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INTERESTING LETTER FROM GERMANY.

Rev. H. W. Wissler, a well known minister of the Reformed church, formerly of Carlisle, Pa., and his highly respected wife, friends of the editor and his wife, received an interesting communication from the above named persons who are spending a year in Europe, and believing the same will be interesting to our readers we are pleased to publish the letter as follows:

It might be of interest to many of our friends, and readers of The Commercial, to hear something of our experience in Germany. One day in the latter part of October we accepted an invitation to visit a very old castle located near Kenneth in Bavaria. Nothing could exceed the beauty of the day and of its prospect. We followed the line of the railway until we came to the long winding road which leads to this very old but beautiful castle.

This castle is now owned by Freiherr von Lindenfels, who inherited it at the death of his uncle, some twenty years ago. This castle with its surroundings has marks of great age. It is square in form with two lofty round towers at two of the angles and is situated upon a very prominent hill. There is also a large deep moat around the castle which is kept filled with water. Formerly a draw bridge was over this, when raised the place was inaccessible, but now an ordinary wooden bridge.

We entered by the portal door over which is a shield bearing the crests and arms of the noble families; coming first to a long, wide hall containing numerous ancient pictures and odd looking furniture. After being conducted into the library we were very cordially greeted and made welcome by Freiherr and Freifrau von Lindenfels and the mother of Freiherr, all of whom spoke English quite well. In the course of an hour we were shown the interior of the castle with its large number of well furnished rooms. In the library we saw a fine display of swords, one we were told had belonged to Napoleon, who had recently used it in battle. The parlor had a magnificent display of portraits, paintings and richly carved and inlaid furniture. Many curious trinkets from India and China. A very old piano on which my wife had the pleasure of playing. We were then invited to dine with the family; our sumptuous meal was served in courses, much like the American style. We shall long remember the pleasure we had at that meal and the honor bestowed upon us as Americans.

In the course of time we were taken through the large and beautiful park where we saw deer and many birds of different colors. We spent some time inspecting a rocky knoll on which had been planted trees, ferns and vines from the Alps. We much wish some of our friends could have seen these. We came to a very old house used many years by the game keeper. It is much as it was two hundred years ago with its rude furniture, rifles, antlers, fish nets, bird cages. In one room we were shown a large case containing a fine collection of butterflies, bugs, ants, etc.

We were also taken by our kind host to the family cemetery, where we saw the graves of a line of ancestors dating back many hundreds of years. A large natural stone shaft marks the grave of our hosts brother, who was lieutenant in the German army, and who lost his life in Africa, a few years ago. Not far away is a large wooden crucifix of very fine workmanship brought from Oberamungau. The outlook of this cemetery is one which it would be hard to surpass.

The farm land belonging to the castle is under good cultivation. Freiherr von Lindenfels is a good horse man and very fond of horses. He has now in his stable six fine English horses. He usually drives his own carriage as his wife and son had a very narrow escape in a run away a few years ago when out driving with a coachman.

In the evening we very reluctantly took leave of our friends in the castle with hopes of meeting during the winter in Munich. As we went toward our stopping place we had a succession of wild and uncommon scenery. We were much delighted with our excursion, and felt that the day had given us as much pleasure as any week of our lives.

EVANGELISTIC MEETING.

Evangelistic services will be held in the Evangelical church, beginning on Sunday evening. Evangelist Thomas will be the preacher and Singer Snyder will have charge of the music.

TO RESTRAIN PROBATING OF WILL.

Death failed to end the litigation between Charles S. Vannear of Somerset and his son, Lewis W. Vannear, of Jennertown. The Senior Vannear, died Saturday, his funeral was held on Monday afternoon and on Monday morning the son and his mother, Mrs. Katharine Welty Vannear, filed caveats with the Orphans' Court restraining Register of Wills, Bert F. Landis, from probating the will of their father, and husband respectively. They allege that by reason of being mentally incapacitated, Charles S. Vannear, was not competent to make a legal will.

It is not definitely known whether Vannear left a will, or if he did, what disposition he made of his property, but the action of the widow and son in becoming caveaters before his funeral indicates that they don't believe he favorably considered them in drawing up the document. They are represented by Attorneys John R. Scott, Charles F. Uhl and Charles H. Ealy.

Several months ago Lewis W. Vannear, held a petition with the court, asking that a guardian be appointed for his father, who is alleged, was feeble-minded and on account of his advanced years was mentally incapacitated to transact business and was liable to be defrauded of his property by designing person. A hearing was held by Judge Ruppel, and the matter was yet pending in court when Vannear died.

It was believed that Vannear's death would end the family litigation, but the filing of caveats indicates that the question of his mental condition will probably be again threshed over in a will contest.

Charles S. Vannear was one of the prominent business men of Somerset until a few years ago when he suffered from ill health. His death was caused by paralysis. He was born in Holyoke, Mass., 79 years ago. When quite young he removed to Greensburg, Pa., where he married Katharine Welty. In 1890 he came to Somerset, having purchased the old Park hotel, which was destroyed by fire several years later. He then erected the present Vannear hotel on the site of the old Glade house on the southwest corner of the public square. About 15 years ago he sold the Vannear nosterly to Jacob B. Winters and later erected the Hotel Arlington. Several years ago he retired from business and removed to his farm in Jenner township.

He is survived by his wife, Katharine Welty Vannear, and four children—Lewis W. Vannear, of Jennertown; Frederick Vannear, of Somerset; Mrs. Susan Frank, of Pittsburgh, and Mrs. William B. Duncan, of Wilkingsburg. Funeral services were conducted interment by the Rev. Edgar F. Hoffmeier, pastor of the Somerset Reformed church, and the Rev. Dr. Hiram King. Interment in the Husband cemetery.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

Mrs. Patty Newcomer, wife of B. & O. Engineer Newcomer, who recently accidentally shot off his left hand while cleaning a shot gun at his home in Rockwood, attempted to commit suicide last Friday evening in the presence of her injured husband and children by drinking laudanum, which she had purchased at a local drug store. Mr. Newcomer at once summoned the family physician, Dr. Speicher, who used a stomach pump to remove the poison. The cause of the woman's act is unknown. Mr. and Mrs. Newcomer recently moved into their new home on Highland Addition and appeared to be a happy couple.

CLASS NO. 4, OF AMITY REFORMED SUNDAY SCHOOL ORGANIZED.

The class No. 4, of Amity Reformed Sunday school was organized Sunday last.

Teacher—A. S. Glessner. Assistant Teacher—J. N. Lint. President—Norman Holzhour. Vice President—Harold Sipple. Secretary—Ken. Housel. Treasurer—Robert Hoffmeyer. Librarian—George Knieriem.

The class will soon organize base ball and basket ball teams; will have a director of physical culture, and aims at the development of the social as well as the religious tendencies of the young man. All young men of 16 years and upward are cordially invited to join. The class now numbers about 30.

COLLISION ON W. M. R. R. FOUR MEN INJURED.

Engineer Radcliffe Died on Tuesday Night—Two of the Engines Were Badly Damaged.

Monday morning soon after 6:00 o'clock, there was a crash heard, distress signals were given, suffering by compact and by fire, life was ebbing out and the community was appraised of the fact that a head-on collision had occurred on the W. M. R. R., about a half-mile east of town, opposite Glade City.

O. E. Mull, was night operator and had given orders to the engineer hauling a heavy coal train, going east to hold his train in the siding until train No. 127, had gone west and also two engines and caboose had passed the siding. Through some misunderstanding the engineer did not have the orders correct and when No. 127 had passed the siding instead of waiting for the two engines and caboose to also pass, the engineer of the coal train pulled out on the main track and 150 feet from the switch, the head-on collision took place with the result that three men were seriously hurt, one fatally, that two engines were ruined, traffic was blocked and general demoralization prevailing.

Engine No. 9370, going west, with Engineer E. Radcliffe, of Connellsville, and Charles Festerman, of Ridgeley, fireman. Mr. Radcliffe was cramped in his cab that an ax had to be used to chop him out. His condition was very critical and it was feared that death would come to him before he could be taken to the Western Maryland Hospital, in Cumberland, Md. The fireman, Mr. Festerman, was painfully hurt, although not considered seriously.

On the engine No. 760 going west, Engineer J. W. Hensel, of Cumberland, was not hurt, while his fireman, J. J. Pleasant, was injured.

Engine No. 734, back of 760, with Engineer Artler and Fireman Gunn, both of Cumberland, used their engine and caboose to take the injured men to the Hospital.

SENTENCED TO DEATH.

Not able to comprehend what it meant, Michael Meader, of Boswell, was on Tuesday sentenced by Judge William H. Ruppel to death in the electric chair in the new state penitentiary in Centre county. Meader is one of the first murderers in the State to be sentenced under the new electrocution law, which supplants hanging. After sentence was imposed he was taken to the county jail, where the significance of the court's sentence was explained to him.

Meader, who is 20 years old, killed Steve Dudley by stabbing him in the back while in a dance hall in Boswell on the night of June 22nd, 1913. His defense was that he had killed Dudley by mistake. He said it was a case of mistaken identity, as he believed Dudley to be a rival of his for the hand of a young lady to whom he had been paying attention for some time. Dudley, he claimed, was a friend whom he would not have killed under any circumstances had he known his identity.

Judge Ruppel imposed the death sentence after dismissing a motion for a new trial. When asked if he had anything to say Meader declared that one Michael Carber had sworn falsely against him at the trial. He asked for a Roman Catholic priest as his spiritual adviser, and his request will be complied with.

Meader will be detained in the jail until the governor fixes a date for his electrocution, after which he will be removed to the penitentiary.

AN UNUSUAL RECORD.

Andrew Jackson Hillegas of Hyndman is the proud father of five interesting children, four daughters and one son. All these are attending the public schools of Hyndman, and not one has missed a day since starting. They have been attending as follows:

Anna E., tenth year. Olive M., eighth year. Paulina E., seventh year. Mary Z., third year. Josiah H., first year. This is an unusual record, and few families can boast of anything like it.

O. S. Jenkins, of Cumberland and Fireman M. E. Kelso of Confluence were on the pusher of the coal train and were unhurt.

A large crowd had gathered in a short time at the place of the wreck. The car next to the tender of the coal train engines had pushed itself into the tender, a distance of ten feet. This indicates somewhat the force of the impact. Aside from the damage to the engines there was comparatively small loss. Several cars were damaged but none of the cars had left the track. The wreck occurred at the side of a large bank and any cars leaving the track would have gone down many feet.

The Western Maryland railroad has been singularly fortunate while the road has been operated. The engine pulling the coal train was a New York Central engine, while the west bound engine in the collision was a W. M. engine.

The engineer and fireman of the pusher were unhurt but failed to get to Cumberland for their breakfast. While they looked thrifty and were big hearted men, yet big hearted W. H. Deeter, President of the Meyersdale Planning mill, handed the engineer a greenback and told him to strike out for his breakfast. Every calamity shows out that better spirit of men and brings out more fully the realization, that all men are brothers.

Engineer E. Radcliffe, aged 38 years died Tuesday night at 11:30 o'clock at the Western Maryland Hospital.

Mr. Radcliffe, with his wife, formerly Miss Craver, and their two children, aged two and five years, resided at Hendricks, W. Va., until recently and moved to Connellsville when transferred to the Connellsville division.

REMAINS BROUGHT TO MEYERSDALE.

On Thursday afternoon, January 15, James R. Campbell, Jr., who died in the County Hospital at Somerset, was buried in the Union cemetery; Rev. H. L. Goughnour officiating at the service.

The deceased was a son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Campbell, who some years ago were highly respected residents of Meyersdale. Mr. Campbell conducted a wall-paper and painters supplies store in the building on Center street now occupied by Mr. A. T. Hamill.

James Jr., had suffered throughout most of his life from epilepsy brought on by a fall when he was a young child. He was aged 25 years at the time of his death.

Two of his brothers, George T., and William V., both of Pittsburgh, and one sister, Mrs. Earl B. Yahn of Ellwood City, were present at the funeral.

The body arrived on train No. 16 and the relatives departed on train No. 5 for their homes.

SLEIGHING PARTY TO BERLIN.

Luke Hay, the liveryman, took a sled load of sixteen young people to Berlin last Thursday evening, where they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. George B. Collins, who at midnight served a sumptuous meal to the sleighing party, after which they left for home arriving here at 4:00 in the morning. The following persons were present:—Misses Ethel Collins, Hulda Powell, Anna Graves, Anna Housel, Besse Deal, Fanny Graves, Lena Sinsel, Effie Mimmie, Cora Bittner, and Messrs. Clayton Wade, Wm. Graves, Kenneth Housel, Raymond Houck, John Weimer, Bob Peck and Ira Baer.

INSTALLED ELECTRICAL POWER.

Our growing business compelled us to change our power from a gasoline engine to electricity. The change thus far is very satisfactory, being a big improvement over the former power.

FOR THE PROHIBITION AMENDMENT.

The temperance forces of the nation are beginning to line up. Petitions are being circulated all over the United States for signatures to be presented to the National Congress. The cause has become national in its scope, and the indications are that never before in the history of the world has such a nation wide movement been started to dispose of the liquor question.

The following is the copy of the petition which is being circulated:

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

The petition of the undersigned citizens of Meyersdale, county of Somerset, and state of Pennsylvania, respectfully sheweth, that the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage in the United States has produced much crime and pauperism and such a long line of kindred evils that the public conscience has become shocked at their enormity and demands that this terrible curse shall be removed from our land.

We therefore, most respectfully and earnestly request that Congress submit a Constitutional Amendment for ratification by the several states of this Union in one of the modes provided by the Constitution, prohibiting the manufacture, sale, importation, and transportation of intoxicating liquors to be used as a beverage in the United States.

SLEIGHING PARTY FROM HAY'S MILL.

A jolly crowd of young folks from Hay's Mill and vicinity composed a sleighing party last Monday evening who were delightfully entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Gerhart, of Olinger street. Music and games were indulged in and refreshments were greatly enjoyed.

Those present were:—Misses Ruth Dickey, Clara Diveley, Lulu Knepper, Vera Boger, Mary Ringler, Sue Spangler, and Edna Hay. Messrs. Homer Vought, Ernest Hay, Baden Boger, Edward Sader, Dalton Walker, and Howard Werner.

AN EXCITING MIXUP.

On Tuesday evening as the school children were returning to their homes much excitement was furnished when the horses belonging to Frank Lint, of Green ville township, took fright at the trolley car on Center street in front of Habel and Phillips store. They became unmanageable and the pole of the sled struck the moving car and as a consequence both horses were thrown. Mr. Lint with some volunteers, held the horses down until the harness was loosened when the horses got on their fours, with not much damage to themselves.

The sled was damaged, the harness was cut, but the horses escaped with little injury. It was a bad mixup and created much excitement.

SLEIGHING PARTY.

On Monday evening of this week, a jolly party of Summit Mills and from Meyersdale Boro., drove to the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. Truman Maust, three miles east of Salisbury, where they had an excellent dinner and a good time generally. Every one present declared that it was one of the most delightful sleighing trips they had ever had. Those present in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Maust and estimable daughters, Misses Eva and Ada Maust are as follows:—

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gnagey, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Kretzman, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Fike, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Meyers, County Commissioner and Mrs. C. C. Heckle, and Prof. and W. H. Kretzman.

A SLEIGHING PARTY.

A merry sleighing party left here Monday evening and drove to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Meyers, in Greenville township. The evening was delightfully spent in playing games and with music and a delicious supper was served.

Those who were present were:—Misses Annie Platter, Margaret Smith, Letta and Emily Gray, Vera Imhoff, Bessie Beal, Clara, Pearl and Margaret Harding, Messrs. George Shultz, John Smith, George Wagner, Silas May, John Thompson, Frank Hostetter, Silas Meyers and Mr. and Mrs. Meyers and family.

DOCTORS MEET.

The Somerset County Medical Society met at the Palace Hotel in Windber, on Tuesday last. The attendance was very meager only one-fifth of the membership being present. The Meyersdale quota was Drs. McMillan, Lichty and McKinley; Dr. Speicher of Rockwood, Dr. Louthor of Somerset, Dr. Moon of Listie, and Drs. Smith and Berkhimer of Windber, completed the number.

The morning session was held in the parlor of the Palace Hotel. After dinner the members were taken to the Cottage hospital in automobiles and were shown through the institution by the manager. Nothing but the highest praise is given the hospital and the management. There are about thirty five or forty inmates at present.

After the inspection of the hospital the afternoon session was held in the institution, at which Dr. J. E. Lowman read a very instructive and interesting paper on Cancer. It is a pity that more did not hear it and join in the discussion. Surely the absentees are great losers both for themselves and also for their patients. Drs. McMillan and Smith read papers on pneumonia, a disease that is very prevalent at this season of the year and it is needless to say that it brought out opinions and experiences of all present. Drs. Carleton and Lowman of Johnstown joining in and giving their valuable experience in both hospital and private practice.

Dr. McKinley was asked to give his experience as a sufferer from pneumonia, which he did and closed with the hope that none of his hearers and no one else would be required to go so close to death's door as was he in order that a valuable experience may be given; discussion continued until within a few minutes of adjournment, and thus closed a very good meeting of the society.

EVERYBODY SIGNING THE PETITION.

From every section of the county, the news comes, that the petitions to be sent to Congress for the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, are being signed by all to whom they are presented. All the people want is a chance to give this monster evil a death blow. Petitions should be in every meeting of the churches and Sunday schools to give the people a chance to sign them. As soon as they are circulated throughout every township and borough and signed, they should be returned to Somerset for the purpose of forwarding them to the House and Senate. The persons to whom these petitions were sent should feel it their duty to see that everybody gets a chance to sign them. COMMITTEE.

DIED AT GARRETT.

Mrs. George Mitchell, of Garrett, who had been ailing for some time sustained a paralytic stroke, in October, lingering on until Friday night when she was freed from her sufferings. The funeral was held in the SS. Philip and James Catholic church on Monday morning, Rev. Father Brady officiating.

She is survived by her husband, George Mitchell, a mine foreman at Garrett, seven daughters and three sons.

BROADWAY DEFEATS LONA CONING.

Lonaconing took the count in a spirited game of basket ball in the Auditorium last evening in the presence of eight hundred people when the Meyersdale team defeated Lonaconing by the score of 40 to 26.

Lonaconing had over two hundred loyal rooters from Lonaconing, Frostburg and Cumberland as well as their home band which enlivened the streets with music. It was a great crowd, a great game and great is the Meyersdale team.

YOUNG PEOPLE ENTERTAINED.

Misses Angela Reich and Jennie Livengood entertained twenty-four of their friends last Friday evening by giving a sleighing party, which left here at 7:00 o'clock, bound for the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Beachy in West Salisbury, where they spent the evening very pleasantly in playing various games after which a dainty lunch was served. Mrs. M. J. Livengood and Mrs. Philip G. Reich, chaperoned the party.