervisor of Chester County, in addressing township road supervisors of Montgomery County in annual convention in the Court House here. Mr. McDonnell was not opposed to good roads or their improvement, but his point was that there is too much "graft," which takes the form of lack of conscientious service on the part of those who are employed in the work of road-building and road repairs. He said that that man was a grafter who came to work at 7.30 in the morning instead of 7 o'clock, as he was supposed to do, and quit at 5.30 instead of 6 o'clock, taking advantage of the friendship of the man in charge. The payment of that man for an hour which he did not work is graft pure and simple. This is only one instance of what is going on all over the State. That is why the speaker said that too much money was being spent for highway improvement. He said a well-drained dirt road was a good road, and, with the use of a "drag," one which can be kept in good condition at little expense. He said that in his township of Chester County there were no stone roads, only dirt. In answer to a question of a supervisor he declared that the automobilists are not the only "road hogs" in existence. He said he has seen horse-driven vehicles occupied by just as big "road hogs" as those in motor-driven vehicles. This quizzing supervisor seemed to have it "in" for automobiles, and McDonnell turned on him with the assertion that "farmers are now using autos to a great extent—and why not? Nothing is too good for the farmer. I would rather sell the piano and the parlor furniture and close up the parlor than do without an automobile. It makes the country not such a had place in which to live." The Suburban Planting Commission was given a folt in the meeting, and the supervisors enjoyed it. In his opening address Samuel H. High, attorney of Jenkintown, stated that it looked like a scheme to improve a suburb for the benefit of Philadelphia.

Identified by Stolen Fox.

Coatesville.—Two foxes oddly disappeared from his kennels near Downingtown and W. Warrar journeyed to Parkersburg in search of them. Going to a stable, accompanied by Constable Umsted, of Coatesville, he declared he would not bring suit against the men who took the foxes if the female member of the Reynard family should fail to recognize him. As he entered the stall where the foxes were the pet female fox barked and ran to her owner, who took her in his arms and fondled her, while others who had tried to get near her were unable. Three members of the Wagontown hunt have thus found themselves in serious trouble. Two arrests have been made—Horace Carson and John Worth.

Blames Crew for Death.

Conshohocken.—A coroner's jury, in investigating the killing of Margaret McShane on the Ford street crossing of the Reading Railway in West Conshohocken on February 5, found that the crew of the train, which blocked the crossing, and which caused Miss McShane to walk below the crossing, "as she was told by a supposed railroad employe," were negligent in their duty and censurable.

Nabbed as Bogus Healers.

Phoenixville.—Representing themselves as physicians, two men, claiming to be from New York city, were arrested by the local police as they were doing a large business among the foreign residents of this town. Their medicine chests were seized, which contained "cures" for almost all known diseases. They were selling them to the foreigners for from \$1 to \$5 a bottle.

Two in Election Plot.

Scranton.—Wallace G. Moser and Robert Walker, accused of having conspired to alter the returns of the primary election last fall, were acquitted by the jury. Casper Wagner, who confessed the alteration, and John Owens, were found guilty. The latter is 80 years of age and will apply for a new trial.

Fatal Powder Accident.

Blairsville.—With a roar that was heard 25 miles away the mixing house of the West Penn Powder Company, located at Tunnelton, six miles from here, was blown to pieces by an explosion. Robert Caugherty was killed and another workman mortally injured. A telephone message from near the plant soon after the explosion said the plant had taken fire and was burning. The company usually makes two shipments of powder each week, and the quantity to have been removed had not been sent out.

SNAPSHOTS AT STATE NEWS

All Pennsylvania Gleaned for Items of Interest.

REPORTS ABOUT CROPS GOOD

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

An effort is being made in Morrisville to secure free mail delivery.

Scranton's segregated "red light" district is to have white lights.

Evangelist Stough wound up at Sunbury with 3,155 converts and \$3,400.

Reading Railway car shop men at St. Clair and Palo Alto are on short time.

Bloomsburg dealers have raised the price of milk from seven to eight cents a quart.

A strike is promised on the Laurel Electric Railway, between Wilkes-Barre and Scranton.

Martin Andrews, of Lancaster, was struck by a train while walking the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Russell Wagner was knocked down and robbed by two men caught trying his doorlock at Hazleton.

A complete printing outfit is to be added to the manual training department of the Easton public schools.

Assessors report that Schuylkill has a vast army of 32,313 able-bodied men ready for war.

Tamaqua will organize a choir of 500 voices for the union revival services to commence on March 22.

An open-air school is to be established by the Easton School Board for tubercular pupils.

In an attempt to thaw the water pipe in his home at Berwick, Ben. F. Sponenberg set quite a fire to his house.

Blinded by the blizzard Mrs. Emma Dell, a widow aged 50, was struck by a Pennsylvania Railroad train at Mapleton and instantly killed.

In the wedding dress which she wore at her marriage, three months ago, the body of Mrs. John Knittle was laid to rest at Bloomsburg.

Street Commissioner Daniel Eckerd's force of men cleaned 40 Berwick sidewalks, from which owners had neglected to shovel snow.

Tamaqua fire companies have appointed committees to boom the holding of the Six County Firemen's Convention in that town in 1915.

In view of Hazleton's trolley strike, Hazleton Township School Board has hired auto busses to haul pupils to and from schools.

Charged with embezzlement of \$42, James S. A. Bentzel, a collector for Troup Brothers, York piano dealers, was arrested and entered bail for a hearing.

When Dr. R. A. Meek, of Nanticoke, asked Frank Furman, janitor of the building, to turn on more heat, the janitor assaulted him with a hammer, and the doctor was seriously injured.

George Deerolf and Charles Crouse, both of Philadelphia, were sentenced to six months in Doylestown jail for stealing brass from the Reading Railway.

A new \$10,000 concrete bridge will be erected across the Lehigh Canal at Morrisville, and the N. J. & P. Traction Company will double-track its road.

The Commissioners of Bucks county have approved of a new reinforced concrete bridge over Swamp Creek, Tinticon township, on the road from Erwinna to Revere.

Pasquale D'Angelo, a member of the night force at Simon's silk mills, Easton was stricken with heart disease and died as he was about to eat his midnight lunch.

Falling down a flight of steps while visiting at her brother's home, Miss Helen Henricks, of Pottstown, tore her lower lip from the jawbone and sustained severe lacerations in her nose and face.

W. S. Eyster has accepted the cashiership of the new national bank recently organized at Ford City, and has tendered his resignation to the Jefferson County National Bank.

Major James M. Laird, of Greensburg, and Miss Margaret Engbert, formerly of Greensburg, more recently of Somersel County, were married at Altoona. Major Laird gave his age as 77; the bride's 29. They will make their home in Greensburg. The bride-groom is well known through his connection with The Greensburg Argus.

BRITISH SUBJECT IS SHOT TO DEATH

Another Serious Crisis in the Mexican Situation.

WASHINGTON IS STIRRED.

British Ambassador Sees Him About the Former Bandit Rebel Leader's Act and President Wilson and Cabinet Discuss It.

Washington.—A slumbering Mexican situation was brought quickly to a point of intense international interest by the flash of a message stating that William L. Benton, a British subject, had been killed in Juarez by order of Gen. Francisco Villa, the constitutionalist commander.

Sir Cecil Spring Rice, the British ambassador, conferred with Secretary Bryan about it, President Wilson and his Cabinet discussed it briefly, and a thorough investigation was ordered by the State Department from consular reports on the border.

In this case, for the first time since the present revolution began, a year ago, the general warning from the United States government to Mexican factions to protect all foreigners went unheeded, though there is every evidence to show that both the British Ambassador and the State Department were advised too late of Benton's impending fate to intercede specifically for him. The news shocked officials generally, who had come to believe that General Villa fully realized the position of the American government in regard to the protection of foreigners in Mexico, particularly in the north of that country.

"I haven't sufficient facts on which to base an opinion," said Secretary Bryan. "Until I have the department will express no opinion."

This was the official view of the situation with messages passing back and forth between the State Department and Consul Edwards, and his temporary assistant, G. C. Carrothers, consular representative at Torreon. Only a few details were announced by the State Department—that Benton had been executed after a military trial. A copy of the sentence of the court, setting forth the evidence in the case, was promised the American consular representatives. Mr. Bryan said a full report of the affair was on its way by mail from Consul Edwards, to whom General Villa had personally explained the incident.

The killing of a British subject under circumstances such as dispatches from the border portrayed caused a stir in diplomatic circles. Those familiar with the aggressive attitude Great Britain assumes in pressing for reparation when her subjects have been wronged were inclined to foresee interesting developments impending.

W. VA. FACES DEFICIT.

State Will Not Be Represented at Panama Exposition.

Charleston, W. Va.—Governor Henry D. Hatfield, in a statement, declared that the reason the \$75,000 appropriated for a West Virginia building at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, at San Francisco, is not available is because of the deficit facing the State treasury. Should all appropriations be paid, West Virginia's treasury will have a deficit of more than \$1,200,000 in 1915. The Governor says the Paint Creek strike cost \$500,000, and that prohibition will result in a decrease in State revenues of more than \$612,000 annually.

AROUSSED BY FIRE; SHOT.

Farmer Mysteriously Killed and Relatives Wounded.

Barboursville, Ky.—Aroused by hearing the crackling of a fire that was destroying his barn, Henry A. Fultz, a farmer, living near here, rushed out of his home accompanied by his family, only to be met with a volley of bullets that killed Fultz instantly and injured several of the others. The members of the dead man's family are mystified and unable to understand the reason for the killing or the fire.

ROOSTER AS ALARM CLOCK.

Bird, Kept in Bedroom, Better Than Machine.

Bridgeport, Conn.—The board of health ordered Hyman Slavan, of this city, to dispose of a rooster and three chickens which were found domiciled in the family bedroom. Slavan's excuse to the authorities was that his alarm clock was out of order, and that he found the crowing of the rooster more dependable to awake his wife at an early hour so the breakfast for three schoolchildren might be prepared.

BOBLED INJURES TWENTY.

Plunges Off Curve and Dashes into Big Crowd.

Atlantic Highlands, N. J.—At the annual winter carnival held here a bobbed racing with a toboggan ran off a dangerous curve and dashed into a crowd of 300 spectators. Twenty persons were injured. Joseph Phillips, a boy of 12, may die.

"PEN" WARDEN FOR SENATE.

Three Others After Election in Kansas.

Lansing, Kan.—Jeremiah D. Botkin, warden of the Kansas State Penitentiary here, announced his candidacy for the United States Senate on the Democratic ticket. There are four candidates for the position held by Senator Joseph L. Bristow. The Senator seeks re-election, and Charles Curtis, former senator, is contesting with him for the Republican nomination at the primaries next August.

MAKES NO DIFFERENCE



EUROPE BEHIND GREAT BRITAIN

Holds Toll Exemption Violates Treaty, Says President.

OTHER REASONS FOR REPEAL

Of Such Grave Effect Upon International Relations They Cannot Be Divulged, Is Intimation.

Washington.—President Wilson took the newspaper correspondents a little further into his confidence concerning the international aspects of the free tolls controversy when he declared it to be his belief that all Europe stood with Great Britain in regard to the exemption clause of the Panama Canal act as a violation of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty.

The President was careful to explain, however, that he did not base his opinion on any official protest which these other nations have lodged against the clause, for, he declared, Great Britain was the only country to file a protest. At the same time, he said, information had come to him showing clearly how the other governments regarded the matter.

It also leaked out that the President has given his callers within the last few days a reason of greater importance than any heretofore disclosed by visitors willing to talk why repeal should be enacted. It appears that this reason has to do with American foreign relations, but the exact nature of the matter is being kept a profound secret.

The further fact became known that the President's friends look to Representative Claude Kitchin, of North Carolina, the heir apparent to the majority leadership, to head the fight for repeal. They want to make a test of his strength. Representative Underwood will probably sit through this fight and content himself with a negative vote.

Thinks Repeal Will Pass. President Wilson is firmly of the opinion, following additional conferences which he had during the day with leaders in Congress, that he can get the repeal measure through at the present session of Congress. He told correspondents that at the proper time the Repeal bill would be pushed to the front and passed. By proper time, he explained, he meant that it would be taken up as soon as the leaders in both houses could shape the legislative program so as to admit of consideration of repeal.

Although efforts have been made by some of the House and Senate leaders to postpone action until the short session, beginning next December, in order that a break with the President might not occur before the Congressional and Senatorial elections next fall, the President took the position that a settlement of the question before that time was necessary from the fact that ships will be passing through the waterway before the short sessions begin.

YOUTHFUL BRIDE BURGLAR.

Mrs. Anschott, 17, in Boy's Clothes, Aided Husband, 19.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—According to the police, Mrs. Elmer Anschott, 17, confessed to them that she had taken part in many burglaries for which her husband, who is 19 years old, was arrested and held for court. Dressed as a boy, her hair cut short, she stood guard outside the houses he robbed, with a revolver hidden under her coat, they say.

NINETEEN HURT IN CRASH.

Street Car Runs Into B. & O. Engine Near Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Nineteen passengers were injured when a street railway car ran into the side of a light engine of the Baltimore and Ohio at Second avenue, Hazelwood, Mrs. Jessie Pepler, of Munhall, Pa., was internally hurt; the others but slightly.

LEAPS FROM 75-FOOT BRIDGE.

Clarksburg Woman Jumps Into Creek To Avoid Electric Car.

Clarksburg, W. Va.—Mrs. Carrie Thorn, 26 years old, jumped from the Monongahela Valley Company bridge 75 feet into waters of Elk creek to escape being run down by an interurban car. A man nearby saw her jump and waded in just in time to save her from drowning. Both ankles were broken and internal injuries were received, but physicians have hopes of her recovery.

FOUND NOTHING BUT PROSPERITY

Secretaries McAdoo and Houston Return From Tour.

THE CURRENCY BILL PASSED

Cabinet Officers Issue Statement. Federal Reserve Bank Organization Committee Telling Of Their Trip Around Country.

Washington.—The federal reserve bank organization committee, back in Washington after a five weeks' tour through the country, in a statement announced that its selection of federal reserve cities and definition of reserve districts would not be made until careful consideration had been given the information accumulated on the trip. The statement said the committee Secretaries McAdoo and Houston found the country prosperous and learned that bankers and business men were greatly interested in the new banking system and confident of its success.

In a supplemental statement Mr. McAdoo declared that he hoped the new system would be established in time to take care of crop moving contingencies next year, but that if it were not, the Treasury Department would stand ready to place its funds again at the disposal of business men. The committee's statement: "We have spent practically the entire 4th of January to the present time in hearing the views of business men and bankers on the problem of dividing the country into not less than eight, and more than 12, districts and of localizing in each district the main office of a federal reserve bank. Of the two questions, the division of the country into districts is the more important and difficult. The committee asked those who appeared before it to direct their attention to these two problems and to furnish all possible information."

Go To Great Trouble.

"A great many able and impartial business men and bankers have submitted their best information and opinions and always in a spirit of great fairness. In preparing their information many of them had gone to the extent of presenting maps showing not only the districts they were interested in, but also the districts for all the nation. The committee has held hearings in 18 cities and has heard from every community of consequence in the sections of the country that it has visited. It has secured a vast deal of information on the movements of trade, as well as on the currents of banking."

"In every section of the country the committee has found a practically unanimous conviction among bankers and business men that the currency bill will bring about most beneficial changes in the business of the country; in fact, the committee heard no one speak who did not say that the measure was a great step in advance. The committee was presented everywhere with overwhelming evidence of the enormous economic strength of the country, and of the rapid progress of every section. The fact that the nation's banking resources, as a whole, make enormous advances every twelve or fifteen years, approximately doubling in each such period, was made evident; while this is true of the country as a whole, it was shown that certain sections are advancing with more rapid strides than others, and that the country is fundamentally exceptionally sound and strong economically. The facts and figures submitted to the committee in every part of the country show amazing growth and strength and disclose a condition of financial, industrial, commercial and agricultural soundness and prosperity that leaves no doubt as to the future."

K. OF P. GOLDEN JUBILEE.

President Wilson and Secretary Bryan Address Convention.

Washington.—Welcomed by President Wilson and praised by Secretary Bryan as "one of the greatest influences operating in the world to hasten the coming of the universal brotherhood," the Supreme Council, Knights of Pythias, began its annual convention here, with delegates attending from every state and province of the North American continent. Celebration of the order's golden jubilee marked the opening sessions, and in the convention hall here and in nearly 8,000 lodgerooms, scattered throughout the United States and Canada, commemorative services were held.

NOT SQUANDERING MONEY.

American Farmer Borrows For a Useful Purpose.

Washington.—The American farmer is not squandering his money on trills and furbelows, Dr. John T. Coulter told the Joint Congressional Rural Credits Committee. "The farmers of this country need a rural credit system," said Dr. Coulter. "They will not run to extravagance if money is made cheaper for them. The American farmers borrow money, according to my investigations, for good and useful purposes."

HAS NO USE FOR BACHELORS.

Daniels Detaches Lieut. Knauss So He Can Marry.

Washington.—"Bachelors encumber the earth," remarked Secretary Daniels when he ordered Lieut. Harrison E. Knauss detached from the Presidential yacht Mayflower so he could be married. The Mayflower is going to Mexican waters. "I am in favor of matrimony for all naval officers," said the Secretary, "and I shall do all in my power to help such a good cause along."