

## CELEBRATION ENDS FATALLY

L. Buhmann Instantly Killed on New Years.

### HE WAS BLOWN TO DEATH.

A Salute to the New Year Made at Farwell to a Young Man's Life—Blasts Blown off and Face Partly Carried Away by Discharge of Saluting Cannon.

From Wednesday's Daily.

A distressing accident shortly after 12 o'clock New Year's morning resulted in the instantaneous death of Peter L. Buhmann, he being blown up while firing a salute to the New Year and new century with the city's saluting cannon near the Norfolk Foundry and Machine company's works.

The advent of the New Year in Norfolk marked the close of a promising young life in a tragical manner that cast a gloom over the people of the city and vicinity for the entire day, and the longer the subject was considered the more horrible it appeared. It was one of those distressing accidents that result in the instant severing of the golden thread of life and for which no one in particular is responsible.

The victim was a patriotic young man whose enthusiasm inspired him to take the lead in patriotic demonstrations. He had served in the Philippines and brought back with him a soldier's love for warlike sounds and it was this that led to his sudden and violent end.

In company with L. L. McKim and one or two others, Peter L. Buhmann had for several days been considering plans for giving the new year a demonstrative reception and the old a farewell. It was finally decided that more effect could be had with the city's saluting cannon, made several years ago by the foundry, than through any other means. This cannon is of a conical shape, the large end resting on the ground and the mouth on top directed upward. Originally there was a small hole bored from the top near the edge diagonally to the bottom of the chamber, through which the charge was exploded. In some manner this had become clogged, and the boys spent several hours Sunday at the city hall in an endeavor to open it. Their efforts, however, were unsuccessful and the gun was taken to the foundry, but again the efforts to open it were unsuccessful and Buhmann then suggested that it be fired with a fuse arrangement, and a quantity of material necessary was secured. On Monday night Buhmann and McKim went to the foundry and at a signal from the electric light station several shots were fired, the firing being done with the utmost precaution. The noise attracted several persons to the place and at the time of the accident there were quite a number present, several of whom assisted the boys.

Buhmann and McKim directed the work and the former did the firing. He was very careful that everyone was out of harm's way before applying the light but unfortunately he was not as cautious where he was concerned as for others. They had been using a cup of powder to each shot. This was poured into the opening; then a length of fuse was inserted in the end of a piece of gas pipe and the pipe thrust to the bottom of the chamber while the powder was tamped in with old papers, a heavy iron bar being used for this purpose. When this had been done the pipe was withdrawn and the fuse exposed. This was left eight or ten inches long and allowed to hang down the side of the cannon and when lighted it allowed plenty of time to get out of the way, the boys asserting that a person could have got a block away, had he desired, before the charge was exploded. After each shot the cannon was carefully swabbed with some cotton waste which had been fastened to the end of a wire and thoroughly soaked with water.

The powder was kept at a considerable distance from the cannon and Buhmann had the fuse in charge. In fact every precaution against an accident was taken. At one time when the wind was blowing quite strongly Buhmann lit the fuse in the opening at the top of the chamber to protect it from the wind but was warned that such might prove dangerous and he afterward lighted it outside. Another time he wanted to use a fuse that had been cut too short but on the advice of his companions it was discarded, but it indicated some recklessness on the part of Buhmann. Nine charges had been exploded before the accident occurred and the boys were about ready to quit, but as enough powder remained for several shots they concluded to finish it. On the tenth shot the powder had been tamped in as before and the crowd had got out of the way while Buhmann applied the match to the fuse. McKim thought he had lit it and got out of the way but others assert that he was stooping over the cannon with his hands held as if to shade a match or to blow out the fuse and it was evident that he thought the fuse had gone out and was endeavoring to start it again. He was in that position when the charge went off and he was blown several feet from the cannon. Both hands were blown off and the left side of his face was blown away. Death must have taken place instantly, as investigation showed that the skull had been fractured and there was evidence of a severe shock on the breast which would, alone, have been fatal.

He was picked up and carried into the foundry and the Drs. Salter summoned, but he was beyond any need of medical attention and the body was given in charge of Sessions & Bell who removed it to their undertaking rooms and prepared it for interment.

The young man's home was at Creston, where his father, C. F. Buhmann, who is a banker, was notified of the accident. Yesterday H. P. Buhmann, a cousin of the deceased, and C. J. Ely, an old friend, arrived from Creston to take charge of the remains and arrange for the funeral.

The deceased was 23 years of age and was born in Iowa, at Truer, as near as could be ascertained. He was a barber, by trade, having worked at the business about five years, serving his apprenticeship with L. P. Benish of Pender, and at one time was employed in the Oxnard shop. In the early part of November, 1899, he enlisted in Company H, Thirtieth volunteer infantry and went to the Philippines with his command. He served until June last, when he returned to this country and received a disability discharge in September. He accepted a position in C. E. Hatford's barber shop on September 20 and was employed there up to the time of his death.

He was a member of the Madison lodge Knights of Pythias and also of the Royal Highlanders at Creston. Delegations from these and also from Company F, N. N. G., of Madison came up to escort the remains home. An escort to the train was furnished by Company L, N. N. G., and Norfolk lodge, K. of P. The body was taken to Creston via the Union Pacific, leaving here at 11 o'clock.

The funeral will be held tomorrow at 2 o'clock and the young man will be given a military burial, Company F, going over from Madison for the purpose. The Knights of Pythias at Madison also have charge of a portion of the service. Although he had lived in Norfolk but a short time, Buhmann had quite an acquaintanceship among the young people, by whom he was highly respected. They state that he had no bad habits, was sober, industrious and generous to a fault and all who knew him speak in high terms of his character. His sudden death was exceedingly distressing to everyone but especially to his friends and those who witnessed the accident.

The heartfelt sympathy of all Norfolk people will go out to his grief-stricken family in their hour of deep distress.

### BOYS WHO FLAG TRAINS.

New Industry Inaugurated in the Black Hills.

The recent flagging of a train by a Black Hills boy and the generous treatment accorded him by the passengers and railroad officials has resulted in inaugurating a new industry among the Black Hills boys. The other day passengers at a station near where the flagging episode occurred noticed a bright faced, ragged urchin standing near the track. Hoping to get a sight of the boy who had created so much favorable comment by his action a few days previously in flagging the train and preventing what might have been a serious accident some of the kind hearted hero worshippers asked the lad who he was, says the Chicago Tribune. He promptly replied, "I'm de kid wot flagged de keers 'other day."

Without stopping to verify his claim they at once began tossing him nickels, dimes and quarters. From that day every urchin who puts in his time at the depots in that particular locality is "the boy who flagged the train," and unsuspecting passengers have ample opportunities to part with their spare change.

### CHICAGO ROOF KITE PARTY.

New Form of Entertainment in Honor of an Eastern Visitor.

Mrs. Weissheimer of Chicago gave a "roof kite party" the other night in honor of Miss Constance I. Rice of New York. Two kites, six feet in height and made of bamboo cane, covered with heavy silk, were launched into the breeze, and at intervals of 50 feet eight Japanese lanterns were attached to the swaying rope.

It was necessary to fasten the end of the rope securely to a windlass, and by this means the kite's actions were controlled, says the New York Times. After 2,000 feet of rope on the first kite had been played out the end was tied to the other kite, and soon both were flying high above the house tops. The strain was tremendous, and when 5,000 feet were reached it was thought advisable to let out no more rope.

Then a third kite was floated, and to its rope was attached a tray containing powder. This was lighted as the kite darted upward, and it made a quivering streak of fire in the sky.

### DIAZ GOING TO EUROPE.

Mexico's President to Ask for an Extended Leave of Absence.

Monterey, Mex., Jan. 2.—It is authoritatively stated in government circles here that President Porfirio Diaz has informed members of his cabinet that he will apply to congress for a leave of absence early in the present year, and that he will depart for Europe soon after it is granted him. He will remain abroad several months. Most of his time will be spent in Paris, where he is said to have heavy financial investments.

Congressman Martin Seriously Ill. St. Louis, Jan. 2.—Congressman-elect E. W. Martin of Deadwood, S. D., is critically ill of pneumonia.

## THREATEN MR. CUDAHY.

Kidnapers Promise a Funeral in Omaha Packer's Family.

### MUST WITHDRAW REWARD.

Bullet for His Son is Now the Bandits' Threat—They Grow More Brutal and Reckless Toward the Cudahy Family. Latest Phase of the Outrage.

Omaha, Dec. 31.—E. A. Cudahy, the millionaire packer, having thought better of his resolution that he would not reveal to the public the contents of the second letter he received from the bandits, made public the communication. It is as follows:

"Cudahy: If you value the boy's life at the price of a bullet you will withdraw the reward at once and let well enough alone. If you don't do this we will finish the job with a bullet. If any man whether guilty or innocent is ever arrested a bullet will close the boy's mouth. You will think of this warning when it is to late."

This letter, which was unsigned, was sent through the mails.

The second letter received by Mr. Cudahy from the kidnapers renewed interest in the case and was the principal topic of conversation yesterday on street cars, in shops and wherever people congregated. An impression generally expressed was that the bandits have become foolhardy. Flushed with success they have gloated over the ease with which they evade arrest and could no longer restrain the impulse to taunt the police and further impress Mr. Cudahy with a sense of his helplessness in their hands.

Others held directly the opposite—that the kidnapers were so close pressed by the detectives that they were fearful of being caught and that the second letter comes as a cry of distress. They want the reward withdrawn in order that man-hunting may be less profitable and zealous.

There is no means of learning how the chief of police construes this letter, as he refuses to discuss it. All agree, however, that the outlaws manifest a cold-blooded brutality, which is most revolting.

Mr. Cudahy states that he has not withdrawn the reward and does not propose to do so.

### Another Letter From "Eloise T."

Cincinnati, Dec. 31.—The Enquirer has received the second strangely significant letter from "Eloise T.," who now signs herself "Eloise V. Tarrall." In this letter the writer says that she conjectures as to her identity on the part of the Omaha correspondent are wrong—that she is not Lizzie Burns. She also gives reasons for her offer to clear up the Cudahy mystery. "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned," is the quotation that she uses to explain her position.

### WORK OF TRAIN WRECKERS.

Coupling Pin Placed in a Switch Frog Causes Wreck.

Henderson, Ky., Dec. 31.—Train No. 44 on the Henderson road was wrecked two miles east of this city yesterday and five persons seriously injured. They were: William S. Holloway, arm broken and badly bruised; John Mason, injured internally, serious; and Cyrus Scott, leg broken. Two others, whose names could not be learned, were seriously injured.

A coupling pin placed in a switch frog caused the wreck. All the injured were in the parlor car, which left the rails and toppled over on its side. The engine, smoker and baggage car ran over the switch, but the two rear coaches left the rails and broke loose from the head end. About 15 passengers occupied the coach ahead of the parlor car, all of whom were more or less injured. It is believed the coupling pin was placed in the frog by wreckers.

### Woman Shoots a Farmer.

Maryville, Mo., Dec. 31.—Lawrence Gowney, a farmer living near Clyde, was shot four times Saturday by Mrs. Henry Willis, wife of the collector of Jefferson township and a neighbor of Gowney. The latter was brought to Maryville to have his wounds examined by the X-rays. It is thought they will prove fatal. It is alleged that the cause of the shooting was slanderous stories circulated by Gowney about Mrs. Willis. She was brought here and lodged in jail. She was apparently cool, but would not talk about the shooting.

### Quay Will Control Senate.

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 31.—State Senator Washburn of Crawford county, who was elected two years ago as a Populist with Democratic and Prohibition endorsement, issued a formal statement last night announcing that he had allied himself with the Republican party. His desertion gives the friends of Mr. Quay control of the senate.

### Paroled by Governor Pingree.

Jackson, Mich., Dec. 31.—Stonewall J. DeFrance, a noted forger, who was sent to the state's prison here from Kalamazoo county in 1894 for 11 years for defrauding a Kalamazoo bank of several thousand dollars, has been paroled by Governor Pingree. DeFrance has a record of having realized \$60,000 by forgeries.

### Dies Trying to Save Her Babe.

English, Ind., Dec. 31.—While rescuing her 1-year-old baby from her burning home at St. Croix, Mrs. Cornelia Barth was fatally burned. Mrs. Barth had left her child in the house asleep in its cradle and was at the home of her mother, less than 100 yards away, when the fire was discovered.

## NO OFFICIAL RECOGNITION.

Government Takes No Part in the Celebration of the New Century.

Washington, Dec. 31.—There will be no official recognition of the passing of the 19th and the birth of the 20th century. The president and the members of his cabinet have intimated that they will have such a hard day on Jan. 1, 1901, attending the various functions which custom marks out for them, that it will be impossible to attend even the watch meetings held in their respective churches.

The British ambassador will entertain a large party at the British embassy, and exactly at midnight a telegram of congratulation will be sent to Queen Victoria. The Austrian minister will also follow this custom.

Mrs. Martinielli, the apostolic delegate, will begin to celebrate a solemn high mass at St. Patrick's, this city, at midnight precisely. A moment before the august ceremonies begin he will dispatch a telegram to Pope Leo XIII in the name of all the Roman Catholics of the United States. Thus the three aged sovereigns of the world will be especially remembered by their highest representatives at this capital.

## PASSENGERS IN PERIL.

Howled in Despair, Expecting Steamer Lake Megantic Would Founder at Any Moment—Returns to Port Disabled.

Queenstown, Dec. 31.—The British steamer Lake Megantic returned to Queenstown harbor yesterday after a terrible experience in the gale. She left Queensown Wednesday, carrying the Canadian mails, 100 cabin passengers and about 500 steerage passengers, principally foreigners, with many Jews among them. She had reached a point about 400 miles west Thursday night when she encountered a merciless gale. Behaving splendidly she would have got through had not the steering gear become damaged badly, placing her in a dangerous position.

The gale lasted 20 hours and an immense sea broke over the vessel, smashing the booby hatch and flooding her between decks, where the steerage passengers were located. It also washed away a greater portion of the fittings and did considerable deck damage. Three lifeboats were smashed. Some of the crew were seriously injured and one seaman was killed on deck.

When the storm moderated Captain Taylor decided to return to Queens-town. It was difficult work to steer the big ship, but she managed to anchor here without assistance. Her officers and men were exhausted. It is understood there were indescribable scenes among the passengers, who were said to have howled in despair, expecting that the steamer would founder at any moment.

To everybody's surprise the Beaver company directed Captain Taylor to take the Lake Megantic to Liverpool and she proceeded there with all her passengers and mails, to be transferred to the Lake Superior. There will be considerable anxiety as to her safety in her present disabled condition.

## SHOOTS BRIDE AND SELF.

Omaha Man Creates a Sensation by Ending His Honeymoon With a Revolver.

Denver, Dec. 31.—G. W. Hobbick, a stockman of South Omaha, shot his wife and himself. He will die, but the woman will probably recover. They were married in Denver on Christmas.

Mrs. Hobbick's name before marriage was Ida Chambers and she lived with her mother, who keeps a boarding house at 1434 Champa street. The two have been there since their marriage and it was there that the shooting occurred. The cause of Hobbick's action, so far as can be learned, was merely a petty quarrel.

Mrs. Hobbick's wound is not serious. The bullet struck her chin and glanced off. In shooting himself Hobbick placed the muzzle of the revolver to his temple.

### W. S. Mimer Stricken Very Suddenly.

St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 31.—W. S. Mimer, prominent in secret order work of this and other western states, dropped dead of heart disease here yesterday afternoon. He was 49 years old and a brother of W. S. Mimer, superintendent of the State Odd Fellows' home at Liberty, Mo.

### Ex-Governor Drake Ill.

Centerville, Ia., Dec. 31.—Ex-Governor Drake of Iowa is having a serious attack from his old army wound. Physicians are worried over his illness, which may prove fatal. He was 70 years of age yesterday.

## TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

Three persons were killed and 11 seriously injured at Vivar, Spain, during an election riot.

The 5-year-old son of Mrs. Raymond Thierly of Dollar Bay, Mich., has been kidnapped, evidently in the hope of securing a ransom.

Colonel Willcocks has cabled the British government that the Ashanti rebellion has ended, all the rebel chiefs having surrendered.

The collapse of the London and Globe Finance corporation resulted in 13 failures on the London Stock exchange, involving 29 members.

George W. Northrup, D. D., LL. D., professor of theology and head of the department in the divinity school of the University of Chicago, died Sunday.

A saloonkeeper and three miners are under arrest at Marysville, Mont., charged with stealing 1,140 pounds of ore from the Bald Butte mine. It is claimed the men carried ore from the mine in their pockets and dinner pails.

## Railroad and Business Directory.

### R. R. TIME TABLE.

Fremont, Elkhorn & Mo. Valley.

| EAST.                       | DEPART.    |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| *Omaha Passenger.....       | 6:05 a.m.  |
| Chicago Express.....        | 12:40 p.m. |
| EAST.                       | ARRIVE.    |
| Chicago Express.....        | 7:20 p.m.  |
| *Omaha Passenger.....       | 12:40 p.m. |
| WEST.                       | DEPART.    |
| Black Hills Express.....    | 7:40 p.m.  |
| *Verdugo Passenger.....     | 12:40 p.m. |
| *Verdugo Accommodation..... | 9:00 a.m.  |
| WEST.                       | ARRIVE.    |
| Black Hills Express.....    | 12:20 p.m. |
| *Verdugo Passenger.....     | 6:05 a.m.  |
| *Verdugo Accommodation..... | 7:20 p.m.  |

The Chicago and Black Hills Express arrives and departs from Junction depot. The Omaha and Verdugo trains arrive and depart from city depot.

H. C. MATRAU, Agent.

### Union Pacific.

| SOUTH.                               | DEPART.    |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| *Columbia Accommodation.....         | 6:30 p.m.  |
| Omaha, Denver and Pacific Coast..... | 11:00 a.m. |
| NORTH.                               | ARRIVE.    |
| *Columbia Accommodation.....         | 10:30 p.m. |
| Omaha, Denver and Pacific Coast..... | 9:00 p.m.  |

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Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha.

| EAST.                                   | DEPART.    |
|---|------------|
| St. Louis City and Omaha Passenger..... | 6:30 a.m.  |
| St. Louis City Passenger.....           | 1:00 p.m.  |
| WEST.                                   | ARRIVE.    |
| St. Louis City Passenger.....           | 10:35 a.m. |
| St. Louis City and Omaha Passenger..... | 7:30 p.m.  |

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