



Measles are epidemic at Wilkes-Barre, 100 cases having been reported in three days.

Allentown is likely to be given a wide berth henceforth by the hoboes, in consequence of a chain gang policy inaugurated by Mayor Rinn.

Every one of the 1,400 convicts of the New Jersey State Prison is to be vaccinated to prevent the further spread of typhoid fever, under orders of the Board of Prisons Inspectors. There are five cases of typhoid in the prison.

After attending the funeral of her only sister, Mrs. I. Davenport, who died suddenly, Mrs. Thomas Argus, of Beaver Meadow, contracted pneumonia and herself succumbed.

At a hearing in Allentown, Mrs. M. E. Gillespie, widow of James Jefferson Gillespie, was committed to prison for issuing worthless checks by the wholesale.

Isaac Black, a farmer, of Ferndale, Bucks county, has a genuine white crow. The bird is the same size and shape as its dusky brothers and has the same "claw." It was shot in the wing by Mr. Black three years ago and has since lived in a cage and become a pet.

Herman Hinkle, of Weatherly, is exhibiting a freak in the shape of three hen's eggs, all in one shell. It isn't the usual two or three yolks in one shell but three distinct eggs—one regular-sized egg, another a little smaller and the third still smaller, and all connected by a little stem of shell.

Death of Hiram Pintler.
Mr. Hiram Pintler died suddenly on Dec. 25, 1911, at his home in Bethel township, Sullivan county, N. Y., in the 75th year of his age. Deceased was born in that township on March 29, 1836, and had spent nearly all of his life there, excepting about ten years when he removed to Wayne county, Pa. The old home ties were strong, and about four years ago he returned to the scenes of his boyhood days.

The Pintler house near Bethel, which was famous as a stopping place for man or beast during the old staging days, was conducted by the subject of this sketch and his sisters for 28 years. The parents of the deceased, George and Martha Pintler, settled there when they moved from New Jersey and reared a large and respected family.

Declined a \$12,000 Job—The Reason.

Friends of Representative Alfred Marvin, of Matamoras, in this city and the surrounding country will be interested in knowing that through the offices of Senator Boies Penrose, of Pennsylvania, he was recently offered the post of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Argentina. The salary of the office is \$12,000 a year, but when Mr. Marvin learned that it would cost him \$17,500 above the salary to maintain the post, he felt that the title of Envoy Extraordinary wasn't extraordinary enough to warrant the expenditure. Al. informed the Senator that he would have to practice law in Pike county some 50 years longer before he could consider such an honor.—Port Jervis Union.

Last Saturday, Dr. Edward Burns of Honesdale, and Dr. G. A. Fike of Dundaff, held a consultation on the case of William Burns, who is suffering from diabetes.—Forest City News.

William Brower, of Scranton, was fined \$675 Wednesday by Justice of the Peace J. H. Orcutt, of Towanda, for hunting rabbits with a ferret. Brower was arrested at the instance of Game Warden C. S. Lowry. The rabbit hunting was done on Sunday, another infraction of the laws of the state. It is said that Brower might have been fined \$2,800 in all, hunting on Sunday, hunting rabbits with ferrets, killing game except by gun from the shoulder, in each instance constituting separate and distinct offenses under the same laws.

Gives Up Business.

The Scranton Fire Insurance company has announced that it will retire from business and has sent out letters to that effect.

The Scranton Fire Insurance company was chartered in 1908 and began business December 20, 1910. R. J. Cramer, of Philadelphia, one of the promoters, was secretary. The company suffered from inside trouble, and a reorganization was brought about in 1910, with W. J. Davis as president, F. J. Bishop treasurer, and J. Sanderson Trump secretary. As the result of the change a number of suits were filed against the company, one by the old secretary, Mr. Cramer, who sought to recover in the neighborhood of \$100,000 for alleged breach of contract.

The Little Red Schoolhouse.

A year or two ago a Vermont town employed a trained superintendent, a college man who knew what a school ought to be, to exercise supervision over all the schools in that town. It was the first time some of the schools had ever been visited in an official capacity by a salaried administrative officer. In one school a little toddler was found studying percentage, learning it by heart.

"You should not teach him percentage," the superintendent said. "He does not know how to add and subtract."

"But I've got to," the teacher answered; "the front part of the 'rithmetic is torn out.'—Exchange.

MAKES PLANS FOR ARMY AEROPLANE

Requirements Are Based on Record Breaking Flights.

MORE MACHINES NEEDED.

Brigadier General Allen Wants Another Appropriation of \$125,000 to Continue the Work—War Department Now Has Six Aeroplanes.

Brigadier General James Allen, chief signal office, has prepared new specifications for military aeroplanes to be hereafter purchased by the war department. They are the result of improvements demonstrated by the aeroplane work of last summer and as yet are tentative in character.

"Each aeroplane," it is required, "must carry two persons, with the seats so arranged as to permit of the largest possible field of operation for both. The control must be capable of use by either operator from either seat. The value of dual control, it will be recalled, was established in the flights of Lieutenant T. G. Ellyson and John H. Towers in the navy hydroaeroplane Triad.

"The machine is further required to be able to ascend at a minimum rate of 2,000 feet in ten minutes while carrying a weight of 450 pounds and fuel supply sufficient for at least four hours of continuous flight. This requirement recalls that the American weight carrying record established by P. O. Parmelee at Chicago last August is 458 pounds. Claude Grahame-White, carrying a passenger on Sept. 30 at Nassau boulevard, rose 3,290 feet in nine minutes.

"The engine," it is provided, "will be subject to an endurance test in the air of two hours' continuous flight. The aeroplane must develop a speed in the air of at least forty-five miles an hour."

American duration record for a machine with two persons is 3 hours and 42 minutes, made by G. W. Beatty at the Chicago meet. The world's record, however, is 4 hours 23 minutes, established recently by Herr Savelack near Berlin.

"In case the weight carrying capacity is increased to 600 pounds," the specifications state, "the minimum speed may be reduced to thirty-eight miles per hour and the climbing power diminished to 1,600 feet in ten minutes."

Another requirement is reminiscent of the recent French military competition, in which several machines failed on the same condition as follows:

"The machine must be capable of landing or arising from plowed fields."

Other requirements are as follows: "The aeroplane must be easily transportable by road, rail, etc., and easily and rapidly assembled and adjusted."

"The starting and landing devices must be part of the machine itself, and it must be able to start without outside assistance."

"The engine must be capable of throttling to run at reduced speed."

The war department now has six aeroplanes, four at Augusta, one at San Antonio and one on its way to the Philippines. These include three Wright, one Burgess-Wright and two Curtiss machines. Another Curtiss machine has not yet been delivered.

Brigadier General Allen has \$70,000 left of the \$125,000 appropriated by the last congress. He will not purchase any more machines for a month or two, as he wishes now to train the officers with the machines on hand. By July 1 the balance of the appropriation will have been spent, and it is expected that there will be available another \$125,000 appropriated by congress at this session.

More aeroplanes are needed by the army if the experiments now being made are to be carried out properly. General Allen said when he appeared before the house committee on military affairs.

FOUND TOMB OF ANCIENT RACE

Fanning Island, in Mid-Pacific, Yields Interesting Ethnologic Relic.

News of an interesting archaeological find on Fanning Island, in the mid-Pacific, indicating that the island was once inhabited by a skilled race, was brought to Victoria by the steamship Makura.

Excavations have unearthed a large stone building 200 by 50 feet in dimensions. No mortar was used in its construction, the stone having been skillfully mortised together.

Near this building was found a tomb containing a human skeleton, with a necklace of the teeth of the cachelot and other articles, including the skull of a dog.

It is believed the island was one of the resting places of the Polynesians in their early migrations. Recently it was purchased by a British-Canadian syndicate for use as a coaling station in view of the opening of the Panama canal.

Owl's Bite Causes Death.

John Ruffner, Sr., aged eighty-seven, died at East Franklin township, Pa., from blood poisoning. On Nov. 22 Mr. Ruffner caught an owl and, intending to make a pet of it, took it home. While taking the owl out of a bag it bit him. Mr. Ruffner paid no attention to the bite, but blood poison set in and caused his death.

RAILROAD NOTES

Strong recommendations that a grade crossing law that will protect every crossing in the State owned by a steam railroad will be made by the members of the State Railroad Commission in the annual report which will be completed next month. The subject is one which has been holding considerable attention and statistics showing the percentage of accidents at such places will be used to reinforce the recommendations. Such recommendations were made prior to the sessions of 1909 and 1910, but bills embodying the commission's ideas were never passed.

New Type of Station Construction.

A new type of station construction has been adopted by the Lehigh Valley railroad. The company has built a number of passenger stations entirely of terra cotta, to make them absolutely safe from fire. The terra cotta is not visible in the completed structure. It is in the form of hollow blocks, which are covered by plaster inside the building and by stucco outside. The fireproof qualities of the material were established by severe tests. An additional advantage, due to the fact that the "dead air" spaces make the blocks non-conductors of heat, is that the stations are warmer in winter and cooler in summer than if they were of wood or brick. The Lehigh Valley has built several of these new-style stations already, and will probably build more next year.

DR. W. H. FURNESS SAYS CHIMPANZEES THINK.

Psychologist's Experiments Give Him Faith in Their Power to Reason.

Dr. William H. Furness, a psychologist of Wallingford, Pa., after several years of work has succeeded in educating two chimpanzees to a point where, he declares, they have proved they have reasoning powers.

His experiments, he says, have conclusively demonstrated that chimpanzees are capable of discriminating between objects and that the lower animals when properly trained utilize the functions of brain and really think.

When the chimpanzees had attained perfection in mimicry a gradual deviation was made to other lines in order to determine their reasoning powers. At this point the animals pass from those of merely the animal into the near realm of the human.

Boards were placed in the cages having a large square opening and large holes. The animals were given a ball and square piece of wood, both of which exactly fitted openings in the board. The careful scrutiny of the instructors saw that the animals examined the block and ball and pounded them against the board in high glee. After a few days one of the chimpanzees looked intently at the square opening in the board and endeavored to force the ball through it. The opening was too small to allow its passage, and the chimpanzee then picked up the square block and pushed it through. Later both animals, Dr. Furness says, by the slow process of pure reason without the slightest assistance on his part, learned that only the ball would fit into the circle and only the block would pass through the square.

An extension of the experiment has been made during the past two years, and it has been learned that the chimpanzees will now differentiate any size or shape.

PAYS 20-YEAR-OLD DEBTS.

Minnesota Miller, Now Rich, Remembers Men He Owed in 1890.

F. A. Bean, a miller of New Prague, Minn., is distributing large amounts among men whom he owed when he failed twenty years ago, when he was fifty-one years old. He is paying interest at 6 per cent on \$100,000 which he then owed.

When he failed he was the head of the Polar Star Milling company of Fairbault. This was in 1890. He went to New Prague, leased an idle mill and rebuilt his fortune at the age of seventy-one.

GOOD SLEIGHING ON MARS.

New Fall of Snow Reported by Professor Percival Lowell.

A telegram received by John Ritchie, Jr., former Harvard astronomer, from Professor Percival Lowell, brother of Harvard's head, states that the old snow on Mars has disappeared and a new layer has fallen.

As Mr. Lowell has said that Mars is inhabited by a race approaching our own in intelligence, they are supposed to like sleighing.

The new cap of snow is in latitude 70 degrees.

They Acquire Them.

"It is said that impetuous people have black eyes."
"Yes, and if they don't have them they are apt to get them."—New York Mail.

The Uninvestigated.

Oh, happy many times are these in mediocrity's position, With wealth enough to know some ease And not enough to cause suspicion.—Washington Star.

Properly Named.

Wigg—Henpeckke has bought a motorboat and named it after his wife.
Wagg—Can't manage it, eh?—Philadelphia Record.

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