

THE DAILY PIONEER.

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TEN CENTS PER WEEK.

HE CLAIMS SELF DEFENSE

W. E. Coddington the Self-confessed Murderer of Henry Kehring

SAYS THAT IT WAS A CASE OF KILL OR BE KILLED.

He is now a Prisoner in County Jail at Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

W. E. Coddington, the self-confessed murderer of Henry Kehring, the Big Fork settler, last week, says that the shooting was done in self defense. Although he had plenty of time to escape he did not attempt to do so, but waited until the officers arrived and then gave himself up.

The killing took place last Tuesday afternoon about 1 o'clock, thirty miles from the nearest railway station, Bena. There were no witnesses to the tragedy. Coddington is now in the Grand Rapids jail. He will have a hearing today or tomorrow. The man claims that he can produce at least five witnesses who will testify that Kehring had on the day before threatened to kill him.

In substance the prisoner's story is as follows: Last Monday Kehring came to the claim of W. G. Parsons where Coddington and four other companions were working on a house. He threatened to kill Coddington if the latter did not produce \$10 which he claimed was due him, and at the same time produced a revolver. After repeated threats he finally left the place. That night as Coddington was driving home past Kehring's place in company with Frank Wassmeke the old man rushed out of the house brandishing a revolver and threatened to kill Coddington. Wassmeke whipped up the team and they escaped unharmed.

Tuesday afternoon about 1 o'clock he was again driving by Kehring's place, this time alone, when Kehring rushed out at him, gun in hand, swearing and threatening to shoot. The horses became frightened, started to run, threw Coddington out of the wagon and also his rifle, which he seized and began to fire in the direction of his antagonist. Three balls took effect, two hitting Kehring fairly in the breast, passing completely through the body, the other ball entering the left side and passing out on the right side.

DISMISSED

Frank Schauls Given Hearing Before Judge Achenbach This Morning.

Frank Schauls, a Bemidji saloon man, arrested last week charged with having refused to return a man's watch left with him for drinks when the necessary cash was produced, had a hearing before Judge Achenbach this morning and was dismissed, as nothing could be proven against him. It is alleged that a customer took 40 cents' worth of drinks, leaving a valuable watch with Schauls as security, and that when he returned later and produced the 40 cents the bartender refused to give up the timepiece.

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CAR SHORTAGE

Railroads are Taking Steps to Avert One This Fall.

Operating officials of all lines are taking energetic steps to avert a car shortage when the wheat crop from Minnesota and the Dakotas begins to move, and although it is believed the lines will be better prepared for the rush than last year, there is a general belief that during its height the Head of the Lakes elevators and yards will again be congested and the lines will be short of cars.

Eastern lines are already preparing for the fall rush and many of the important systems have issued orders directing a strict enforcement of the demurrage rules and the prompt movement of loaded cars. Lines out of St. Paul have been insisting for two months on an observance of the rules governing cars received by consignees and are keeping their equipment well in hand.

J. H. Hamre Dead.

J. H. Hamre, about 25 years of age, a well-known Bemidji musician, died of consumption at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. The body was shipped this morning to Preston, Fillmore county, where his father, who is county treasurer, resides. Mr. Hamre has lived in Bemidji for nearly three years and has a large circle of friends in the city. As a musician he displayed a considerable degree of talent, and was often engaged to play for local dances. The deceased was a young man of exemplary habits and his loss will be a sad one to the community.

A want ad in the Daily Pioneer is a winner. Try one.

The best advertising medium in Bemidji is the Daily Pioneer everybody reads it.

R. H. Pendergast, general agent for the Rose Hill Nursery of Minneapolis, is in town looking up business.

POISON IN THE AIR.

Kittens and Cattle Die Mysteriously in South Dakota.

Oacoma, S. D., Aug. 9. — The past week was the warmest in the history of the country. On Friday a heavy rain fell, thoroughly soaking the ground. Preceding the rain was a period of depression in the atmosphere that was phenomenal. During the day almost every kitten less than six months old in the vicinity of Oacoma died, whole litters being found lying dead together, apparently from the effects of some gaseous matter in the air. A bunch of eighteen head of cattle in one drove was seen coming down the flats when eight of them fell to the ground. A farmer living near by found six of the eight dead. The two others jumped up and ran frantically away. John Morris, a stockman living on White river, reports the loss of six head the same day. No losses have occurred since and none prior to that time, and it is generally believed that the copious rains which have fallen since have neutralized whatever of poison to animal life may have been in the air.

MOUSE STEALS MONEY.

Sisseton Merchant at Last Discovers Where His Cash Goes.

Sioux Falls, S. D., Aug. 9. — For some time Gustav Lundblood, a Sisseton merchant, has been the victim of a mysterious robber, who seemed to have a decided preference for greenbacks, and abstracted them from his money drawer from time to time. A close watch was maintained for several weeks, but although the money continued to disappear, no clue could be secured as to the identity of the thief. The mystery surrounding the disappearance of the bills has now been solved, and in an unexpected manner. While clearing out some goods from beneath a counter the merchant discovered a mouse's nest which had been constructed with the missing greenbacks, which aggregated about \$25 in value.

AN ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Organization of the Board of Education Perfected Saturday Night.

J. J. JINKINSON WAS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT.

D. C. Smyth Re-elected Secretary and W. A. Casler Made Secretary for Coming Year.

Saturday evening the board of education, with its two new members, held a meeting at the schoolhouse and perfected its organization, electing the following officers for the ensuing year: J. J. Jinkinson, president; D. C. Smyth, secretary; W. A. Casler, treasurer. Mr. Jinkinson as president takes the place of Commissioner Carson, a retiring member of the board, and W. A. Casler steps into the position occupied by John Graham, the other retiring member.

The bids for the new four-room addition to the schoolhouse, and for the constructing of a heating plant were opened, but no action concerning them was taken. The meeting was adjourned to 2 o'clock this afternoon, when the contracts will be let.

SWAMP LANDS

Will be no More Contests in the Duluth Land Office.

No more contests against the state's claim to swamp acreage will be heard in the Duluth land office, according to an order which reached that office from Commissioner J. H. Gimple of the United States land department. All must be appealed to Washington for settlement, says the News Tribune. The change is brought about because in the future all such contests are to be settled on the authority of the field notes of the United States surveyors. Oral testimony will be rejected. As all the records and data gathered by the engineers are kept in the national capital it will be much more convenient to have the cases conducted there.

It will be necessary for the contestants to enter their complaints at the Duluth office, however. They will be rejected and then those who bring the contests will be privileged to file an appeal, having them carried before the higher authorities of the department.

A number of these contests were received at the Duluth office before the order went into effect. They will be heard and decision rendered according to the former system.

NEW MANAGER

Fred C. Smyth Now Head of the Bemidji Mercantile Company.

Fred C. Smyth has resigned his position as manager of the Blackduck Mercantile company to become manager of the Bemidji Mercantile company of which he is the president. Mr. Smyth has been financially interested in the latter concern since its incorporation. His many Bemidji friends are pleased to learn that he is to reside in this city henceforth.

FRED C. SMYTH, President THOS. P. SMYTH, Sec.-Treas. D. C. SMYTH, Manager

BEMIDJI MERCANTILE CO.

Opposite the Old Court House

Groceries, Flour, Hay and Grain

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

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THINGS GOOD TO EAT

MILES STEPS OUT

RETIRE FROM SERVICE AS COMMANDER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

GEN. S. B. M. YOUNG SUCCEEDS HIM

WILL ASSUME DUTIES UNTIL GENERAL STAFF LAW GOES INTO EFFECT.

MILES ISSUES AN ADDRESS

WORD OF FAREWELL TO ARMY HE HAS COMMANDED FOR EIGHT YEARS.

Washington, Aug. 9. — Lieut. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, commanding the army, retired from active service at noon to-day, having reached the age limit of sixty-four years.

The following order was issued at the war department:

"Washington, Aug. 8, 1903.—The retirement from active service by the president Aug. 8, 1903, Lieut. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A., by operation of law under the provisions of the act of congress approved July 30, 1882, is announced. Lieut. Gen. Miles will proceed to his home. The travel expense is necessary for the public service. By order of the secretary of war. —H. C. Corbin, Adjutant General, Major General, U. S. A."

Several other orders resulting from the retirement of Gen. Miles have been issued, one promoting Maj. Gen. Young to lieutenant general and assigning him to the command of the army until Aug. 15, when he will assume the duties of chief of staff; another assigning Maj. Gen. Corbin as president of the soldiers' home board; another assigning Brig. Gen. Gillespie as president of the board of ordnance and fortification, and still another assigning Lieut. Gen. Young as a member of the Sherman statue commission.

Gen. Miles issued an address to the army on the occasion of his retirement in which he referred to the glorious history of the army. He said that he had faith that under all circumstances the army would maintain its high character, and that its future would be as honorable and glorious as had been its past history. His earnest solicitude and best wishes would ever follow the fortunes of the army.

FUNCTION AT OYSTER BAY.

German Ambassador Presents His Credentials to the President.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Aug. 9. — Sagamore Hill, President Roosevelt's country home, was the scene yesterday of an interesting ceremony. Baron von Sternberg, who has been minister plenipotentiary of Germany to the United States since Ambassador von Holleben returned to Europe, and who recently, on the retirement of Mr. von Holleben, was elevated to the rank of ambassador, presented to the president his credentials as ambassador, and was received formally in his new diplomatic rank by President Roosevelt.

GOT ALL BALLED UP.

Negro Bit Off More Than He Could Chew.

New York, Aug. 9.—George Johnson, a negro waiter at Fort Hamilton, is proud of his large mouth, and for a small wager he put things into it to demonstrate its size. Two soldiers from the fort offered to bet \$10 he could not put two golf balls into his mouth

at the same time and close his teeth. Johnson took the bet and won the money, but in doing so sustained a double dislocation of the lower jaw.

DESERT FROM ARMY.

Artillerymen Find Long March Too Much Like Work to Suit Them.

Chicago, Aug. 9.—Thirty-five of the 240 artillerymen ordered out two weeks ago on a march of 150 miles, to Camp Douglas, Wis., have deserted, according to reports received at Fort Sheridan. The Eleventh and Twenty-fourth batteries were sent, and are expected to arrive at the camp to-day. Twelve other men went by train to join them.

WOMAN BROKER BANKRUPT.

She Goss to the Wall Following a Slump in Mining Stocks.

New Haven, Conn., Aug. 9. — Miss Sarah S. Platt, a young woman who has dealt in stocks for several years, has filed a petition in bankruptcy. She is said to be the first woman in this state to take advantage of the law. Miss Platt's liabilities are only about \$10,000. A slump in mining stocks is said to have caused the trouble.

Fish Pirates at Work.

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 9. — Federal Judge Hanford has ordered the deputies to protect the fisheries in the lower sound, in which fish pirates are said to be working. They secured \$2,000 worth of fish in one hold-up.

Runkle Has Surrendered.

New York, Aug. 9.—Maurice Runkle, who was jointly indicted in Washington with August W. Machen and Thomas W. McGregor, in the postoffice investigation, has surrendered and gave bond of \$5,000.

WISCONSIN SHEEP RANCHES.

Worthless Land May Yet Be Valuable as Pasture.

Grand Rapids, Wis., Aug. 9.—George Taylor arrived yesterday morning from Wyoming with 4,000 merino sheep which he will place on a 3,400-acre tract of land which he recently purchased near this city. Taylor figures that the stock could be shipped here about as cheaply as to Chicago, and, after being fattened, it would only be a short distance to market. W. F. Hogg & Co. of Chicago have also purchased 4,000 acres in the town of Saratoga which they are preparing to convert to a sheep ranch. If the experiment proves a success Saratoga will be transformed into a mammoth sheep ranch and many thousands of acres of what was once called worthless lands will thus be utilized.

STABBED BY INDIANS.

Two White Men Reported to Have Been Badly Hurt.

Mora, Minn., Aug. 9. — Otto Quick and Nels Quick of this place are reported to have been seriously stabbed in an attack with two drunken Indians on the Millie Laas reservation. Sunday afternoon the Quick boys made a purchase of liquor for the Indians, and soon a bunch of them were hilarious and brought knives into action. The Quicks attempted to take the knives from a brave named Gee-Ke and his son with the result that both were cut.

MONEY CEASED TO COME.

Then a Letter Told How a Soldier's Life Was Closed.

Sioux City, Aug. 9.—Renzo Cunningham, an orphan formerly living at Hewarden, is reported drowned in the Philippines, where he went a year ago as a soldier in the Tenth Infantry. He had left an order with the paymaster that \$10 a month be paid to the First National bank at Hewarden from his wages. When the money ceased coming the bank wrote to Washington for an explanation. It has just come, saying the young man was drowned.

CONTRACT NOT LET

School Board Still In Session at the Time of Going to Press.

At the time of going to press, the school board has not let the contract for building the addition to the school house. There are two bids in, one from Frank Mageau and the other from Olie Sieverson, both of Crookston. It is understood that the cost of the addition will be about \$8,500. This will include a full basement, which may be used either as a gymnasium or made into two more school rooms.

Dragged to Death.

Minnewaukan, N. D., Aug. 9.—James Duffy, a prominent farmer living sixteen miles west of Minnewaukan, was found dead in a field, having fallen from the seat of a binder and being dragged to death.

BOAT NEARLY SINKS.

Secret Kept From Passengers Until Vessel Is Beached.

Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 9.—With the seventy-five passengers on board in ignorance of their peril, water rushed into the hold of the steamer Enterprise yesterday until the fires under the boilers were extinguished. While the officers were engaged in keeping the passengers from knowing the sinking condition of the boat the captain changed his course to the nearest shore. The engineer by great efforts managed to keep enough steam in the boilers to keep the steamer under way until shallow water was reached, and not until the lurch of the vessel told that its bow had struck the beach did the passengers know that anything was wrong. When informed of their escape many of the women passengers became hysterical, but all were removed to the shore safely.

GIRL TRES A FLIRT.

Sets Dog to Watch Him While Crowd Applauds.

Carbondale, Ill., Aug. 9. — For two hours yesterday pretty Elsie Hoagler, with the aid of a bulldog, kept a flirt treading, while a large crowd, attracted by the unusual spectacle, looked on, applauded the girl and "joshed" the victim. James Manley, a lineman, was at work on a telegraph pole near the home of Miss Hoagler, when he espied her at the window. Humming Elsie of Chelsea, my sweet little girl," the lineman made desperate efforts at a conquest. Tiring of his persistence, Miss Hoagler waited until he prepared to move toward the ground, then with her bulldog she took a position near the foot of the pole. Tige obeyed her command to "watch him," and for two hours Manley pleaded and begged pardon before he was forgiven.

JUDGE STOPS LYNCHING.

Promises That Grand Jury Will Act Quickly.

Henderson, Tex., Aug. 9. — Isom Strong, a negro, last night attempted to enter the bedroom of Mrs. Mollie Lacy, a widow. Mrs. Lacy gave the alarm and the negro was captured and taken to jail. The sheriff slipped the negro out of town, but a mob followed and took the prisoner from the officers and brought him back. Preparations were made to lynch him but District Judge Levy promised the mob that the grand jury would consider the negro's case at once. The mob then dispersed and the negro was taken back to jail.