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Staunton



Spectator

A cur-dog snaps and barks-- A thoroughbred doesn't

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MORE THAN 50 DIE OF POISON

Mystery Develops in Berlin's Shelter House Case

PTOMAINE THEORY DENIED BY SOME

Victims Show Symptoms of Cholera, But Germs are Not Present

BERLIN, Dec. 28.—Over fifty deaths from ptomaine poisoning have occurred since the night of December 26 at the municipal shelter for the homeless on Froebel street.

The affair has assumed such proportions that doubts are being expressed as to whether the deaths were due, as at first believed, to the eating of decayed smoked herring, which the homeless people had brought with them to the shelter to eke out the scanty diet provided there.

Symptoms Similar to Cholera. The symptoms of some of the patients correspond to those of cholera, but several post-mortem examinations have disproved absolutely the existence of cholera.

The hopes that the later cases would prove less serious than those reported at first have vanished, many of the victims today, as well as yesterday, succumbing in thirty or thirty-five minutes after they were attacked. The ambulances starting from the shelter to the hospitals had in many cases to change their destination and go to the morgue instead, as the patients had died on the way.

The symptoms of the poisoning are fainting, which is followed by violent vomiting and death.

The superintendent of the asylum expresses the opinion, based on one of the post-mortem examinations, that the deaths have not been due to fish, but to deliberate poisoning.

So the People May Know

For the information of patrons and subscribers of the Dispatch-News, the management announces they are compelled by circumstances over which they have no control and which afford considerable embarrassment, to print only 4 pages. A shortage of paper of the proper size for the new press has made this necessary, the supply of the larger size having been exhausted, and leaving no alternative except to use the half-size rolls, which were on hand.

CADETS TO ATTEND BOYS' CONFERENCE

Of the thirty cadets who remained at the Staunton Military Academy during the vacation, Captain J. J. King of the faculty has chosen six to represent the school Young Men's Christian Association at the Older Boys' Conference to be held in Richmond during the last three days of the old year.

The cadets going are J. A. Cushing, of New York; J. L. Walker, of Texas; Julian Hawthorne, of Nashville, Tenn.; Charles Smith, of New York; L. P. Black, of Oregon; W. C. Thurston, of Mexico.

SCOTT COUNTY SAID TO BE NEXT ON LIST

Lee Citizens Declare Neighboring County Much More Politically Corrupt

BRISTOL, Va., Dec. 28.—Prominent citizens of Lee county do not relish the notoriety the county has gotten as a result of the sensational disclosures of wholesale election bribery and declare that Lee is a scapegoat for other Southwest Virginia counties. One prominent citizen of Lee county, whose political affiliations are not confined to Lee county, stated this week that the latter county was far surpassed in wholesale election debauchery by several other counties of the Southwest, mentioning Scott in particular.

CHORAL UNION MAY RESULT FROM CLUB

New Musical Organization May Be Important Addition to the City

Gradual development into a strong musical organization of consistently large membership is the purpose growing out of the recent establishment of the "Claf Club," organized recently with Mr. Alfred Jaffe as president and Captain Wonsan as secretary.

Careful additions to its membership nucleus will be made by bringing the mutually adjustable people of strict musical tastes together in a series of private recitals to be given in the course of the winter by the club founders. The date chosen for the first of these is January 15. It will be given at the home of one of the members.

Among Staunton residents there are about twenty-five who are classed in critical judgment as music lovers, with technical command or organ, horn, violin or piano. Whether the new organization which aims to act as a center for the stimulation of discriminating musical culture in Staunton shall be confined mainly into something including a choral union is a matter that will be left to developments and experienced consideration. Should the choral society project later be undertaken, the organizing coterie will find from 50 to 75 fair voices available among the city's "home" population. It has been some years since a choral society existed in Staunton.

ANOTHER CLERK AT P. O. NEEDED

Handicap in handling the mail during the Christmas rush has prompted Postmaster Brown Allen to take early occasion for calling the attention of the Washington authorities to the urgent need of an additional clerk. Should his request be granted, fitting promotions will be made. Until yesterday the postmaster kept secret from the public the fact of a threatened partial closing of the windows, because of the illness at the height of the recent rush of one of the most experienced men in the office. The incident forcefully brought attention to the need of a reserve in the staff of clerks in constant training.

HOODOO NIGHT FOR C. & O. NO. 5

Train Hits Slide and Engineer is Killed

ACCIDENT IN STAUNTON NARROWLY AVERTED

Steel Mail Car, Recently Adopted, Saved Lives of Eight Mail Clerks

After changing crews, No. 5, the same Chesapeake and Ohio train that was safely brought to a stop in front of the overturned truck-load of trunks at the Staunton depot Wednesday evening, was wrecked early on Thursday morning by running into a slide of dry shale east of McKendree, W. Va.

Engine No. 167 was derailed and partly overturned, killing Engineer W. J. Dunn, of Hinton, W. Va., and slightly injuring Fireman L. E. Terrell, of Huntington, W. Va. The passengers escaped harm and were transferred from No. 5 to No. 1 from Quinnemont. No. 5 resumed its regular run from Charleston, one hour and twenty-five minutes late.

The shale was dislodged from the effects of recent wet weather just after the bluff watchman had made his trip of inspection.

An incident was that an all-steel mail car had been put on the train only recently. In the car at the time of the wreck were eight mail clerks. The mail car overturned but its powerful construction kept it intact, and the clerks were practically unharmed.

NEW YORK STATE IS HIT BY BLIZZARD

Gale, Accompanied by Snow and Cold, Sweeps East From Lakes

ERIE, Pa., Dec. 28.—A blizzard is raging today in western New York, northwestern Pennsylvania and northern Ohio. All shipping on Lake Erie has been warned to stay in port. Today is the coldest of the year.

Blizzard at Buffalo. Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 28.—The blizzard which originated in the Rocky Mountains yesterday struck this city early today, causing a lowering in the temperature, a sixty-mile-an-hour blow and snow flurries. The temperature dropped to eighteen degrees above zero.

Syracuse Hard Hit. SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 28.—A blizzard arrived here early today. The temperature fell rapidly till a minimum of nineteen was struck. The fall of snow was blinding and steadily increasing in volume.

Rochester Suffers Tie-up. ROCHESTER, Dec. 28.—The worst blizzard of years had Rochester in its grip early today. A high wind, low temperature and heavy snow combined to hold up street traffic.

THE FORECAST: Fair and continued cold Friday. Saturday fair and slightly warmer; light to moderate north winds becoming variable.

A storm center of decided energy and expanse, depicted as over the Oregon region on yesterday's weather map, will probably be near enough by Sunday to produce much milder weather in Virginia. The crest of the cold area of high atmosphere pressure was yesterday over the gulf states, moving southeastwardly.

Temperatures Yesterday. 8 a. m. 24 2 p. m. 33 12 m. 35 6 p. m. 28

BANKERS TO MEET. Bank officer elections will be held at the National Valley Bank the Augusta National and the Staunton National on January 9, and at the Farmers and Merchants on January 4.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 28.—Malcolm R. Patterson, son of former Governor Malcolm R. Patterson, of Tennessee, shot and dangerously wounded R. T. Seal at Port Orchard, December 7. He was suffering from alcoholic epilepsy or "dipsomania," induced by drinking kuxy for five years.

This was the finding of the lunacy commission that sat yesterday to hear the insanity complaint filed by Patterson's father. The commission reported that it was dangerous to permit Patterson to be at large.

In accordance with the finding, the defense asked that an order be issued permitting former Governor Patterson to take his son home for treatment. This was opposed by Prosecutor Stevenson, who contended that Patterson should not be taken from this state until after he had stood trial on a charge of assault with intent to kill.

CHINESE THRONE IS COMPELLED TO YIELD

Demands for Republic are Accepted and Details Left to Convention

PEKING, Dec. 28.—China will have a republican form of government, and the Manchu dynasty, which has ruled the empire for upwards of three centuries, will go.

The imperial family, after a long council today with the most influential of the Manchu princes in the palace in Peking, decided to abdicate. They are expected to leave the capital hourly. This information was officially transmitted from Peking to other centers today.

Premier Yuan Shi Kai is expected to resign his post. He has been brought to a realization that his attempt at pacification must inevitably fail in the end. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, who launched the present revolution, will probably be elected president of the Republic of China tomorrow at Nanking. Formal declaration of independence of the empire from Manchu rule will be proclaimed.

Plan Formally Accepted. The throne today formally accepted the plan of Premier Yuan Shi Kai to refer the question of China's

BEAUTIFUL PARTY AT THE J. L. WITZ HOME

Misses Frances and Marjorie Entertain Many of Their Little Friends Sumptuously

The magnificent home of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Witz on Beverley street, was the scene yesterday afternoon of a most beautiful party, when Misses Frances and Marjorie Witz most hospitably entertained their many friends.

The large drawing room had the furniture removed so that after the young ladies received there was dancing and games to the delight of all the young hearts. Music was furnished by the Beverley theatre orchestra. The grand march was a sight which will remain long in the memory of those, especially the older friends, who saw it. As they formed for the march they were led through the conservatory and here each child was given a favor, some of caps, some of fans, but all attractive. After marching through the drawing room and hall, they went into the dining room and library where long tables, gracefully arranged and ornamented with red streamers and red candles were made more inviting by each place having a tiny Santa Claus and a present and these so occupied the attention of the guests that they were hardly prepared when other Santa Clauses arrived from the frozen regions, bringing little snow-balls, but as all children love to eat, these soon disappeared, for the Santas were made of ice cream and the snow balls of cake.

The little hostesses were fully equal to entertaining their many guests, but some older friends joined in the merriment and the hours slipped quickly by and the time for saying good bye came all too early. Those invited were: John E. Bell, Harriet Sprout, Eugenia Sprout, Hugh Sprout, Harriet Echols, John Echols, Charlie Hunter, Katherine Pratt, Margaret Pratt, Elizabeth Kerr, Charles Nelson, Frances Woodward, Mildred Mercereau, Wallace Mercereau, Dorothy Mercereau, Mary Grace Trout, Mary Braxton, Jean and Polly Sprinkel, George Sprinkel, Virginia Worthington, Charlotte Spotts, Elizabeth Caldwell, Lucy Morton Payne, Armstead Payne, Watson Gooch, Harry Gooch, Fannie Murray, Esther, Capar, Margaret Holt, Virginia Parkins, Charles Rodgers, Mary Nelson Quarles, Sydney Shultz; Lucy Gibson, Anne Williams, Louise Heydenreich, Wayt Timberlake, Mary Margaret Bumgardner, Katherine Oliver, Archer Hogshead, Harriet Hogshead, Eloise McCoy, Ralph Crosby, Katherine McClure, Elizabeth Perry, Margaret Perry, Junior Norris, Katherine Perry, Frances Perry, William Perry,

ARBOR HILL HONOR ROLL

Following is the December Honor Roll for Arbor Hill school: Frank Decker, Robert Hanger, Sidney Palmer, Wallace Wiseman, Mary Dell Decker, Annie Clem Palmer, Beulah Whitlock, Jessie Whitlock, Clara Wiseman, Clemence Wiseman, Gordon Hanger, Jacob Palmer, Walter Rosen, Alexander Palmer, Herman Craig, Robert Cason, Wallace Cason, Irene Back, Gussie Palmer.

Mrs. C. K. Anderson of St. Louis is visiting at B. M. Smith's.

Elinor Glasgow, Elizabeth Glasgow, Merrill Yost, Nancy Timberlake, Julia and Eugenia Goodall, Nannie Brown Allen, Mary Allen Blackford, Elizabeth East, Nancy Elder, Carrington Foster, Olivier Mel Harmon, Jett, Elizabeth Oliver, Met Harmon, Edward Harmon, Clarence Elder, Charles Blackley, Jean Fraser, Josephine Barkman, Dorothy Jones, George and Howard Ker, Edward Ranson Alfred Taylor, Hampton Wayt, Katherine Wayt, Dorothy Bowman, Charline Karicoe, Elizabeth Moore, Paul Heydenreich, Robt. Heydenreich, Katherine Holt, Rodes Nelson, Clay Catlett, Kenneth McCoy, Frances Timberlake, Elmer Miller, and Iva Baugher, Frankie Lee, Willodeen Smith, Elmer Smith, Elenor Serber, Victor and Barrace Dewey.

AFTER BETTER TRAIN SERVICE

Chamber of Commerce Confering With the B. & O.

VALLEY PIKE TOLLS DEMAND ATTENTION

Costs \$4.50 to Travel 90 Miles and Yet No Dividends are Paid

Two convenient daily trains between Washington and Staunton on the "Valley" railroad will be the subject of conference in Baltimore early next week.

Should that conference not at once secure the desired service, the Washington-Staunton train schedule will be one of the subjects meeting the attention of a session of the Chamber of Commerce on Friday, for which Secretary Robertson will send out the formal notices next week. The regular meeting date is the second Friday of the month, but conflict with meeting of the Retail Merchants' Association has suggested desirability of the call for a week from today, both bodies having a considerable common membership. Officers of the Chamber of Commerce will be elected on the second Friday in February.

Want Early and Late Trains. Staunton business men through their organization have been seeking to bring about adoption of a schedule which will furnish a train starting from Staunton about 7:30 o'clock in the morning, and another permitting return by about 9 o'clock in the evening, with intervening time for the dispatch of business in Washington. Baltimore owns \$3,000,000 of the stock of the "Valley" railroad and so the Chamber of Commerce has been acting in cooperation with interests of the Chesapeake port. The Baltimore people are themselves desirous of the more convenient schedule for the sake of better "opening up" the western Virginia field to its commercial houses.

The Chamber of Commerce will also seek to learn "why" the management of the historic "Valley pike" from Staunton to Winchester has raised the toll from 15 to 25 cents per five mile fare zone. The Staunton organization is in mood to make a "kick" about the condition of the road, and will be ready to remind somebody that neither does anything in the way of revenue accrue to the state because of its three-fifths interest in the toll company nor are dividends paid on the remaining \$20,000 of the stock owned by numerous holders in Augusta county and elsewhere along the 91 miles of the road. It has been a toll road since 1828, and during the war was in condition sufficiently good to permit horses to pull a locomotive over its well kept levels. The present rates of toll which excite complaint from the Chamber of Commerce are proving almost prohibitive to travel; the privilege of taking an automobile ride over the whole ninety miles would cost \$4.50. The toll company's officers and most of its officers are at Winchester.

Another war path that the Chamber's committees are treading is that which leads into the subject of the coal rates. The railroad company is waiting to be "shown" that these rates should be ameliorated; the committees hold they can do it.

FINED \$30 FOR WEAPON

Police Justice Glasgow yesterday imposed a fine of \$30 on O. L. Fox before he was taken to Raphine, where he would have faced a charge of disorderly conduct. The latter alleged offense prompted his arrest when encountered by the Staunton police. A revolver was found on his person.

TRIAL OF SUSPECTED POSTAL CLERK TO BE HELD IN LYNCHBURG IN MARCH

LYNCHBURG, Dec. 28.—Geo. E. Caskey and John L. Lee of Lynchburg and D. Wampler Erman of Harrisonburg have been selected counsel for George Huffman of Rockingham county, charged with the theft of \$20,000 from mails two months ago. Lee's retention means that the case will not be tried at Charlottesville next month, but will be heard here in March. The case will be reported to the federal grand jury at Charlottesville in January for indictment.

LIGHT LUNCHEONS FOR GIRLS NOW

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass., Dec. 28. Mt. Holyoke College girls were so sleepy and sluggish at the recitations held at 2 o'clock every afternoon that the faculty, long puzzled, decided to investigate. It was finally reasoned that as the girls became drowsy after luncheon the explanation was to be sought in the luncheon menu. It was, or at least the professors think it was, for today it was announced that when the girls return after the Christmas holidays mince pie and apple dumplings found to be the favorite luncheon food will no longer be served. Luncheons hereafter will consist of fruit and other light edibles.