

MINERS IN BATTLE.

Meet the Deputies in Deadly Conflict at Virden.

STATE TROOPS SENT.

Fourteen Were Killed and Many Fatally Wounded by Rifle Bullets.

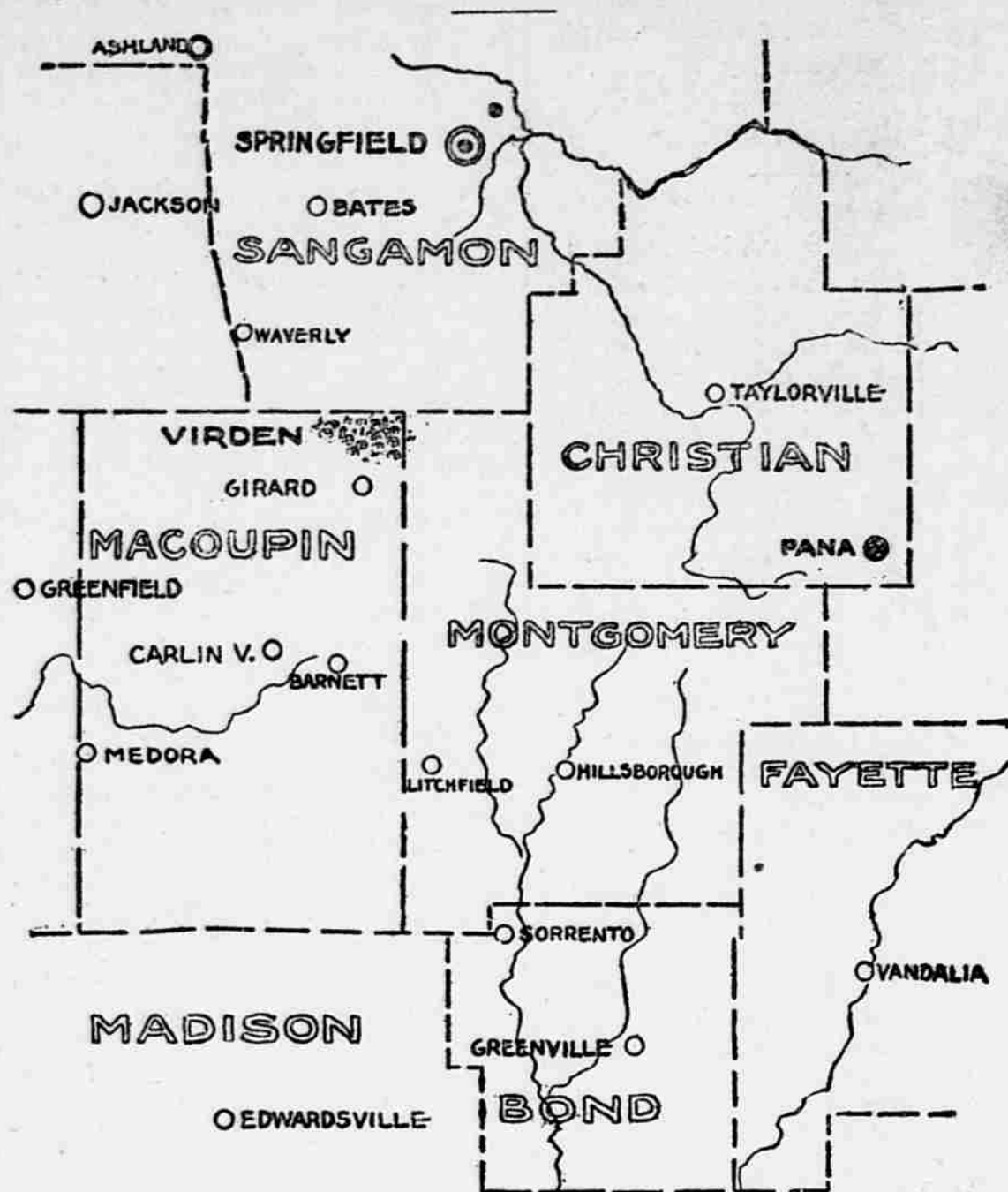
Effort of the Coal Mine Operators to Bring Negro Miners from the South Causes Trouble—Twenty-five More or Less Severely Wounded—Railway Cars Are Riddled with Bullets—Tanner Sends Troops.

The expected tragedy at Virden, Ill., was enacted Wednesday. A train load of negro miners who were brought to Virden to take the places of the men who were on strike was met by a mob of strikers, variously estimated at from five hundred to fifteen hundred, and a battle ensued, in which many were killed or wounded. The striking miners had been awaiting the coming of the negroes for several days. They have been armed during all of that time and have paraded the streets of the town, openly avowing their purpose to prevent the negroes from landing.

The tragedy is the result of a determined effort on the part of the Chicago-Virden Coal Company to employ negro miners brought from Alabama to take the places of miners on a strike. The strikers were equally determined and both sides sought to win by force of arms.

It was shortly after noon when the trouble began. The operators have known for weeks that there would be riot and

MAP SHOWING SEAT OF MINING OUTBREAKS IN ILLINOIS.



This map shows the country surrounding Virden (Macoupin County), where the killing of the miners took place. The town of Pana on the right is the original seat of the trouble. Pana is in the County of Christian, about thirty-six miles to the east. Virden itself is only about twenty-one miles from Springfield. From Springfield to St. Louis the distance is about 100 miles, and from Springfield to Chicago the distance is about 180 miles. The mining troubles have occurred within an area described by a circle whose radius starts from Virden as the center of the circle. The town of Virden itself is situated on the Chicago and Alton Railroad and on the Jacksonville, Louisville and St. Louis. The population in 1890 (census count), 1,610.

CAUSE OF THE MINERS' STRIKE.

Conditions Leading Up to the Trouble at Pana and Virden.

The coal miners' strike, which has had such a sanguinary culmination at Virden, was begun last April. The miners insisted on a scale of wages adopted at the miners' national convention at Columbus. The operators refused the terms demanded, and the miners offered to leave the matter to arbitration. This the operators refused to consider, and when the State Board of Arbitration went to Pana for the purpose of settling the difficulty, if possible, the operators declined to join in the investigation. Then the lockout began. In August the operators grew tired of the situation and undertook to fill the strikers' places with imported negroes, and since that time Pana has been in a state of siege. Sheriffs have guarded the negroes, who have been working behind stockades. The Penwell and Springside mines were protected with stockades and the negroes were safe behind them. When an imported miner appeared in the streets he was roughly treated.

SENTIMENT AGAINST OPERATORS

Opinion General at Virden That the Miners Have Won a Victory.

Everywhere, according to a Virden report, sentiment is against the mine owners. It is the general opinion that the miners have won a victory, though at a terrible price. Miners stood guard at the stockades, and the Chicago and Alton tracks all of Wednesday night, fearful that an attempt would be made to bring the special with the imported miners on board back from Springfield. The miners claim that the first shot was fired from the train by a guard. A miner fired a shot into the air as the train approached the town, as a signal for the miners to assemble and resist the landing of the negroes.

Adjutant General Reece, in command of the soldiers, said he had unmistakable orders from Gov. Tanner to prevent further trouble, to protect lives and property and to prevent operators from bringing imported labor into the town. He called upon the men at the stockade with Col. Sargeant McKnight of Girard, a member

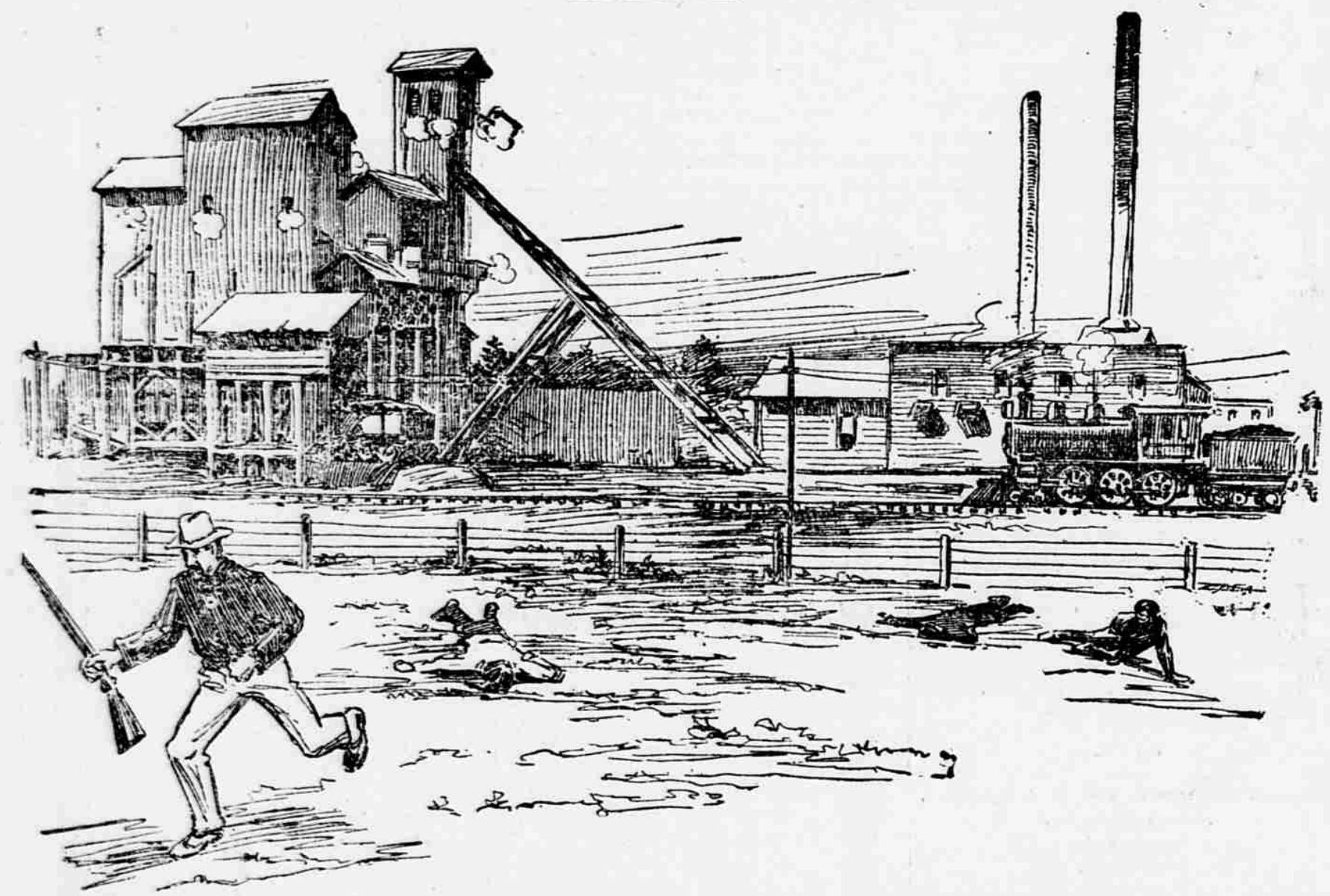


J. F. EYSTER, Manager of the Chicago-Virden Coal Co. F. U. LUKENS, Manager of the Chicago-Virden Coal Co.

bloodshed the moment it was attempted to unload the negroes at the mines, and they were prepared for trouble. A stockade had been erected, with a block house in the inclosure, in which thirty-two Chicago police officers with loaded rifles were stationed.

No sooner had the train steamed in than

STOCKADE AND SHAFT TOWER AT VIRDEN, SCENE OF WEDNESDAY'S BATTLE.



From the shaft tower at the stockade a deadly fire was poured into the ranks of the strikers, apparently by expert marksmen, as it is claimed most of the fatalities among the attacking party were caused by bullets from this vantage point. The train came to a halt just in front of the gate and a force of guards emerged to cover the unloading of the negroes. The fiercest fight of the day resulted.

a fusillade was opened upon the miners from the guards in the block house and the fifty guards in charge of the train. Then the slaughter began. The miners returned the fire, and soon dead and wounded men numbered the ground. At the east end of the stockade where the train stopped the scene was awful. The miners who were making their demonstrations were to the south of the stockade, but over in the field east of the Chicago and Alton tracks was a crowd of miners. The guards in the tower and on the train commenced picking them off, and here is where the miners lost all their men who were killed. The train met a furious volley of bullets from over a thousand men, every shot intended to kill. The volleys were kept up for fully ten minutes, until the uselessness of remaining became apparent to the trainmen, and the train was sped on to Springfield.

Then the miners turned loose and pandemonium reigned. The men were crazed at the slaughter of their comrades, and as a result there were terrible excesses. J. F. Eyster, manager of the coal company store, was speared in the streets and set on fire. He was first shot down and then his body was frightfully mangled under the feet of the angry miners. He cannot possibly recover. The arrival of the militia quieted matters somewhat.

Troops were sent by Gov. Tanner to protect life and property and he asked the Federal authorities to allow him to use Col. Calver's regiment. He insisted the soldiers should not aid the coal mine operators in their purpose of working imported negro miners, and he declares the operators ought to be convicted for causing the bloodshed. Mr. Lukens, the company's manager, is quite as vehement in his denunciation of the Governor for his failure to send troops sooner.

Out of a total German population of 441 in the capital of German East Africa, Dares-Salaam, 158 are officials.

After the negroes who were brought from Alabama on Aug. 24 were put to work the miners coerced the Overholt brothers to write a note calling the miners out, but when released by the strikers who had captured them the note was repudiated. On Sept. 14 another batch of negro miners were put to work in the Penwell mines. Two weeks later one of



GATLING GUN OF BATTERY B.

their number appeared on the streets and was attacked. This precipitated a riot and the negro was arrested. A call was made for troops, which, after having been previously refused by the Governor, arrived on the last day of September.

TROUBLE FEARED AT PANA.

Private Guards and Armed Soldiers Parade the Streets.

It is feared the effect of the battle between the miners, deputies and hired guards at Virden will be to precipitate trouble in Pana, where the same conditions precisely exist, except upon a greater scale. Eight hundred miners are out of employment and their places filled by negroes. Feeling runs high over the Virden incident. It has been found necessary to place a private guard on duty, and soldiers parade the streets.

of the Governor's staff, and notified them that all arms must be surrendered.

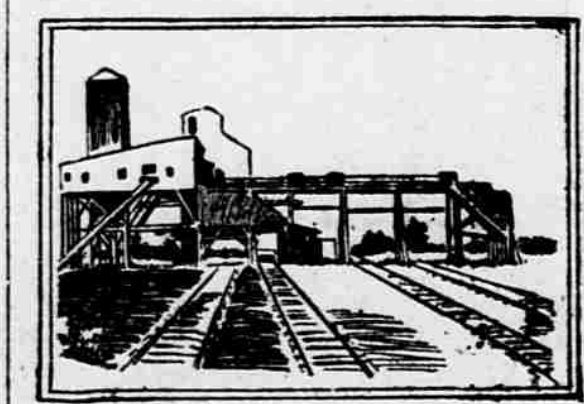
ARRIVAL OF BATTERY B.

Presence of State Troops Causes a Lull in the Tumult at Virden.

The arrival of Battery B from Pana at midnight Wednesday was the signal for peace in Virden. The tumult of the streets had not subsided before that time and threats of blowing up the stockade with dynamite were freely made by the more hot-headed of the miners. When the troops arrived a skirmish line was thrown out at once by Capt. Craig and the streets cleared. Seventy-five men were found in the strikers' hall and made to come down to the street and hold up their hands. They were searched and all weapons taken from them. This action was general throughout the city.

Ejection Notices Served.

Operator King of Chicago, owner of the Green Ridge shaft at Carlinville, has served ejection notices on miners occupying company houses. King has received no rent since last May. The miners are given twelve days' notice to leave, at the end of which time, it is asserted, they are to be supplanted by imported men.



PENWELL MINE, PANA.

MANY ARE LOST.

British Steamer Mohegan Wrecked on the Coast of Cornwall, England.

Dispatches from Falmouth give details of the wreck of the steamer Mohegan off the Manacles, where she ran aground and broke up in the heavy sea. She struck heavily, tearing a great hole in her bottom, and slid off into deep water and almost immediately foundered. So sudden was the catastrophe that most of the passengers and crew went down with the vessel. Of the passengers and crew forty-five are reported saved.

The lifeboat from Falmouth found fourteen of the crew alive on the rocks and took them off. They were nearly exhausted. The tug Penguin picked up a survivor who had been floating in the water seven hours and a half. He gave this account of the disaster:

"We heard a crash and every one rushed on deck. We found the vessel on the rocks and the water fast gaining on us. The greatest order prevailed. The captain at his post from the bridge gave orders to the crew, who worked nobly and without confusion. The women were first attended to, and every one stood by while two boats were filled with them and launched. The sea was very heavy, and I do not know if they got safely away from the vessel or succeeded in reaching the beach. The vessel began to settle astern, and in twenty minutes after she struck went down. While the sea was high the night was very clear. The last I saw of Captain Griffiths he was still on the bridge, and I do not know if he was saved."

Reports of the loss of life vary. Lloyd's report says the crew numbered 115 and the passengers 59. Another report gives these figures at 80 and 53. A third account says 170 drowned. The latest estimate of the saved from various sources is 45.

HAULING DOWN THE TRICOLOR.

"British Empire Will Stand No Trifling from France."

All England is applauding Lord Roseberry's speech at Epsom, in which he declared that the British empire would stand no trifling from France over the Fashoda matter, and that unless the tricolor was hauled down on the Nile by Maj. Marchand there would be war. Lord Roseberry also took occasion to warn all the other nations which are anxiously awaiting developments that the old spirit of Great Britain is as strong as ever, and that any disrespect to its flag would end in disaster to the offending country.

These firm words, coming apparently well studied from the liberal leader, have created a most profound sensation and aroused a warlike feeling. In speaking of the situation at Fashoda Lord Roseberry said it was one of extreme gravity, and that it had been precipitated by France, in the face of a deliberate warning from England that the course Maj. Marchand has taken would be considered an unfriendly act. He said the united strength of the nation was behind her majesty's government in the matter, and that no sign of weakening could be considered.

KILLING FROSTS.

Average Date of Their Recurrences in Corn-Producing States.

In view of the possibility of a killing frost at this season of the year, and of the apprehensions to which such possibility gives rise, the following table has been prepared by the Agricultural Department, showing the average date of recurrences of the first killing frost in the principal corn-producing States. Killing frosts have occurred at much earlier periods in all the States considered, and even as early as August in Minnesota, the Dakotas and Michigan. The average dates for the last twenty-five years are, however, as given in the table:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Northern Minnesota | Oct. 21 |
| Sept. 18 West Virginia | Oct. 23 |
| S. Dakota | Sept. 22 |
| Pennsylvania | Oct. 24 |
| Southern Minnesota | Oct. 25 |
| Sept. 26 Tennessee | Oct. 25 |
| Sept. 28 Virginia | Oct. 31 |
| Michigan | Sept. 29 |
| N. Carolina | Nov. 1 |
| Wisconsin | Oct. 5 |
| Arkansas | Nov. 1 |
| Iowa | Oct. 6 |
| Alabama | Nov. 7 |
| Kansas | Oct. 14 |
| Mississippi | Nov. 9 |
| Illinois | Oct. 15 |
| Carroll | Nov. 12 |
| New York | Oct. 16 |
| Georgia | Nov. 14 |
| Ohio | Oct. 16 |
| Louisiana | Nov. 23 |
| Indiana | Oct. 17 |
| Eastern Texas | Nov. 25 |
| Missouri | Oct. 20 |

GERMAN OPINION CHANGES.

Feeling Toward America Is Regarded as Much More Favorable.

There has been a great change in German public opinion on the subject of the retention of the Philippine Islands by the United States. The feeling towards America, generally, is much more favorable than a couple of months ago. The news received in Germany from the United States that the Government at Washington is seriously contemplating holding the Philippines is commented upon dispassionately in the German press, and it is significant that this week two papers of such standing as the Kolnische Zeitung and the Vossische Zeitung have published long letters from German merchants settled in the Philippine Islands, in which American annexation is strongly advocated. A correspondent of the Vossische Zeitung even vigorously combats German making any attempts to secure a portion of the islands, citing weighty reasons therefor.

MADRID BUSINESS MEN.

They Meet and Criticize the Government's Management of Affairs.

A large meeting of business men was held in Madrid. After a number of violent speeches had been made regarding the Government's conduct of affairs, the meeting adopted a series of resolutions aiming at the improvements of the economic situation, including the withdrawal of permission to the Bank of Spain to increase its note issue of 2,500,000,000 pesetas, the payment of the interest to foreign debt holders in pesetas and not in francs, large reductions in the public expenditure, including the pensions, the closing of the military schools for the next ten years, the reduction of the officers' pay and a vote in aid of the sufferers from the war.

One of the London District Councils has just had a prolonged debate as to the removal of a public bench at Bonremouth. The bench was known as the "courting bench." It was decided that courting in public is a nuisance, and the bench is to be taken away.

An immense eagle swooped down on a flock of sheep belonging to George Stambough, a farmer in Mercer County, Pa., and seizing a half-grown sheep in its talons, lifted it from the ground, apparently without effort, and carried it away to its nest on a high cliff.



DETECTION OF FORGERY.

Signs of Fraud that Appear Only to Trained Eyes.

A clever swindle was described a day or two ago by a young Cleveland banker. It is so simple, and yet so ingenious, that it is a wonder it hasn't been tried before.

Not long ago a well-dressed man of fine manners walked into a leading local house and looked at a certain line of valuable goods. He made his selection with care and when the bill reached \$200 he drew a check book from his pocket and filled out a check for the amount.

"There," he said, "you don't know me, of course, and you know nothing about my financial affairs. Just send that check to your bank and I will drop in to-morrow morning to see that everything is all right and get my goods."

The next morning, bright and early, the stranger dropped in.

"Well," he said, with a confident air, "everything all right?"

"Sorry," said the salesman, "but your check has been returned. There were no funds in your name."

"What?" cried the stranger. "Just let me see that check, please."

The document was handed to him and his look of griefed astonishment at once gave place to a cheery smile.

"That's one on me," he said. "You see how it happened? I gave you a check on the wrong bank."

He drew the little check book from his pocket and rapidly filled out another check.

"If at first you don't succeed," he hummed, "try, try again. There, try that, if you please, and we'll again hopefully await results."

He waved his arm in a comical manner at the salesman and jauntily stepped off—with the first check in his pocket.

Something like a half hour later he briskly walked up to the paying teller's window of the bank with which the big mercantile house does business. With an air of the utmost confidence he pushed in the check which he had brought away in his pocket. It was payable to the big mercantile house, and it bore the firm's indorsement. The slick operator had deftly removed the clearing house stamp with some sort of acid.

"Kindly oblige," he smilingly said, as he thrust the check forward. The latter scanned the slip. He turned it over. It was evidently all right. He looked up at the stranger.

"Just let us have a hundred in fives, fifty in small bills and the balance in silver," the latter glibly requested. "We're a little short of change."

If there had been any suspicion in the mind of the teller it was certainly swept away by the stranger's frank and open manner.

The money was counted out and shoved across the glass shelf, and—no the pleasing stranger hasn't been seen since.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

With Numberless Eyes.

To say that a person "has eyes in the back of his head" has long been a recognized way of paying a high compliment to his powers of observing everything going on around him. But the phrase when applied to insects comes, as naturalists are well aware, simply a statement of facts. Indeed, considering that very many insects indulge in eyes by the thousand, the head of a horsefly, for example, being literally made up of eyes alone, it would be strange if some of them had not to be relegated to the back of their owners' heads.

Thus it is said that if an ordinary dragon fly were placed in the center of a globe he could see every part of it at once without moving his head. And this insect, though possessing about 20,000 eyes, is a long way from being the most liberally endowed in this respect, the mordella beetle, for instance, comfortably beating him by some 5,000.

These eyes often give off prismatic colors, and under the microscope are very beautiful objects, looking like a section of honeycomb. That each individual eye of the many thousands has its perfect lens system is proved by the fact that each makes a separate picture of any object placed before it. Of course, a microscope is required to see these pictures, but they are very distinct and are known to microscopists as the "multiple image."

The Number of Languages.

The least learned are aware that there are many languages in the world, but the actual number is probably beyond the dreams of ordinary people. The geographer Baldi enumerated 860, which are entitled to be considered as distinct languages, and 5,000 which may be regarded as dialects.

Adulgers, another modern writer on this subject, reckons up 3,064 languages and dialects existing, and which have existed. Even after we have allowed either of these as the number of languages, we must acknowledge the existence of almost infinite minor diversities; for almost every province has a tongue more or less peculiar, and this we may well believe to be the case throughout the world at large.

It is said there are little islands, lying close together in the South Seas, the inhabitants of which do not understand each other.

Smallest Inhabited Island.

The smallest inhabited island in the world is that on which the Eddystone lighthouse stands. At low water it is thirty feet in diameter; at high water the lighthouse, whose diameter at the base is 28½ feet, completely covers it. It is inhabited by three persons. It lies nine miles off the Cornish coast and fourteen miles southwest of Plymouth breakwater.

Occasionally you see a woman who looks so well in her mourning that it is hard to believe that she doesn't enjoy it.

War makes thieves, Law hangs them.