

FATAL WRECKS.

One Month's Cluster of Awful Catastrophes.

Railway men have a saying that one serious wreck will invariably be followed by two others within the month. This superstition would seem to be justified in view of the following narration of actual events which occurred during a recent month upon a railway which does not run through the state of Rhode Island:

The boiler of a modern locomotive carrying a steam pressure of 180 pounds exploded while standing near a roundhouse preparatory to going out upon its trip. Nine persons were killed and a few injured. Those who had all the clothing blown from their bodies, and apparently every bone was broken, yet the skin was broken in but a few places, so that their appearance was likened to that of a sack of grain. An engine was blown partly through one of the driving wheels in an engine standing some distance away, another was thrown against a box car still another, together with a woman and child, was blown into a pit in the near-by roundhouse; another man was thrown over a shed and fell on top of an engine which was being coaled. The driving wheels were blown off their axles, the boiler and machinery wrecked, while the barrel of the boiler was thrown over 400 feet.

The first section of a freight train became derailed—flagman did not go far enough back—the second section could not be stopped in time. The locomotive of the latter ran through the caboose on the first section and into a car of oil. The oil caught fire and nine cars and one locomotive were burned up. The intensity of the heat made lime of the neighboring bowlders.

The engineer of a freight train on a mountain division (who was supposed to have been drinking) got into a quarrel with the conductor. On arriving at the steepest part of the down grade this engineer pulled the throttle wide open, the train crew clubbed all the brakes and tried to stop the train. But at the terrific speed which the train was reported to have passed a station, the brakes had little effect on the eight empty cars. The conductor finally cut off the caboose, but before it could be stopped the engine left the track at a very sharp curve. The engine turned over twice—the entire eight cars passed over and beyond the engine—the caboose stopping at the side of the engine. The engineer, fireman and a tramp were torn into a mangled mass of flesh and blood, two brakemen were badly injured, while the conductor (who had laid down on the floor near the rear of the caboose) escaped uninjured.

An engine and caboose were ordered to the scene of the wreck. The roadmaster and train crew were in the caboose. Upon turning over the summit this engineer let the train roll so fast that the conductor signaled to stop, but he paid no attention to the signals. Upon the fireman's calling his attention to the signals the engineer hooked up the reverse lever and pulled the throttle wide open—the engine bounded forward and jumped the track at the first reverse curve. The engineer and fireman were killed and those in the caboose were all more or less injured. The engineer was supposed to have become suddenly demented.—Railway and Engineering Review.

LACK ARTILLERISTS.

Enough Men to Care for Guns But Not Enough to Man Them.

Fortifications Along the Pacific Coast in Good Condition—Gen. Miles Thinks United States Army Should Be Larger.

Gen. Miles, who has just returned from a long tour of inspection in the far west and south, says:

"The fortifications along the Pacific coast and the gulf are in very good condition. The engineers have done good work. While the harbors are only partly protected, it would not be safe for a hostile battleship or fleet to enter them now. None of the harbors is completely fortified. The four great harbors of the Pacific coast at which defensive works are being erected are Puget sound, the mouth of the Columbia river, San Francisco and San Diego.

There are only enough artillerists stationed on the coast to take care of the guns—not enough to man them. The guns are great pieces of machinery and require very skilled artillerists to take care of them and to handle them. More artillery is needed along the entire coast of 4,000 miles, including the Atlantic, Pacific and gulf.

"The garrisons were not sufficiently strong at the posts I visited. This is due to the fact that most of the army is out of the country at present. Congress authorized a regular army of 65,000 men and 35,000 men for the existing emergency. For a good many years I have been in favor of one soldier for every thousand of our people. I think 65,000 men should be skilled in the modern art of war and the use of modern appliances. That would be a very small number as compared with other armies of the world, but yet sufficiently large to keep abreast of the improvements in warfare which are being made.

"Of course, the size of the army should be commensurate with the population and wealth and position of the government. A country like Mexico

would not require an army as large as that of Germany or Russia. Our country is nearly twice the size of Germany or France, a small force of comparatively untrained, educated, trained soldiers would not only be wise and judicious, but would be in the interest of safety and good administration."

SURGERY OF PNEUMONIA CASE.

Seven Ribs Cut Away in Toledo Man for Removal of Abscesses and His Life Saved.

Frank Turley, son of a grocer, owes his life to the skill of Toledo (O.) surgery. He was given up to die. His trouble first was pneumonia. Several consultations were held, and he was notified that he could not recover. Physicians said an abscess had formed in the membrane outside the lung. The doctor visited Ann Arbor and consulted with several medical friends. The only chance of the young man's life was thought to be an operation such as is rarely performed.

Before the surgery was finished seven ribs were cut away, there being two abscesses. One of these was between the ribs and lungs, and the ribs were cut away at the back for its removal.

The young man remained in the house all winter, the physicians holding the operation a secret until the result might be learned. Young Turley is now at work. He has increased in weight in a few weeks from 112 to 140 pounds. His case is regarded as one of the most remarkable pieces of surgery ever attempted.

Boston's Second Church. The old "Second church" in Boston celebrated its two hundred and fiftieth anniversary recently.

Partiality of Santa Claus. As far as heard from, proudly says the Chicago Record, Chicago is the only city that received a nice, new river as a Christmas present.

Anti-Horse Thief Association. The Oklahoma Anti-Horse Thief association has 150 subordinate lodges and over 5,000 members.

ADVOCATES COAST DEFENSES. Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin, Thinks, However, Men Should Be Provided to Man Them.

"I am in favor of strengthening the navy to meet all the requirements of the nation," said Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin, "and it is just as important to build coast defenses. These two important works can be carried on simultaneously. Our country should be fortified in such a way as to make it secure from attacks, and it is also important to preserve the fortifications already constructed and provide enough men to care for the guns. It is a well-established fact that the guns mounted in the emplacements at the coast cities deteriorate at the rate of 25 per cent. a year, and the importance of providing enough men to care for them is manifest. We have already spent \$63,000,000 in fortifying our coast, and unless men are provided to look after these improvements they will be almost worthless in a few years.

"I am heartily in favor of the Endicott plan, which provides for a system of fortifications at 27 ports, requiring 667 heavy guns and 824 mortars of modern construction. Since the war with Spain the country is deeply interested in all matters pertaining to the national defense, and the people are willing the public funds should be expended in making the country safe from attack. There is a disposition on the part of the members of congress to be more liberal in this respect than they were some years ago, and congress can be depended upon to do everything that is required of this nature."

BLOW AT FLAT BUILDINGS.

Alderman Griffith, of Chicago, Wants the Old-Fashioned Home Restored.

Alderman Griffith will try to legislate the people of Chicago out of big labor-saving apartment buildings by proposing an ordinance to limit the height to four stories. He thinks there are thousands of men and women who "leave their happy homes" for the sake of "conspiring themselves in some apartment building or so-called hotel. From a sociological point of view the apartment building is a bad thing, and the ordinance would be salutary. He said:

"People are getting lazy living in these big apartment buildings. It destroys the home features of American citizenship, and the council should try to check such tendencies. Then these fashionable people who can afford to live in family hotels or apartment buildings give up their residences and discharge an army of domestic servants. They have no more use for their cook or chambermaid or butler, and as a friend of labor I think the individual homes should be preserved. There are too many labor-saving devices in these new-fangled apartment houses to suit my fancy. The servants are all right in their way. The servant girl problem may 'cut some ice' in this question, but if we stopped these six and eight-story apartment buildings we would have more homes and more servants."

BLIND BUT SHAVES HIMSELF.

Mr. Couden, Chaplain of the House, Wields the Razor in His Own Shave.

Recently Representative Graff was seated in a barber's chair at the capitol when a boy came in and handed the barber who was shaving him a small leather covered box. "If I should give you a hundred guesses," said the barber to the congressman, "you would not be able to tell me what this box contains." "I do not believe I could," replied Mr. Graff, "but I am curious to know what you have." "There are six razors belonging to Chaplain Couden," responded the barber, "and whenever they are dull he sends them here to be sharpened."

"There would be nothing curious about this if it were not for the fact that Chaplain Couden, who is totally blind, never permits a barber to touch his face. While Dr. Couden has been blind for a number of years, it has been his practice to shave himself, and so well does he do it that he seldom if ever 'nicks' his face, and, according to the barber's story is less liable to do so than a man who has the use of both eyes.

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From a Republican source comes a report that immediately after the adjournment of the Legislature next week, Mr. Taylor will attempt to call an extra session to be held at London.

A Fiendish Attack.

An attack was lately made on C. F. Collier, of Cherokee, Iowa, that nearly proved fatal. It came through his kidneys. His back got so lame he could not stoop without great pain, nor sit in a chair except propped by cushions. No remedy helped him until he tried Electric Bitters which effected such a wonderful change that he writes he feels like a new man. This marvelous medicine cures backache and kidney trouble, purifies the blood and builds up your health. Only 50c at T. E. Paull's Drug Store.

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At a mass-meeting held Sunday at the Broadway Methodist church, Louisville, \$10,150.90 was subscribed to the Twentieth Century Educational Fund.

A. R. De Fluent, editor of the Journal, Doylestown, Ohio, suffered for a number of years from rheumatism in his right shoulder and side. He says: "My right arm at times was entirely useless. I tried Chamberlain's Pain Balm, and was surprised to receive relief almost immediately. The Pain Balm has been a constant companion of mine ever since and it never fails." For sale by M. Cravens.

Archbishop John Hennessy, one of the foremost theologians in the Catholic hierarchy, died at Dubuque, Ia., Sunday afternoon.

BOMBARDED.

A Peaceable Virginia Town Lately the Object of Warlike Attack.

A ripple of excitement was caused at the war department recently by the announcement that the little town of Snowden, Va., on the banks of the Potomac, had been bombarded by United States soldiers. It was literally true. Eight-inch shells, fired from siege guns, shrieked throughout the town and caused everyone to seek refuge in the basements of their houses. The artillery of Fort Foote were ordered recently to do target practice with the new siege guns. A target was placed two miles below the fort, and about 200 yards from the Virginia shore.

Snowden, one-half mile below, was in the direct line of fire. The officers in charge did not reckon on the skipping propensities of shells striking water at an angle. The first thing that Snowden knew was that it was being bombarded more terrifically than any city was ever bombarded during the civil war. Word was instantly sent to the war department to stop the target practice. The department instantly issued orders, but before they could reach Fort Foote the bombardment of Snowden had been resumed, and the populace again fled for their cellars. No one was hurt in the town, though one barn was struck. The inhabitants are digging up the shells as souvenirs.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

INVENT SUBMARINE LIGHT.

Device of Yale Students Attracts the Attention of Russian Naval Attache.

Capt. W. Baron Fersen, naval attache of the Russian government, stationed at Washington, has been in New London, Conn., for two days investigating the submarine arc light which was invented during the Spanish war by F. G. Hall, Jr., and Q. E. Burdick, two Yale undergraduates.

Capt. Fersen, who is an expert in submarine work, was so pleased with the invention that he told them he would recommend that the Russian government purchase enough of these lights to equip the Russian navy, and ordered one of the lights, which will be shipped to Russia at once. The test, it is claimed, proves that Hall and Burdick by their invention have proven that air is not necessary to an arc light. This is something that has always been considered absolutely essential. By the use of this light wrecks can be lighted at a depth of 250 feet below the surface of the sea, so that a photograph can be made of a sunken ship. This is the limit depth at which divers can work.

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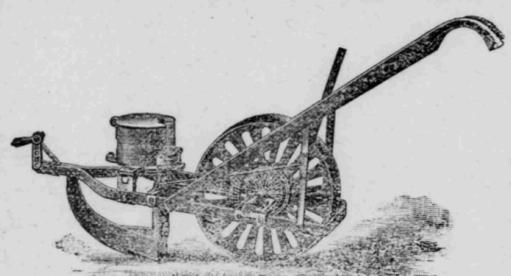
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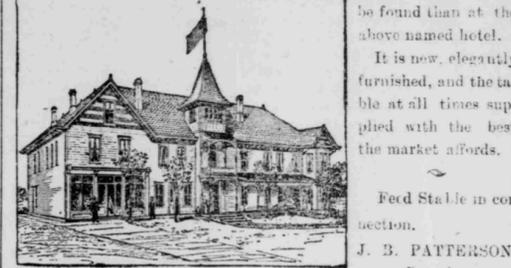
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