

FREE TRADER - JOURNAL

AND OTTAWA FAIR DEALER
115 West Main Street

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday.

FREE TRADER-JOURNAL PRINTING CO. Publishers
W. H. ORMAN Editor and General Manager
G. H. WOOLBERT Managing Editor

Member of the Associated Press.

TERMS:

Daily, one year in advance, by carrier.....\$5.00
Daily, one year in advance, by mail, outside La Salle County.....4.50
Daily, one year in advance, by mail, in La Salle County.....4.00
Daily, per week, by carrier.....10

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited to this paper and also local news published herein.

Entered as second class matter March 23, 1920, at the Post Office at Ottawa, Ill., under the Act of October 3, 1917.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1922.

READ LIKE FICTION DETECTIVE STORIES.

If anyone has any doubts as to the desirability of a state police force he has only to read the truthful and authentic stories covering some of the records made by the Pennsylvania state police published in book form and now available at Reddick's library under the title, "Mounted Justice". The accounts read like tales of the Northwest Mounted Police of Canada or of the Texas Rangers, whose fame is world wide. The maxim of both is, "Get your man". No complications are too intricate, no hardships too great. The element of time cuts little figure; a criminal is apprehended and "brought in" in the shortest time possible, but if it takes weeks, months or even years the case never becomes a closed incident. Immediately a crime is committed, scores of trained men are at once apprised and the work of apprehension instead of being local at once becomes state-wide. The state police has its members in every portion of the commonwealth, immediately available for any emergency, and all are under one head or management. The action of each is part of the working of a great machine under the direction of experts. But, above all, in a short time the force itself becomes a body of men especially trained by education and experience in the line of work they are called upon to do.

The knowledge by criminals that such a force exists is a large deterrent to crime and the further knowledge that once a crime is committed the case is never dropped nor out of the hands of experts makes even the most hardened criminal think twice. If, for instance, a bank is robbed a hundred or two miles from Chicago, within a short time not only the local neighborhood but every avenue leading from the seat of the crime into the city itself is watched. In the recent Dimmick Hill murder, the whole force of the state police, if one existed, would have been at once on the job. With its complications, it may be that up to the present time little more would have been accomplished than by the excellent work that has been done, but the organization of the working force would have already been done and valuable time saved. Furthermore, the solution of the case would be up to men whose job such work is, not extra labor for men who from the very nature of their offices have a thousand other duties to perform and to take at least part of their time from this particular crime.

The greatest consideration, however, is the matter of protection, especially to rural communities. The dangers of Dimmick Hill, with its many twists and turns ideal spots for holdups are well known, but that is by no means the only spot in the state which needs constant patrolling if a traveler is to be safe. As conditions now are, any dark or lonely spot on the road becomes an ideal spot for a holdup and the hard roads are available for hundreds of miles for a quick getaway. With a patrol system any portion could at once be closed and every traveler examined by legal officers, and some surveillance put on the crossroads. Every holdup might not be prevented, but the rural communities would not be as they now are, totally unprotected.

VIRTUES AND PROFITS IN MUCK AND PEAT BEDS.

Recently there has been issued by the United States Geological Survey, at Washington, a bulletin concerning peat and its use as a fuel. There may be little new information in the publication to many, but there are many others who have very limited knowledge of the extent of the peat lands in this country and the possibilities of producing it not only for fuel but for agricultural purposes. According to the statement made by the Geological Survey, there are over 12,000 square miles of peat land in the country, capable of yielding fourteen billion tons of fuel at a cost varying from a dollar and a half to five dollars a ton. The deposits lie principally in New England, Atlantic Coast, and Great Lake States, and in regions remote from coal mines. It is said that fifty million tons of peat are used annually in Europe as fuel. The bulletin states, also, that peat is suitable for use as a fertilizer and in promoting the intensive growth of truck crops, both in greenhouses and in the open fields. For the latter purpose manufacturers of commercial fertilizers are said to be paying as high as ten dollars a ton for a suitable article. The present output is about a hundred thousand tons annually. It is said that in some parts of the country the yearly proceeds from the intensive cultivation of peat and muck soil for lettuce, celery and onions amounts to more than five hundred dollars an acre.

No one anticipates that the extensive use of peat for fuel will ever be found necessary in this country, which is so richly endowed with coal, but if the time should come that householders in localities remote from coal mines were to require fuel some of these thousands of acres might be the means of preventing suffering or death from freezing.

UTICA NEWS

Thomas Neary has returned to his home in Utica after visiting with relatives in Chicago for a few days.
Mr. and Mrs. William Landers are visiting with relatives in Kankakee. They will remain for several days.
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Myers are visiting with relatives in Chicago for a few days.
The McDermott of Iowa is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Liles in Utica for a week.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Manly Jr. announce the arrival of a baby boy at their home in Rock Island yesterday.
Victor Larson of Ottawa visited a few hours at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Lutz in Utica yesterday.

Miss Esther Johnson of Chicago is visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, during the holidays.
Attend S. S. Convention.
Misses Louise Geen, Lucina Dimmick, Jessie Wyle, Norma Dimmick, Charlotte McCormack and Catherine Aker and Helen Donovan and Sam Hallett, Nathan Mitchell and Evan Pearson have gone to Galesburg to attend the state Baptist Sunday school convention. They will remain a couple of days.
Mr. L. C. Pearson was a La Salle shopper Friday.
Miss Elizabeth Fuller was calling on La Salle friends on Friday afternoon.
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Olmstead and daughter of Chicago are visiting with relatives in Utica.
Mr. Julian Conroy and son of Ottawa and Mrs. A. K. M. of Peru are visiting at the home of their father, Miss Nelson on La Salle street.

EVERETT TRUE
By CONDO.

