

The DEMOCRAT

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VERSAILES, 1 MISSOURI

The prince of Wales has made a good impression on the Indian rajahs by his gun shooting. He killed his first tiger the other day, near Jaipur.

The khedive of Egypt owns the most costly saddle in the world. It is made of black leather, though more gold than leather is visible, and it cost \$70,000.

Ember Mason, who lives near Independence City, Mo., has built his own coffin from a tree he planted when he first went to Jackson county, 72 years ago.

The taxpayers of Lincoln county, Nevada, are suing the county commissioners to compel them to increase the tax levy. The citizens wish to pay off the county indebtedness, which amounts to \$650,000.

The average number of residents to the acre in Paris is no less than 128. There are nearly 700,000 apartments or lodgings in the French metropolis which rent for less than \$100 a year. About 17,000 bring \$800 or more.

Russia, notwithstanding reports to the contrary, has approved the plan of a Siberia-Alaska railroad, and hence it is still within the bounds of possibility that at some time trains may run from New York to Paris. The number of things regarded as impossible is steadily diminishing.

The Japanese government is introducing new silver coins into Korea. This new coinage is of three denominations. The silver half "won" corresponds to the Japanese half yen (25 cents American currency); the 20 "chon" and 5 chon pieces have respectively the same value as the Japanese 20 sen and 5 sen.

What becomes of the 390,000,000 tons of coal a year now produced in the United States? Railroads, iron and steel mills and manufacturing are the largest consumers. The annual coal bill of the Pennsylvania railroad system is \$18,000,000. The domestic demand increases every year. Coal calls for 40,000,000 tons of coal this year.

The rails on the Belt Line Road around Philadelphia are the heaviest rails used on any railroad in the world. They weigh 142 pounds to the yard, and are 17 pounds heavier than any rails ever before used. They are ballasted in concrete, and 9-inch girders were used to bind them. All the curves and spurs were made of the same heavy rails, and the tracks are considered superior to any railroad section ever undertaken.

Most people who patronize the Pullman cars have no conception of the enormous profits accruing to the company. The net earnings of a sleeper on an ordinary run are from \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year, or about two-thirds of the cost of the car. On limited trains between New York and Chicago the net earnings are as high as \$18,000 a year. The mileage paid by the railroad is practically sufficient to cover all the expenses of operation, including the investment and depreciation.

Americans read more than any other nation. The 84,000,000 people of the United States have not very far from half of the 60,000 newspapers and periodicals possessed by the 1,600,000,000 inhabitants of the world. Most of ours—dailies, weeklies and monthlies—have a larger individual circulation than Europe's. They represent a much greater invested capital and give employment to more persons. New York has more publications of all sorts than have London and Paris taken together.

Charles E. Hughes, the lawyer whose relentless and almost wizard-like questioning has unmasked a state of affairs in the insurance methods that has stirred the financial and political world to a constant foment of explanations, said in an interview in regard to the investigation: "It has not hit at life insurance. It has merely exposed the abuses that have grown up in life insurance, to the end that they might be corrected for all time to come. The effect has been tremendous all over the world."

A new anesthetic, which will prove a great blessing to mankind and which the operating surgeon is hailing with joy, has recently been brought to this country and is attracting the favorite notice of surgeons. The medical and surgical professions of Europe and America have been stirred as never before since the discovery of ether and chloroform by the introduction into surgical practice of this new general anesthetic, which seems to leave nothing to be desired. This new anesthetic agent, scopoline, is an alkaloid obtained from *Scopolia Japonica*, or *Scopolia carolinensis*.

SCARING UNCLE AGAIN.



TWENTY-ONE MINERS DEAD

FRIGHTFUL EXPLOSION AT COALDALE, W. VA.

Three White Men and Eighteen Negroes Entombed With No Hope That Any Have Survived.

Bluefields, W. Va., Jan. 5.—Twenty-one miners in the Coal Dale company's shaft at Coal Dale, W. Va., were probably instantly killed by an explosion that took place there about noon Thursday. There were three white men and 18 colored men entombed, and no hope is held out that any of them escaped death. The explosion was of terrific force and caused intense excitement throughout the surrounding country, many people believing an earthquake had occurred. The fans, mining cars and most of the property used in the mines are supposed to have been blown to pieces.

At 5:30 p. m. a body of one of the miners was discovered some hundred feet away from the main entrance so mutilated as to be unrecognizable. All hope of recovering alive the entombed miners has been shattered by the pouring forth of gases from the different entries. If the 21 men were not all killed instantly by the explosion, it is believed that they must have succumbed to the great accumulation of gas following it.

Great crowds were attracted by the disaster and a large rescuing party soon began work.

FIRE IN ST. LOUIS LIBRARY

Two Firemen Injured and About a Thousand Volumes Burned and As Many More Damaged.

St. Louis, Jan. 5.—Fire was discovered in the public library, board of educational building, Ninth and Locust streets, at one o'clock this morning. But one alarm was turned in for the blaze, which, for a time, looked as though it might prove serious.

The fire originated in the northeast corner of the sixth floor and spread rapidly on that floor until it reached the southwest corner. After the firemen reached the scene there was a delay of fully ten minutes before water could be raised to the level of the fire. As soon as an adequate supply of water was thrown into the sixth-story windows the flames were subdued.

Chief Swingley says that about 1,000 books were burned, and that probably an equal number were damaged by water. The furniture is also badly damaged.

Fireman John Clark was thrown from a hose wagon and suffered serious injuries, and Fireman A. Juleg was badly cut by breaking glass during the fire.

CHILD DEAD, MOTHER DYING

Sad Tragedy at Louisville, Ky.—A Mother Kills Her Child and Fatally Wounds Herself.

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 5.—After kissing her husband good-by, Mrs. Sallie Blancagniel Pollard, member of a prominent family, shot and fatally wounded her three-year-old son and then attempted suicide by shooting herself in the head Thursday afternoon, in the apartments of her brother, Dr. W. N. Blancagniel.

"I felt that I was losing my mind. I did not wish to become a burden on any one else, and I could not bear the thought of leaving my child to others," Mrs. Pollard gave this reason for her deed.

The child died at an infirmary. The mother is not expected to live.

EARLY MORNING FAST MAIL

Improved Mail Facilities to Be inaugurated On the Frisco From St. Louis to Monett, Mo.

Washington, Jan. 4.—T. J. Franks, representing the "Frisco" railroad system; W. F. Saunders, representing the Business Men's league, in company with Representatives Shartel, of Missouri, and Campbell, of Kansas, had a conference with the postmaster general and the second assistant postmaster general, the result of which was an agreement on the part of the railroad to install an early morning fast mail from St. Louis to Monett and connecting points at an early date, probably the 14th inst. This step, it is announced, will afford greatly improved fast mail facilities to all territory tributary to the railroad system. At the same time the railroad agreed to shorten the schedule of the train so as to arrive at St. Louis at 7 a. m. from Monett, with the understanding that the department will avail itself of the opportunity to separate mails on that train for first carrier delivery in St. Louis, thus enabling southwest Missouri, Oklahoma and territory tributary to the road to expedite greatly mail to the business houses of St. Louis and through the clearing house to the banking institutions.

A WHITE HOUSE SENSATION

A Former St. Louis Woman Forcefully Ejected From the White House by Police.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Mrs. Minor Morris, wife of a Washington physician, formerly the wife of a Mr. Higleyman, and mother of two grown sons, Locke T. and Wilbur H. Higleyman, of St. Louis, was forcibly ejected from the executive offices at the White House Thursday afternoon, causing a sensational scene.

After being refused permission to see President Roosevelt in the executive offices and declining orders to leave, Mrs. Morris was forcibly ejected from the building, dragged roughly over a muddy driveway and finally placed in a cab in which she was taken to a police station and thence to the house of detention. She was shortly released from arrest on a deposit of collateral.

Mrs. Morris said her object in going to the White House was to see the president personally in the hope of securing the reinstatement of her husband, who had been dismissed from the surgeon general's office, at the instance of her brother, Representative Hull, of Iowa. There is evidently some family trouble at the bottom of the affair.

EXPRESS COMPANIES ALSO

They Fall Into Line With the Railroads in Cutting Off All Free Business.

New York, Jan. 6.—The express companies have decided to join with the railroads in refusing to issue passes for the carrying of business free of charge. Announcement to this effect was made at the office of the Adams Express Co. in the following statement:

"The action of the railroads in cutting off free business has made it practically necessary for the express companies to do likewise. Accordingly, all the leading expresses have issued orders that on and after January 15 they will not carry any business free of charge as a personal courtesy to merchants or other patrons or for any reason."

"They will continue to exchange annual passes with each other and with railroad lines."

GENTRY MURDER IN CHICAGO

NO TRACE FOUND OF THE FUGITIVE MURDERER.

The Police Think That Frank J. Constantine, Accused of Crime, Has a Criminal Record.

Chicago, Jan. 8.—Investigation by the police of the murder, at her home on LaSalle avenue, of Mrs. Arthur W. Gentry, have resulted in developments that lead them to the belief that Frank J. Constantine, accused of the murder, had a criminal record previous to this crime. Letters found in the fugitive's trunk, written by his parents from New Rochelle, N. Y., seem to indicate that Constantine fled from his home to escape the results of a crime, though it seems clear that his parents did not know what caused him to leave home. The diamond ring pawned by Constantine at a Clark street pawnshop was much too large for Constantine's finger. Constantine posed as a son of wealthy parents who sent him money regularly, and the police are now working on the theory that he did this in order to divert suspicion from himself of other misdeeds.

Efforts to locate the driver of the cab that conveyed Constantine to the pawnshop have been, so far, unsuccessful, and no further trace has been found of the fugitive.

SHIVERED WHEN COLD CAME

Earthquake Shocks Felt in Western Missouri, Eastern Kansas and Southern Nebraska.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 8.—A distinct earthquake shock, with a motion from north to south, lasting from twenty-three seconds to one minute in duration, was felt in western Missouri, eastern Kansas and southern Nebraska at about 6:17 o'clock Sunday evening. The territory affected extends from Nebraska, on the north, nearly to the Oklahoma and Indian territory line on the south, and from Salina, Kas., on the west, to Kansas City, St. Joseph and Joplin, Mo., on the east. With the exception of knocking plaster from the walls at some points in Kansas, no damage was reported, although persons ran to the streets at some places in fear that their houses would tumble in.

THREE PERISHED IN A FIRE

A Girl of Seventeen and Two Women She Tried to Save Caught in a Death Trap.

St. Louis, Jan. 8.—To save Mrs. Pauline Hermann, a helpless invalid, from death in a fire in a boarding house, Saturday evening, Miss Jewel Reed, 17 years old, after reaching the street in safety and giving the alarm, ran back through a barrier of flame and smoke and, with Mrs. Laura Pulvermacher, sister of the bedridden woman, attempted to carry Mrs. Hermann from the building, when all three perished in a bathroom, in which they were forced to take refuge when the fire cut off their escape.

Mrs. Emma Hilger, aged 38, another sister of Mrs. Hermann, frenzied with fear and the pain of burnt face and hands, leaped from a rear window of the second floor to a paved yard and was seriously injured.

THREE TRAINMEN KILLED

Collision, During a Blizzard, East of Corry, Pa.—St. Louis Wholesale Merchant Injured.

Corry, Pa., Jan. 8.—Philadelphia and Erie train No. 4, running 45 miles an hour, collided with a light engine at Horn's Siding, ten miles east of here, Saturday night, in a blizzard, and three trainmen were killed and 21 persons injured. When the crash came the smoker and day coach, which were filled with passengers, were telescoped, and women and children were buried under wreckage in the cars. Conductor Morgan and brakemen worked heroically, and with axes cut several injured from the wreckage.

Among the injured was Samuel Epstein, of St. Louis, a member of the wholesale dry goods firm of Epstein & Whiser, who left St. Louis for the east last week on a business trip.

APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT

Women's Club Petitions the President to Save the Life of Mrs. Tolla.

Hackensack, N. J., Jan. 8.—An appeal to save Mrs. Antoinette Tolla from being hanged on January 12 is said to have been sent to President Roosevelt by the Susan B. Anthony club of Cincinnati. In this appeal the following question was asked: "Can a woman be hanged in New Jersey for defending her honor in her own home?"

Mrs. Tolla, who is a young woman, shot an Italian who, she said, attempted to attack her in her own home. A jury found her guilty of murder. Mrs. Tolla still entertains hope that the United States supreme court will intervene and grant a stay of execution in her case.

BIG BLAZE AT KANSAS CITY.

Three Business Concerns Burned Down and the National Bank of Commerce Nearly Ruined.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 6.—The entire downtown retail district of this city was threatened, Friday night, by a fire which started in the rear of the three-story brick building of the Columbus Buggy Co., on Walnut street, near Tenth, destroying this building and the adjoining building occupied by the Kimball Piano Co. and the Hettinger Brothers' Manufacturing Co., and badly damaging the National Bank of Commerce building.

The Columbus Buggy Co.'s building and the building immediately south, occupied by the Kimball Piano Co., were very inflammable, and the firemen were powerless to check the flames in those buildings. The stock of the Columbus Buggy Co., too, fed the flames, and all of the available firemen and fire apparatus in the city were busied in preventing the spread of the fire to the large buildings on each side. It was impossible, however, to prevent the spread of the flames to the Commerce building on the south, and the offices on the first, second and third floors were badly damaged by fire and water.

The Commerce building is one of the finest buildings in the city, and the lower floor is occupied by the National Bank of Commerce, the largest financial concern in Kansas City.

RECOGNITION OF HEROISM

Survivors of the Bennington Disaster Awarded Medals of Honor and a Gratuity.

Washington, Jan. 6.—Recognition of the extraordinary heroism displayed by the officers and crew of the U. S. S. Bennington, when her boilers exploded on July 21 last, is contained in a general order issued at the navy department by Secretary Bonaparte.

Each of eleven members of the crew has been awarded a medal of honor and \$100 gratuity. They are: John J. Clausey, chief gunner's mate; George F. Brock, carpenter's mate, second class; Edward Boers, seaman; Willie Cronan, boatswain's mate, third class; Raymond E. Davis, quartermaster, third class; Emil Fredericksen, water tender; Rade Gribitch, seaman; Wm. C. Shacklette, hospital steward; Oscar E. Nelson, machinist's mate, first class; Otto D. Schmidt, seaman; Frank E. Hill, ship's cook, first class.

The general order calls attention to the "extraordinary heroism" displayed by the officers and crew of the U. S. S. Bennington at the time of the lamentable disaster which overtook that vessel.

UNSEASONABLE WEATHER

It Adversely Affects Retail Trade But Is Keeping Outdoor Activities Booming.

New York, Jan. 6.—Bradstreet's weekly review says:

While unseasonable weather adversely affects retail trade and reorders from wholesalers, it at the same time highly favors the leading industrial and outdoor activities and facilitates railway transport. Spring trade really shows rather more than usual life, requests for prompt shipments being in evidence earlier than usual. Clearance sales are a feature of retail lines, and the season as a whole in heavy wearing apparel has been, so far, disappointing. Collections north and west feel this influence likewise. Bank clearings break all records for a holiday period, reflecting heavy end-of-the-year disbursements and stock speculation.

TO RECEIVE A REPRIMAND

Result of the Court-Martial of Commander Lucien Young of the Gunboat Bennington.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Secretary Bonaparte has acted on the proceedings of the court-martial in the case of Commander Lucien Young, of the Bennington, who was tried on charges connected with the fatal explosion on that vessel at San Diego last summer. The court found Commander Young guilty of a part of the specifications, alleging negligence of duty, and sentenced him to receive a letter of reprimand, which sentence will be carried out.

RETURNED PRESENTMENTS

The Grand Jury at Baltimore, Md., Indicts Former Officials of the Maryland Trust Co.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 4.—The grand jury which has been investigating the affairs of the Maryland Trust Co., under the old regime, returned presentments against three of the former officials. One of them, Henry J. Bowdoin, who was the vice-president and in active charge at the time of the suspension, was arrested on a capias from the criminal court and released under bond of \$10,000. The other two have not been arrested.

Enormous Equipment Orders.

Chicago, Jan. 6.—Figures compiled by the Railway Age show that during the twelve months just closed the railways of the country have ordered 841,215 freight cars, 6,265 locomotives and 2,520 passenger cars.