

PUPILS PLUNGE TO DEATH

Floor of Vault Gives Way and Many Fall Into Excavation.

NINE BODIES TAKEN OUT.

Accident Happens During Recess—Parents Charge School Officials With Negligence in Affair.

At Pleasant Ridge, seven miles north of Cincinnati, possibly in a vault during the forenoon recess, and a score of others narrowly escaped the same horrible death.

During the rest of the day this suburb was wild with mingled excitement, sorrow and indignation, and those openly charging the culpability to official negligence are making serious threats, among them being many women.

The large building is used for a high school, as well as for all lower departments. All of the victims were from primary grades. On opposite sides of the spacious ground in the rear of the school building are two outhouses. When recess was given about 30 of the smaller girls were in the outhouse assigned to them, when suddenly the floor gave way, precipitating them into the vault below.

This vault is 12 feet deep and walled up with stones like a well. There was in it 4 feet of water that would have been over the heads of the children falling in it singly, but those falling first filled up the vault partially, so that others were not entirely submerged.

The girls fell 8 feet from the flooring, and the struggles of those who were on top kept at least nine underneath until they were dead. The frame sheds of these vaults were about 20 feet square without windows, and only one narrow doorway, so that only one girl escaped from the door. She ran into the school building and told the teachers what had happened.

The principal and other teachers rushed to the rescue. The screams of the girls were dimly heard within the vault. The teachers were soon reinforced by the entire population of the town, the police and fire department rendering effective service.

IRON TRADE PROSPECTS.

Reduction of Prices on Billets Has Small Effect on Sales.

The iron age says: The action of the bill of exchange has attracted a good deal of attention, but is really not very important, since the tonnage of steel billets sold in the open market is insignificant when compared with the days before the consolidation. Then, too, the great bulk of what crude steel is sold, is delivered on old sliding scales based on the price of Bessemer pig iron. Therefore, the open reduction in prices of billets and sheet does not materially change the situation. It does not justify the expectations, evidently indulged in by some consumers, that prices in certain finished lines must be correspondingly reduced. Business in structural material does not appear to have been stimulated to any extent by the recent lowering in association prices on shapes. In fact, some sellers note that the market is rather quieter. In plate and shape trades, the principal effect of the concessions has been to bring out specifications on old contracts, but for new business consumers seem to cling to the conviction that the end of readjustments of prices has not yet come. The trade in merchant pipe is quieter, and there are again reports of slight shading. There is not much that is encouraging from the sheet and tinplate trades.

Timber Destroyed by Fire.

Timberman, who have visited Columbia county, Oregon, report that recent forest fires in that section have destroyed timber to the value of \$8,000,000. Most of it was owned by eastern capitalists.

SCOTTISH RITE MASONS ADJOURN.

Indianapolis, Ind., was selected as the meeting place of next year's convention of the supreme council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Free Masons at the closing session of the annual meeting at Boston. The report of the trustees, presented by Gen. S. C. Lawrence, showed invested funds of \$292,000.

The New Hampshire Republicans nominated John McLane, of Milford, for Governor.

TRADE EXPANDING.

Settlement of Labor Disputes Removes One Obstacle to Business Operations—Conditions Easier.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade" says: "Trade expands steadily as confidence increases with the harvesting of the crops, and mercantile collections are less tardily met. Lower temperature stimulates the demand for fall and winter wearing apparel, and there is more disposition to prepare for the future rather than to confine operations within the limit of immediate requirements."

Settlements of labor disputes have helped. Railway earnings for September were 5.7 per cent. larger than this year, and foreign commerce at this port last week shows a gain of \$2,945,587 in exports, as compared with 1903, although imports decreased \$712,067. There is no evidence of anxiety among consumers of iron and steel to place large orders or to secure quick delivery, yet the tonnage gradually expands and it is evident that the lowest point of the depression has passed. Production steadily increases, prices are more readily maintained, and the number of pending contracts promises well for the future. The improvement is of a general character that is most wholesome.

Haste in starting up coke furnaces augurs well for the future, and the better demand for bituminous coal is encouraging. Tin is erratic. Moderate gains continue to be made by the textile industries, particularly as to woolsens and worsteds. Staple lines are quoted somewhat higher, and prompt deliveries are urged by purchasers. Firmness continues in packer hides, independent tanners making liberal purchases. Country hides are weaker. Lower grades of hemlock sole leather are still active. Boot and shoe jobbers are seeking to place supplementary orders for fall shoes, stipulating quick delivery, which indicates that these holdings are small.

Wallace in the United States, against 222 last year, and 39 in Canada, compared with 19 a year ago.

MANUFACTURES IN LEAD.

Exports of Farm Products Fall Below Manufactures.

The increase in exports of manufactures and decrease in exports of agricultural products are discussed at considerable length in a report of the chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor. For the first time in the history of the export trade of the United States manufactures exceeded \$450,000,000, and agricultural products for the first time fell below 60 per cent. of the total domestic exports. The total exports of domestic manufactures were \$452,445,629, against \$407,526,159 in 1903, and \$433,851,756 in 1900, the highest record in earlier years. The total value of agricultural products exported was \$553,683,367, against \$573,322,882 in 1903, and \$943,811,020 in 1901, when the highest total of agricultural exports was recorded.

The gain in manufactures over agricultural products in the export trade of the country is shown in the fact that in 1874 manufactures exported amounted to but about one-fifth as much in value as agricultural products exported; in 1884 their value was about one-fourth as much; in 1894 nearly one-third as much, and in 1904 more than one-half as much as that of the products of agriculture, while in the closing months of the year, May and June, manufactures for the first time in the history of our commerce actually exceeded agricultural products in value of exports.

This decrease in the value of agricultural products exported is the more striking when it is considered that the export price of cotton averaged higher during the year than in any prior year for more than a quarter of a century, and that the value of raw cotton exported was greater than in any preceding year, and formed nearly one-half of the total value of agricultural products exported.

REAL WAR NEWS SCARCE.

Information About Japanese Movements Kept Secret.

Secrecy veils the movements of the Japanese armies in Manchuria, and little that is indicative of developments in the situation is permitted to reach the correspondents. Apparently four Japanese armies are converging upon Mukden, but although the distance to be covered is not great several days are expected to elapse before there ensues a battle with the forces under General Kuroki. Improvement in the weather conditions is regarded as advantageous to the Japanese. There is no news from the direction of Port Arthur, though it seems probable that fighting is in progress there. There is no confirmation of the report that the Russian cruiser Gromobol has left Vladivostok in pursuit of a Japanese transport.

The buildings of the Canada Hardware Company, in Montreal, were burned. The loss is \$530,000, insurance, \$385,000.

Effort to Wreck Home.

A neighbor passing the residence of J. C. Maben, president of the Sloss-Sheffield Steel and Iron Co., at Birmingham, Ala., found a bottle on the front steps with a burning fuse attached. The bottle contained dynamite enough to wreck the building. The man who found the bottle told the police that he saw a white man run away from the step. A strike of union miners is on at the mines of the company.

ELECTRIC CAR BLOWN UP

Struck Box of Dynamite which Had Dropped from Wagon.

BODIES TERRIBLY MANGLED.

Every Window Within the Radius of a Quarter of a Mile Was Shattered.

An electric car containing 32 persons was blown to pieces in Melrose, Mass., by striking a 50 pound box of dynamite that had fallen off an express wagon. Six persons were killed outright and three more died of their injuries within an hour. Nineteen others on the car were taken to the two hospitals suffering from severe injuries. At least a score of persons in the immediate vicinity of the explosion were hurt by flying glass and splinters.

So great was the force of the explosion that all but ten feet of the rear portion of the car was blown into small pieces, while every window within a radius of a quarter of a mile was shattered.

The immediate vicinity of the accident presented a fearful spectacle when those in the neighborhood reached the scene. The ground was strewn with legs, arms and other portions of the bodies of those who had been killed, while shrieks and groans came from the writhing forms of the injured.

The express wagon from which the dynamite fell was driven by Roy Fenton, who discovered that the box had dropped off and rushed back to find it, but before he got within 100 yards of the box the car struck it and was blown up. Fenton was arrested.

For more than three hours there was the greatest confusion, and it was difficult to obtain the names of any of the dead or injured or to ascertain the cause of the accident. Thousands of people rushed about trying to find relatives and friends, and the hospitals were bedged.

JEFFERSON QUITS STAGE.

Venerable Comedian Will Not Act During the Present Season.

Joseph Jefferson, who has been such a conspicuous figure on the American stage for over a half a century, has at last been compelled to permanently retire. He has gone to his Buzzard's Bay home and cancelled all his engagements. It is said his retirement is only for the present season, but considering his great age this denial must necessarily be taken with allowances. Mr. Jefferson is said to be suffering from indigestion, which may culminate in other more serious disorders.

BIG STEEL PLANT BOUGHT.

American Steel Foundries Company Will Control St. Louis Works.

President Charles Miller, of the American Steel Foundries Company, announced that the concern had purchased a controlling interest in the plant of the Commonwealth Steel Company, of St. Louis, which will be devoted to the manufacture of railway castings.

AGITATING HOLY WAR.

Spreading Discontent Among Followers of Buddha in Asia.

With the success of the British expedition to Tibet and the protest of Russia against the British-Tibetan treaty some of the Russian papers have become disturbed over the importance of the Buddhist pilgrimage to Mouzan in February.

TO SEE DYING SISTER.

Letter Family Start on 5,000 Mile Trip in Great Haste.

A race with death, which will cover 5,000 miles, was begun by Joseph Leiter, his mother, Mrs. Levi Z. Leiter, and his sister, Miss Daisy Z. Leiter, on the 23d, when they left Denver, Colo., for the East, hoping to reach the bedside in England of Lady Curzon, Mr. Leiter's sister, before she dies.

NEW YORK DEMOCRATS.

State Convention at Saratoga Nominates Candidates.

The New York State Democratic convention was held at Saratoga and unanimously nominated the following ticket:

For Governor, D. Cadiz Herrick, of Albany, at present Justice of the State Supreme Court.

For Lieutenant Governor, Francis Burton Harrison, New York, now a representative in Congress from the Thirteenth district.

For Secretary of State, John Palace, Jr., of Monroe, now a member of the Assembly.

For Attorney General, John Conover, of Erie, the incumbent.

RIOTS MARK ITALIAN STRIKE.

Sympathizers Tear Down Coat of Arms in Switzerland.

A meeting of workmen was held in Rome to protest against the intervention of troops in the strike. Fully 10,000 persons participated, among them well-known anarchists. Demonstrators were dispersed by cavalry charges, in which about 20 civilians were wounded. Conflicts in which a number of officers received injuries at the hands of the mobs occurred in Turin, Genoa and Bologna. The strike has extended to Palermo and Leghorn.

NO CRISIS IN RUSSIA.

Internal Conditions Better Than Reports Have Indicated.

Investigation of the internal conditions of Russia by a man who has just returned from an extensive tour of the interior discloses a much better situation than foreigners generally believe to exist in this country. The investigator found absolutely no evidence of an impending crisis, but on the contrary found special features in the situation making for contentment of the people.

OFFICIALS ARE CONDEMNED.

Impeachment of Sheriff, Mayor and Chief of Police Recommended.

A special grand jury that investigated the lynching of Horace Maules, made its report recommending the impeachment of Sheriff Augustus Rodgers, Mayor Thomas W. Smith and Chief of Police David D. Overton, and the reorganization of the police force of Huntsville, Ala.

OVERPOWER GANG OF ITALIAN SECT MEN, ROB THEM AND ESCAPE.

Two robbers broke into the section house at Riverside, 15 miles south of Chicago, which was occupied by several Italian railroad men. The Italians were ordered to give up what money they had. Instead of complying the Italians rushed on the robbers and tried to overpower them. In the fight that followed two of the Italians were killed and another was severely injured.

PEACE ARRANGED IN URUGUAY.

The peace terms arranged between the government of Uruguay and the Uruguayan revolutionary forces are that the revolutionists shall surrender their arms and that the government shall agree not to interfere with the property of the revolutionists and that complete electoral freedom be granted.

CUBA'S IMPORTS SHOW INCREASE.

The State Department has received from Minister Squires, at Havana, a table showing Cuba's import trade for the first quarter of 1904 and for the same quarter of 1903. These figures are of special interest in that they cover the first quarter after December 26, 1903, when the reciprocity treaty took effect. There was an increase of \$2,388,200 in the imports of Cuba for the first quarter of 1904, over those for the same period of 1903.

TREATY ANGERS RUSSIA

Will Lodge Protest Against it with British Government.

CLAIM TIBET WAS COERCED.

Russia officially maintains that Great Britain has broken faith in the matter of the Tibetan treaty, and Ambassador Benckendorff has been instructed to lodge a general protest at the British foreign office. According to the Russian view, Great Britain's pledges to Russia only contemplated the regulation of trade between India and Tibet and she disclaimed any purpose to meddle with the internal or political affairs of the country. Instead of so doing, Russia claims that a treaty was forced upon the Tibetans which created a virtual protectorate over the country. Moreover it is contended the treaty is a restriction upon the sovereignty of China, compelling Tibet to consult Great Britain in its dealing with other powers.

The British foreign office reiterates that the assurances given the United States, that there will be no permanent occupation of any portion of Tibetan territory, will be observed.

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GROWTH OF CORN RETARDED.

Weather Favorable in Some Districts, but Too Cool at Night.

The weather bureau's weekly summary of crop conditions is as follows:

While the weather conditions of the week ending at 8 a. m., September 19, were generally favorable for gathering crops in nearly all districts, low night temperatures in the more northerly portions have delayed the maturity of late crops and some suffering from drought is reported from the Ohio and lower Missouri valleys and portions of the Southern States. Frosts occurred as far south as Oklahoma and Tennessee, but little or no damage resulted except to tender vegetation in the central valleys and to un-matured crops in Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas and Montana. An unusual severe rain and windstorm caused considerable damage on the 14th and 15th in portions of New England and the Middle Atlantic States. The conditions were generally favorable in California, but drought was injurious in Oregon and no rain fell in Washington.

Late corn is maturing rapidly in the Western portion of the belt, but the crop is ripening slowly in the Eastern and central sections and needs 10 to 20 days of favorable conditions to be safe from frost. While damaging frosts occurred in portions of the upper Mississippi valley, and a considerable portion of the crop was damaged in Wisconsin and some on lowlands in parts of Minnesota and Iowa, the aggregate frost damage in the last named State was not serious. Cutting is now general in all sections.

Spring wheat harvest is practically completed except in the northern portion of North Dakota, and threshing is well advanced in Minnesota and South Dakota, half done in Washington and nearing completion in Nebraska, but delayed by rain in Eastern North Dakota.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The plant of the Pacific Starch Company at Jackson City, Mich., was destroyed by fire. Loss about \$75,000.

Henry H. Rodgers, of New York, is reported quite ill. It is announced that Mr. Rodgers' illness is not serious.

Five hundred delegates of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners met in biennial convention in Milwaukee.

Seven persons were severely hurt in a street car accident in St. Joseph, Mo. Mrs. J. E. Pierpont, of Kirkwood, may die.

The United States South Atlantic squadron, Rear Admiral Chadwick commanding, sailed from St. Helena for Santos, Brazil.

The earnings of the Hocking Valley for the second week of September were \$120,825.99, against \$131,254.12 the same week last year, a decrease of \$10,428.03.

Three miners were crushed to death at the old Andover iron mill at Hillsboro, N. J., another was so badly injured that he will probably die, and two others were seriously hurt.

The first break in the ocean steamship rate war occurred in London when the North German Lloyd Company raised its steerage rate to New York to \$15. The Hamburg-American line, it was announced later, has also raised its steerage rates to \$15.

In an attempt to capture two bandits Mayor M. S. Bennett, of Mt. Carroll, Ill., was killed, while one of the robbers fell before the fire of the posse.

Two hundred miners struck at Gintler, O., because the Pittsburgh Block Coal Company did not pay and discharge a checkweighman was discharged.

Twelve persons were severely hurt in a passenger train wreck on the Lake Shore Railroad in Chicago. A broken flange caused the engine to jump the track.

William Marconi has arrived in New York from Europe. He states that he made the trip to inspect wireless telegraph service on the Cunard line, and at Cape Breton station.

Ex-Mayor J. Samuel McCue, at Charlottesville, Va., was indicted by the grand jury on a charge of killing his wife on September 4.

The Westinghouse interests have secured the contract for the equipment with the single-phase system of the Atlanta Interurban railway, which is controlled by the Georgia Railway and Electric Company.

A mysterious movement eastward is on foot on the part of bands of young Chinese suitable for military service. All the leading Chinese who have aided the Russians are leaving Mukden.

The earnings of the Toledo and Ohio Central division of the Ohio Central line for the second week in September were \$86,196, an increase of \$598 compared with the same week last year. The earnings for the two weeks were \$154,337, a decrease of \$6,564.

Sir William McDonald, educational philanthropist of Montreal, and James W. Robertson, of Ottawa, Canada, commissioners of agriculture, are making a tour of the Northern States with a view to adding improvements to the system of rural education in the Canadian provinces.

Wabash Has Ocean Outlet.

The Western Maryland Railroad tidewater extension from the main line at Walkbrook to the terminal at Port Covington was opened to freight traffic on the 20th. This line gives an ocean outlet to the Wabash system, of which the Western Maryland Railroad is now a part.

William W. Cooks was nominated by the Republican convention of the First New York Congressional district of Congress.

KEYSTONE STATE CULLINGS

WORKMEN DISCHARGED.

Boilermakers at Erie Railroad Shops Surprised by Notice to Quit Work.

When the 300 boilermakers and their helpers employed in the Erie Railroad Company's locomotive shops at Susquehanna reported for work they were surprised to find the doors of the boiler shops locked and a placard stating that their services were no longer required. No reason is assigned for the action. Two carloads of non-union men have been set to work in the shops. They will be housed and fed in the shops. A squad of detectives are picketing the shops. All of the boiler shops on the Erie Railroad system will be affected and other union organizations may be drawn into the dispute.

Stephen Fellows, a miner of Harpersboro, shot down his wife and 16-year-old son, Charles, in the railroad station at that place. Mrs. Fellows received three bullets in various parts of the head, and died that night. The boy has a deep scalp wound, caused by a glancing shot, while another ball passed through the neck and downward through the chest. There is small chance of saving his life. The perpetrator allowed himself to be taken into custody without resistance. At a hearing held in the office of Squire Doherty, he pleaded not guilty to a charge of shooting with intent to kill. He was held on the charge and taken to the Ebensburg jail this evening.

George Kopko, charged with killing George Navok, at Hazel Kirk, Washington county, Saturday night, was lodged in the Washington county jail. He was captured Monday by Chief of Police Logan, of Monongahela, as he slept beside a coal tippie in Hazel Kirk. The man was armed. In his hand while he slept was clutched a loaded revolver. He had had neither sleep nor food since Saturday night, and was almost exhausted when arrested. He admitted killing Navok, but said it was in self-defense, as the other was about to plunge a knife into him. Charles Czornak was arrested as a witness, but gave bail.

The thirty-eighth annual reunion of Company H, Twelfth regiment, Pennsylvania volunteers, was held at Seaward. The address of the day was delivered by Major H. F. Lucas, of Williamsport. Other speakers were: Rev. J. Woodring, of Johnstown, and Andrew Kerr, of Seaward. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, A. H. Hart; vice President, Dr. F. T. Overdorf, Secretary and Treasurer, Andrew Kerr.

William Hamilton was fatally injured and his son, aged 7, killed at Lumber City. They were riding a railroad speeder when a freight train struck their truck. Both were hurled a considerable distance. When they were picked up the boy was dead and the man cannot live. The train proceeded without stopping, the trainmen apparently being unaware that they had struck the speeder.

A. R. McDowell and Paul M. Daubrick have sold to the National Coal Company, of Butler, coal rights covering the Holston, Howard, Walter, Evans and Love farms, including a drift opening and mine equipment on the Love farm at Kearns crossing, one mile northeast of Butler, for \$25,000. The new owners will at once commence operations.

B. Frank Vogle, proposed as the Democratic candidate for State Senator, has declined the vacancy on the ticket, and the committee tendered it to Attorney Silas A. Kilne, of Greensburg. It is generally understood that Mr. Kilne will accept the nomination.

Factory No. 4 of the American Window Glass Company at Bellevue was damaged by fire to the extent of \$10,000. For over an hour the two volunteer fire companies fought the flames and for half of that time it looked as if the entire plant would go.

The Wayne county Democratic convention endorsed John Kuhlbach, of Honesdale, for Congress, Matthews Leonard and R. E. Warg, of Hawley, were nominated for the Assembly; Frederick Saunders, of Honesdale, for Treasurer, and Dr. G. E. Voight, of Honesdale, for Coroner.

R. W. Plumber, a former secretary of the South Sharon Trust Company, has disappeared and efforts to locate him have proved fruitless. Plumber severed his connection with the company on September 1. Plumber came to South Sharon about a year ago from Pittsburgh.

Gregory Fiscus, found guilty of voluntary manslaughter for killing George W. Hendinger at Delmont, was sentenced to serve three months in jail.

William Sanders, a machinist at the Carnegie Steel Company's plant, New Castle, was seriously injured by the breaking of a piece of machinery.

Tony Miller, who was beaten and robbed by footpads near New Castle, may die as a result of his wounds.

Robert Machele, 7 years old, Titusville, died from the effects of eating canned salmon.

George Fisher, Butler, shot an unknown Slav, while the latter was rifling his father's orchard.

Cyrus Blackwell and Joseph Lucas, who were burned by an explosion of gas at the Primrose mine at Mahanoy City on Saturday died in the Miner's Hospital. Joseph Copley, who was burned at the same time, is not expected to live.

At the meeting of the Democratic senatorial conferees for Blair, Cambria counties Thomas H. Grady, of Altoona, was nominated unopposedly on the first ballot.

Erwin H. Schuyler, professor of science in the Erie High school, resigned to accept a position as professor of chemistry in the Pitt Central High School.