

CURRENT HAPPENINGS

FAITHFUL CHRONICLE OF ALL IMPORTANT ITEMS.

GIGANTIC RATE WAR

BIG SHIPPERS PREPARE FOR BATTLE WITH RAILROADS.

Manufacturers Aroused to Action. by Filing of Tariff Calling for Higher Rates in Texas—F. W. Upham Sends Out Call for Conference.

A battle royal between a billion dollar combine of manufacturers and shippers against the railroads of the United States has been declared. The railroads have determined to advance rates at least 10 per cent over the United States. The big shippers from all parts of the nation have leagued together to fight the advance.

A meeting has been called for Chicago on July 24 to open the fight. The fight will be carried into the courts if necessary and if not ended before next winter will likely be continued in the legislatures in a score of states.

All hope on the part of manufacturers and shippers that the railroads of the country would recede from their position with reference to an advance in freight rates was removed when it was learned that the first definite move, the filing of new tariffs, had been made. The new schedule is designated as the Texas tariff "I. F. F." It was filed with the interstate commerce commission by the Southwestern Freight association through commissioner E. A. Leland, of St. Louis. The tariff will become effective August 10. It shows a general advance in joint freight rates for Texas of approximately 8 per cent, and it is expected to be followed by others providing for similar advances throughout the country.

Explosion in Coal Mine. Twelve Men Believed to Have Perished and Eight Fearfully Burned. An explosion of gas in the Williams-town colliery, operated by the Susquehanna Coal company at Pottsville, Pa., resulted Wednesday afternoon, in the probable death of twelve miners. Six have been taken out and six more are still inside. Eight have been taken out terribly burned, several of whom will die.

The accident was caused by an explosion of gas, but those who thus far have been taken out have not been able to give a connected story of the accident. It was with great difficulty that rescuing parties could go down into the shaft and there is little hope of the men still in the burning workings being rescued alive. The men were all residents of Williams town and immediate vicinity and almost all were Americans.

Bomb Bursts in Gotham Flat. Causes a Panic in Fashinobale Apartment House.

A dynamite bomb which exploded with terrific force in the archway of a fashionable apartment house in West One Hundred and Fortieth street, New York, hurled scores of occupants from their beds, shattered many windows and threw the tenants into a panic. Considerable damage was done to the building. There are 42 families living in the apartment house, but as far as the police could learn none of them had received threatening letters, and the reason for the bomb throwing is a mystery.

Men at Machines Shocked. During a severe electrical storm 100 men employed at the Pittsburgh-Hickson Bed company at Butler, Pa., were shocked by lightning. Three men were seriously injured. The current followed the shafting, shocking every man at the machines.

Car Stopped to Aid Woman. Inturbant passengers stopped their car and rescued a woman from an assailant in the country between Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, Wis. Miss Minnie Helin was attacked by an unknown man shortly after alighting from the car.

Reward for Sheriff's Fees. The Houghton county, Mich., board of supervisors offered \$2,000 and Sheriff Beck added \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the persons who sent an infernal machine to Beck which nearly destroyed the jail.

Boy Attempts Swim; Falls. Loren Vittum, aged 16, was drowned in a pond near Knoxville, Ill., while swimming with two companions. Vittum, who was just learning to swim, attempted to cross the pond and sank.

St. Louis Live Stock Market. Wednesday quotations on the St. Louis live stock market follow: Top hogs, \$6.60. Top hogs, \$6.40.

Left \$3,000 to Niece. Miss Mary Hastings, a nurse in moderate circumstances in the Company hospital at Kendall, Mont., is one of the beneficiaries of the late Grover Cleveland.

Deserted by Friends; Dies. Michael Coersch, a miner, was drowned in the Washburn at Clinton, Ill. His companions ran away in superstitious fright when they saw him drowning.

REPUBLICS NEAR WAR.

Central American Peace Pact Under Severe Strain.

Official advices reached the state department Monday confirming the press reports that the Honduran government forces have returned to the small town of Graciosa, and add that they are about to move to the more important city of Cholutoca. To this extent the government appears to have the advantage. On the other hand, Honduras is menaced from the northern border. On the Caribbean sea border there are continually reiterated reports of an attack on Punta Cortez, while Gen. Lee Christman, whom the state department officials style a soldier of fortune, is reported to be in the country, just a few hours from Puerto Cortez. The force is mentioned in one of the dispatches as being on a small island about eighteen miles distant from Puerto Cortez, and presumably is the one from which an attack is feared.

The state department is being fully advised of the situation, but Mr. Dodge, the minister to Honduras and Salvador, explains that reliable information is difficult to obtain. Meanwhile the American and Mexican governments continue to exercise their efforts to conserve peace in that part of the world, but have gone to the extent thus far only of offering their friendly mediation.

The American cruiser Albany is now on its way from Panama to America, via the port of Honduras. Minister Dodge has telegraphed the state department confirming the dispatches that Honduras has made a formal complaint before the Central American court at Cartagena charging Guatemala and Salvador with non-observance of neutrality under the Central American peace convention.

DEHORND KIND DANGEROUS.

Druggists Warned of Peril of Denatured Alcohol.

That both the physician who writes a prescription for denatured alcohol and the druggist who prepares the prescription and sells the medicine to the patient are liable to criminal prosecution is held in a decision rendered by the commissioners of internal revenue. The decision is the result of the action of some druggists who prescribed denatured alcohol for external medicinal purposes, not knowing that to do so is a violation of the law. The decision says:

"Completed, denatured alcohol contains kerosene and crude wood alcohol, which render it unfit even for external medicine. Moreover the second section of the law regulating the sale of manufactured or denatured alcohol provides fine and imprisonment for any person who uses denatured alcohol for manufacturing any beverage or liquid medicinal preparation or knowingly sells any preparation made in part or wholly from such alcohol.

ALL TO HANG SOON.

Murderer of Denver Priest Soon to Pay Extreme Penalty.

Giuseppe Alia, of Denver, the priest murderer, will be hanged in the state penitentiary at Canon City some time this week, but the day and the hour is known only to prison officials and perhaps has not been definitely decided upon by them. The custom in Colorado long followed by the courts is to designate the week when convicted murderers are sentenced to death shall execute their crime, actually carry out the sentence to select the moment when the sentence shall be carried into effect.

Zionists in Convention.

The real work of the eleventh annual convention of the Federation of Zionists began Monday. There were many interesting talks on the movement having for its purpose the settling of Jews in Palestine. The reports of officers show a gratifying increase in the number of societies joining the federation the last year.

Hogs Touch a New Mark.

The hog market which has been advancing steadily since March, climbed to the high mark for the year Monday when prime animals sold at \$7.95 in Chicago. The scarcity of corn, resulting in a corresponding scarcity of hogs, is given as the reason for the advance.

Auto Through Bridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Bonnie, Miss Elizabeth Shirley, Richard Meeneffe, Dr. Carl Wiseman, prominent society people, and Frank Ball, chauffeur, were seriously injured Monday at Louisville, Ky., when an auto went through a broken bridge over the Salt river.

Baby Born on a Street Car.

Street car traffic in Washington street, Chicago, was brought to a standstill for a half an hour Monday when Mrs. John Buloff, a passenger on an Armistice avenue car, while passing the city hall, gave birth to a girl baby.

Leading Mason Very Ill.

Hugh McCurdy, former grand master of the Knights Templars in the United States and one of the acknowledged authorities in the country on Masonic jurisprudence, is critically ill at his home in Corunna, Mich., and may not survive.

Troops After Navajo Indians.

Five more troops of the Fifth United States cavalry have been ordered to the Navajo Indian reservation in Arizona under Col. Huner.

CRAZED BY REMORSE.

Woman Tells Startling Tale of Attempted Slaughter.

Tortured with remorse over her attempt to burn the family of her step-daughter alive Mrs. Mary Meyers, living near Wind, Ia., made a complete confession of her attempted crime to her husband and father. She is now a nervous wreck and may become a raving maniac.

The intended victims of Mrs. Meyers were Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Livesey and two small children, who live about a half mile from the Meyers home. Mrs. Livesey is a stepdaughter of Mrs. Meyers, and the older woman had always entertained most intense hatred and jealousy of the younger woman.

Last Thursday night Livesey was awakened by a noise in the house, and, smelling smoke, investigated and discovered a fire in the lower hall, and extinguished the blaze. He next discovered a big chunk of cotton saturated with chloroform in the sleeping room. He reported the matter to the authorities and Mrs. Meyers was arrested the following day. Tuesday she waived preliminary hearing and was held to the grand jury under \$3,000 bonds. Money was furnished and the woman went home. She had steadfastly protested her innocence and maintained a cheerful demeanor in the face of the grave charges.

Tuesday night she suffered a nervous collapse and sobbed out the story of her guilt to her husband and father. She told in detail how she proceeded to the Livesey home armed with a chloroform soaked sponge and a sack of oil soaked cobs. She entered the house by the rear door and tiptoed upstairs. Stopping at the apartments of the Liveseys she threw the sponge through the open door. She then returned to the front hall, where she had left the cobs, and ignited them. She said she was jealous of her husband's solicitude for his daughter.

TO SEEK CARGO OF GOLD.

Sea Captain Says He Knows Where \$20,000,000 Sunk.

Captain Nils Peter Sorenson, of New York, believes that he has Robert Louis Stevenson's treasure island beaten to death. He says he knows where \$20,000,000 in gold bullion lies buried at the bottom of the ocean, and he shows documents to prove the existence of the wreck laden with gold, tallow and wool, just where it has been forty-two years. Captain Sorenson has organized an expedition to go after the buried gold, and has given himself just eighteen months to return a rich man.

According to the captain's story the American clipper ship, Gen. Grant, was wrecked on the west coast of the island of Auckland in 1866. The Gen. Grant had aboard \$3,000,000 in gold bullion, shipped by banks and another \$1,000,000 in value in gold bars in boxes, which 150 returning miners were taking back home with them. It took fifteen days to load the gold aboard the vessel at Melbourne, and the treasure was locked into a strong compartment under the captain's cabin.

"For forty-two years," says the captain, "all that gold has been there. I have not seen the wreck for thirty years, but it still lies there as sound as the day it went down. Now we are going to get that gold. The New Zealand government makes no claim to it. I have arranged for a concession permitting me to land a crew of the island."

AMERICAN IS THE WINNER.

The United States won the first completed event in the Olympic games Tuesday. Flannigan (American) winning the final in the hammer throw. The distance was 170 feet and 4 1/2 inches, beating the Olympic record. McGrath (American) was second, with 167 feet and 11 inches, and Walsh, of Canada, third.

Showers again interfered with the contents.

The final of the 1,500 meter flat race was won by Sheppard (American); Whson, of England, second, and Hallows, of England, third. Sheppard's time was 4 minutes and 3 2/5 seconds.

Sheppard and Sullivan lay back in the first stages of the race and let the Englishmen take the lead. Sheppard was fourth until the stretch and Wilson and Hallows in the first string. As the men started to sprint on the back stretch of the final lap Wilson was in the lead. As they turned into the straight Sheppard sprinted the last hundred yards, passing his competitors, and cross the tape one yard and a half ahead of Wilson. Hallows was five yards behind Wilson. Tait, of Canada, finished fourth. The runners held well together until the last hundred yards.

May Have Been Abducted.

Mrs. Fred Adams, 21 years old, of Vall, Io., and her daughter Freda, 3 years old, are believed by relatives to have been abducted and are being sought for in Chicago by Detectives Trafton and Sharp, as a result of their failure to reach home after a visit at Trenton, N. J.

Dies of Baseball Wound.

After bleeding from the mouth continually since June 22, when he was struck by a baseball, Frank Phillips, of Pittsburgh, Pa., 9 years old, died Tuesday.

Lynching in Tennessee.

Hugh Jones, a negro, was strung up to a tree, near Middletown, Tenn., early Tuesday by a mob of 150 men. Jones attempted to assault a young white girl.

NEBRASKA STATE NEWS

SUPPOSED CASE OF SUICIDE.

Hans Bern, of Sioux City, Disappears and Only Coat Can Be Found.

The three men met at the toll house where the Kerns stopped to talk to Tollkeeper Fellers. On walking about 150 feet past the toll house Bern's coat was found neatly folded and lying between the two railings. His hat was on top of the coat. The initials "H. B." were cut in the inner band of the hat, and in the pockets of the coat a number of papers were found. One was a receipt for dues paid to Lodge 77, Fraternal Order of Eagles, at Sioux City, from February 5 to August 5, 1908. A receipt for 12 poll tax paid to Hans Bern at Emerson, Nebraska, was also found. A card of a woman of a Ninth street resort and a program of the Novelty theater of Denver were in the coat pocket. The theater program was dated May 25 and on the back was an almost illegible pencil scrawl which read somewhat as follows: "This is all I can do for you. See you later. Eagle 77, Soo City." At the top of the card was scrawled "Hans from Emerson."

Bern is thought to be a man about 30 or 35 years old.

ARRANGING GUARD CAMP.

Tract of Land Lensed Near Ashland for Use of National Guard.

Adjutant General Charles F. Schwartz of the National Guard went to Ashland Monday and made final arrangements for the annual encampment to be held between July 19 and August 18. One hundred and twenty acres of land along the Platte river near Ashland has been leased for three years with the option of buying the same to be used as a permanent rifle range. This piece of land is situated on the bend of the river, furnishing a long range up stream that is ideal for rifle practice. It was understood that practice will be held here throughout the month under the direction of officers of the National Guard and regular army officers from Fort Crook. The governor and his staff and many prominent citizens are also expected to be in attendance during the encampment.

NEBRASKA MAN A VICTIM.

Bought Large Chunks of Blue Sky on the Installment Plan.

John Weber of Lexington, was one of the four witnesses who appeared in criminal court in Chicago and secured a \$100,000 judgment for the month of August. The judgment was against W. H. Carpenter, manager; Charles H. Commona, president and secretary of the United Co-operative House Purchasing society. The scheme of the society was \$5 down and \$8 monthly would secure a nice \$1,000 home or farm. Weber had paid him \$200. The firm had advertised in newspapers and by mail. Indictments were returned and federal officials are also preparing to take action against the indicted men.

Hogs Still Going Up.

The South Omaha hog market seems to have no limit short of the ceiling. The prices went up Monday to \$6.60, a new record for the year. The receipts, however, were pretty light and accounted in a measure for the high bidding. The commission men are talking about \$7 hogs. Cattle on the other hand were a long slide lower than last week's closing.

Ban on Concealed Weapons.

Owing to the numerous shooting affairs which have occurred recently, a determined effort is being made by the Omaha police to discourage the habit of carrying concealed weapons.

Sheldon Back From Kansas.

Governor Sheldon has returned from his Kansas trip. The governor reports a pleasant time and good meetings. He filled the dates of Senator Tillman, who could not be present because of poor health.

Ten Horses Killed.

A barn on the farm of Draper Stephenson, three miles east of Blue Springs, was struck by lightning Monday, being totally destroyed and burning to death ten head of horses.

New Factory for Omaha.

The Hoff-ber company, with Robert L. Hoffber and George C. Eboesole as incorporators, has filed articles of incorporation with the county clerk at Omaha. The company is capitalized at \$100,000 and is engaged to manufacture and sell indexing devices.

Wheat Harvest in Gage County.

The wheat harvest is practically over in Gage county, and many farmers have commenced cutting their hay and oats crops. During the last week they have been working overtime in the corn fields, which are being cleaned of a rank growth of weeds.

Young Man Overcome by Heat.

While putting up hay on his father's farm near Fullerton, George N. Carter, aged 29, was overcome by the heat. When Dr. Barber arrived he found the young man's eyes set and body rapidly growing cold, but by heroic work his life was saved.

Work at Murphy Quarry.

A force of fifty teams and three hundred men employed have arrived at the Murphy quarry, one-half mile west of Louisville, and are preparing to do a large amount of shipping.

BIG HAY AND GRAIN CROP.

Rye and Winter Wheat Both Average Well in Quantity and Quality.

The harvest of small grain has commenced throughout Chautauque county. Rye and winter wheat show promise of a little above the average yield in both quality and quantity. The season has been highly favorable for small grain and grasses. A bumper hay crop is being gathered. Periodical rains are still the rule, the excessive moisture retarding the growth of the corn and almost precluding cultivation. Corn while of a good color and stand, is fully two weeks behind its normal condition and development.

Farmers are highly elated over the wheat crop around Wynona, which is turning out well. Harvesting is about over and from what threshing has been done a heavy yield is estimated.

Word from Wayne says the weather is extremely warm. Crops are in splendid condition and farmers busy harvesting an immense hay crop.

Ranchmen around Valentine are making necessary preparations for harvesting their hay crop, which is one of the best grown in that county for many years.

Following a week of continued moisture the last few days have been oppressively hot and the ground is setting dry and baked.

NEW FIRM FROM CHICAGO.

Bowles Commission Co. Prepares to Open Office in South Omaha.

M. J. P. Bowles, president of the Bowles Live Stock Commission company, of Chicago, is in Omaha, stopping at the Rome hotel. Mr. Bowles is in the city to perfect arrangements to establish a branch office of his firm in South Omaha. Everything has been arranged and Mr. Bowles has rented three rooms in the Exchange building and has started up the office to suit their convenience. The Bowles company is one of the largest of the Chicago commission firms who realize the importance of the Omaha market and are coming there to meet the increasing demand. W. F. King, who has worked in the South Omaha yards for the last seventeen years as buyer, has accepted the position of manager for the South Omaha office, and they are using every endeavor to be ready for business by AUG. 1.

PRISONERS MAKE BOLD ESCAPE.

Work Done in Professional Style and Men Leave Little Clue.

Two prisoners, who were awaiting trial in the county jail in Valentine broke out some time Sunday and made a neat getaway. They took a wooden bedstead apart, pried back the top of the iron door of the cage, knocked the top panels off the wooden door and broke the lock of the outer iron door. The work was done in professional style. Two horses, saddles and bridles were stolen from Mosera Brosius house, and the authorities believe the prisoners were being held on a charge of attempted forgery and the other was charged with petty thieving.

RANGE CATTLE MOVING EARLY.

Burlington Receives 160 Cows at Sheridan Within 48 Hours.

Range cattle are starting for the eastern markets, earlier this year than usual. The ranges have been in splendid condition all spring and the cattle are said to be in fine shape. Some idea of the enormity of the movement which is started may be had from the Burlington report from Sheridan, where 160 cows of range cattle were loaded during forty-eight hours. The cattle from Texas to the ranges are not all moved, and it is unusual for the range cattle to be started to market before the movement from the Panhandle is over.

Chautauque at Wayne.

The Wayne Chautauque association will hold its second annual assembly at the high school grounds July 23 to 30. The grounds are splendidly landscaped and every effort is being made to make the most successful. An excellent program has been provided, regardless of expense. Wayne Commercial Club band will give concerts daily.

Big New Bridge Over Niobrara.

A special train of baggage, two coaches and a deeper carrying officials of the Northwestern, have arrived through Valentine recently on a tour of inspection and especially to look over the ground for the new \$400,000 bridge across the Niobrara at this point.

First New Wheat of Season.

The first new wheat of the season was marketed at Valentine Wednesday by Frank Thornbury, living two miles east of the city. The grain is of excellent quality and tested a trifle over 60 pounds to the bushel. It was sold for 50 cents a bushel.

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THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



Developments are mainly favorable to their general effect upon the future course of trade. The government crop report proved as good as looked for, and, with the splendid prospects for greater harvests than last year, there is reasonable basis for advancing activity in the leading industries. Money is easier in loan and favors legitimate investment in high grade securities and capital for business needs. Holding retail trade rose to extended proportions and this has caused much reduction of merchandise stocks. Clearance sales have brought much buying, prices being attractive in seasonal wares, food products and household necessities.

A very hopeful indication is presented by largely increased attendance of visiting buyers in wholesale markets, and there is more than the demand usual at this period for fall deliveries of dry goods, footwear, wools, clothing and men's furnishings. Furniture exhibits are exceptionally well taken, and the advance bookings furnish a gratifying total in the best quality.

Bank clearings for five days, \$214,604,019, compared with \$208,494,201 in the full week of 1907, a decrease of 2.91 per cent.

Failures reported in the Chicago district number 25, against 35 last week and 25 a year ago. Those with liabilities over \$5,000 number 6, against 10 last week and 5 in 1907.—Dun's Review of Trade.

NEW YORK.

Midsummer quiet still reigns in general trade and industry, but the advance of the season and the promise of good average crops have accentuated the feeling of confidence as to the ultimate outcome of future fall business. Filling-in orders from jobbers are numerous but small, probably indicating widely broken retail stocks, and retailers have rather callous than usual put in force reductions as a means of stimulating consumption. As the West preparations are making for buyers' excursions, and a more thoroughly organized effort to stimulate buying looked for this fall than ever before, industry is possible a trifle more active following last week's holidays, but shut-downs for inventory, repairs or to limit production have apparently more than counterbalanced resumption that have taken place. Business failures in the United States for the week ending July 12 number 246, which compares with 236 last week, 185 in the like week of 1907, 143 in 1906, 165 in 1905 and 203 in 1904. Business failures in Canada for the week number 30, which compares with 28 last week and 19 in this week last year.—Bradstreet's Report.

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