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RAILROAD COLLISIONS.

Horrible Results of Some of the Latest Suggest That Something Must Be Done. A majority of the so called accidents on our railroads in the last three or four months have not been caused by the failnre of rolling stock, bridges or roadbed to stand the strain put upon them, but to the terrible carelessness of employees in places of great responsibility. The collision in Michigan was caused by the reckless disobedience of plain orders on the part of the officers in charge of one of the trains. Apparently these officers readily took the risk of continuing beyoud the point where they had been directed to stop, knowing that at any time they might meet another fast train on the same track. It will be noted that they were able to escape by jumping off just before the collision that killed 26

The collision in Illinois a few hours earlier between a limited express and a train of coal cars could not have taken place if those in charge of the freight train had exercised ordinary care and observed the fundamental rules of the service. These are the latest additions to an appalling list of blunders and in-stances of reckless disobedience which have caused great loss of life since the beginning of last summer, and this latest collision, followed by a fire that left only the charred bodies of many victims who could not be identified, is the worst of

It is true that in the last few months many railroad lines have been overtaxed by a sudden and exceptional growth of passenger traffic which has found them poorly equipped both as to the safe-guards which are needed and the employees required for the work. It is probable also that on some roads employees who were trustworthy under old conditions have become untrustworthy and even reckless under the strain of overwork. But, while the people generally may be interested in discussion of the underlying causes of such a series of dreadful events, they are more deeply interested in suggestions as to the action which can be taken to prevent such carelessness and disregard for the safety of passengers, as have been shown this

Are the penalties which a company may suffer heavy enough? The loss of property in a collision is not an important loss for a great corporation. The conviction of a conductor, or an engineer, or a train dispatcher on a charge of manslaughter can exercise very little restraining influence upon the company that employed him. But if it were pos-sible to collect through the courts large sums in damages for the lives that are lost the companies would be much more careful both in the supervision of their employees and in the establishment of block signals and other safeguards.

For the 26 lives sacrificed in Michigan the relatives of the victims can recover from the company almost \$130,000, or \$5,000 for each life. If this limit, which is imposed by the laws in most of the states, were removed, such terrible slaughter as this would be so expensive to a company that the establishment of approved safeguards would not be neglected, and every possible effort to insure the efficiency of train officers and the be made. Under present conditions a railroad company commonly suffers a much smaller loss in money when a passenger is killed than when one is crippled.-New York Times.

WHY HE KILLED HIMSELF.

A Seaman With a Good Record Could Not

Endure a Reprimand. John Neil, a seaman in the United navy yard, was reprimanded the other morning for having overstaid his leave of absence, and for punishment was or-dered restricted to the ship for a period of 60 days. As soon as Neil received his decree of punishment he went below into the ship bagroom, where he was found later with a bullet wound in his right temple. He was a man of unusual distinction, having received medal honors from congress for bravery and meritorious conduct.

He enlisted in the navy in 1861, served with Farragut at Mobile Bay and lashed the admiral in the rigging of the Hart-ford, where he stood by his side throughout the fight. Since the war Neil has served continuously in the navy and was one of the survivors of the ill fated Trenton, which went down in Apia harbor. He received general mention for bravery in rescuing shipmates from the Vandalia, which was also wrecked in the same gale. He was a native of Ireland, aged 62, and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Regular Army and Navy union. The remains were interred in the navy cemetery at Mare island under the auspices of the Army and Navy union .- New

A Parisian Newspaper Novelty. A farthing newspaper is the latest novelty in Paris. It is called La Vie, and is edited by Pol Martinet, an anarchist, who has spent no inconsiderable part of his life in prison for his violent writings. As a farthing, or, to speak more precisely, a 24 centime piece, is unknown to the French currency, the new venture is faced at the outset by a serious practical difficulty, but the projector gets over it in a rather ingenious fashion. The paper is to be printed in two different colors, each color being used on alternate days. Purchasers of a paper of one color will be charged a halfpenny, but they will get in exchange for it on the following day, without further charge, the paper of the other color.—London Daily News.

Money In Honey.

Some of the beekeepers in Skagit county, Wash., will take 100 pounds from each of quite a number of their colonies this season. This means \$20 per swarm, gross, which is regarded as better than 100 per cent interest on the investment. -Tacoma News.

DANGEROUS DERELICTS.

of an International Agreement Po Their Marking or Removal. A Washington dispatch anent the resolution of Congressman Cummings providing for an international agreement

Secretary Carlisle, in a letter to the committee on the subject, says that the necessity for such an agreement among the governments concerned was emphasized by the international marine conference held in Washington in 1889. He believes the resolution a proper one and recommends its passage. Accompanying his letter are extracts from the report of the commissioner of navigation on the subject.

Commissioner O'Brien in his report especially invites attention to the subject of derelicts and other obstructions to navigation. He refers to it as a matter of international concernment and one of great importance. President Mink of the American Steamship association, in a letter to Mr. O'Brien, says that he is informed that the commissioner is making heroic efforts to get rid of derelicts off the Atlantic coast. He is rejoiced at this, as the members of the association are complaining bitterly at these unlighted and unmarked obstructions. They have been so frequent of late that no captain feels easy in going up or down the coast.

Mr. Mallory says that precious car-goes and still more precious lives are greatly threatened every time a vessel passes between the United States and Europe and along the North American coast, and they are not infrequently destroyed. Charts have done much for the safety of commerce by showing the posi-tions of 332 vessels abandoned on the high seas and by marking the drift tracks of 189 of them. But they have utterly failed, and this is an alarming fact, to show the tracks of 625 derelicts which have been reported. It is another alarming fact that they have tracks and do drift. They are here today, yonder to-morrow. They are a roving fleet that always hover upon the pathway of commerce. They are more dangerous than a fleet of pirates, because they are vastly more numerous, because they strike even more by night than by day and because they are more merciless when they do strike. To destroy them is the only effective way of dealing with them.

THE MIDWAY IN CALIFORNIA.

Many of the Features of the Chicago Show to Be Exhibited at the Midwinter Fair. The managers of the midwinter international exposition, to be held in San Francisco, are showing much enterprise in their engagements of special attractions. Besides the many exhibitors at Chicago who will remove their displays to San Francisco, arrangements have been made to show the customs and manners of other parts of the world, either not so civilized or boasting of an older civilization.

It is the Midway plaisance which will be drawn upon for these exhibitions, and the street in Cairo and other oriental scenes will be reproduced in Golden Gate park. A German village, a Spanish village, practical representations of quartz mines and a lake filled with ocean fish are also among the features of the scheme. The Chinese display will be especially fine. It will be contained in a building of appropriate design, within which will be a garden of rare Chinese plants. In the center of the garden the grave of Confucius will be reproduced. There will be a theater for Chinese plays by native actors, and booths in which various handicraftsmen will be at work.

The crowning glory of this department will be a pagoda 75 feet high, fash-ioned after the celebrated domes at Nan-kin, with tiled roof decorated with fantastic carvings and figures of the fabled dragon projecting from the angles and dragon flags of blue, red and yellow fluttering from the staffs of decorative de-

To Deport Consumptives. Since the great majority of the medical fraternity of Massachusetts have recenty subscribed to the belief that consumption is a contagious disease, it has been borne in upon many besides those directy interested in consumptive persons hrough family or other ties that the proposed work of the new Invalid Aid society, one of the latest of Boston's benevolent institutions, is business as well as benevolence. A moment's reflection convinces every one that if a disease whose annual harvest in this country, and especially in this district, dwarfs all the other diseases, including even the epidemics wherever there are such, is communicable, as now appears, then it everybody's business, in common self defense, to promote the migration of consumptives and a fund for the deportation of consumptives too poor to travel is a public hygienic precaution.—Boston Transcript.

Lightning Strikes Through Feathers. A family residing in Washington, Ga., was considerably shocked during an electrical storm a short time ago by the lightning striking the telegraph and electric light wires which pass the house. After the storm had subsided it was ascertained that a large fig bush in the garden had been struck and a hen and three chickens which had sought shelter under the broad leaves killed. The chickens were found under the hen, which was sitting in a natural position with not a feather ruffled.—Atlanta Con-

Why Mr. Astor Is Proud. Mr. William Waldorf Astor is the proud possessor of the black pug dog Man Friday, having just purchased that distinguished animal from Mr. R. Mortivals of Takeley, Essex, at a big price.

Man Friday is described by connoisseurs as very handsome, with a most perfect jet black coat. Black pugs are very rare and extremely quaint, and Mr. Astor believes he is the only American who possesses a specimen of the breed,— London Letter.

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