

## WARDEN'S WIFE HELPED MURDERERS TO ESCAPE.

### Handsome Desperado Infatuated Her and She Provided Saws and Guns.

### Desperate Men, Condemned to Hang, Shot Guards in Pittsburg Jail.

### Locked Other Guards in Dungeon, and Gained Start of Two Hours.

Pittsburg, Jan. 30.—Edward and John Biddle, awaiting execution in the county jail for the murder of Grocer Thomas D. Kahney of Mount Washington overpowered the guards at 4 o'clock this morning and escaped.

Both prisoners had been provided with saws with which they cut the bars in their cells and were ready at any moment to make an opening sufficiently large to pass through. The prisoners occupied adjoining cells on the second range. They had evidently been preparing for escape for some time, and had assistance from the outside, as both were armed with revolvers.

Shortly before 4 o'clock one of the Biddles called to James McGeary, who had charge of the outside gates, and asked for some cramp medicine in a hurry, saying his brother was dangerously sick.

McGeary hastened to the cell with the medicine when John Biddle sprang through the opening in the cell, and seizing the guard around the waist, hurled him over the railing to the stone floor beneath, a distance of 16 feet.

Edward Biddle joined his brother immediately, and both, with drawn revolvers hurried to the first floor, where they met Guard Reynolds and shot him.

There were but three men on duty, and the third was on one of the upper ranges. He was ordered down at the point of the revolvers and the three guards were put in the dungeon.

The keys were taken from keeper McGeary, and the two desperate prisoners had a clear field. The only persons who witnessed the escape were prisoners who could not interfere or give an alarm. The Biddles went to the wardrobes where the guards kept their clothing, and each put on a new suit. They then unlocked the outside gates and passed out into Ross st.

The escape was not discovered until the day guards came on duty at 6 o'clock. They were informed by prisoners where the night guards had been put, and they were soon released from the dungeon and sent to the Homeopathic hospital.

The escape of the Biddles was later explained. Warden Peter K. Soffel authorized its publication. It is the allegation that his wife is responsible for the furnishing of the revolver and saws to the Biddles which enabled them to escape.

In her infatuation for the handsome desperado, Edward Biddle, it is alleged that she has left her husband and their four children and it is supposed met the escaped convicts at a place agreed upon.

The story of the matter is brief. Mrs. Soffel was the only person admitted to the jail since last Sunday. Yesterday afternoon she visited them during the warden's absence. Last evening she returned at 9 o'clock. She told her husband that she was going to visit a sister at McDonald and that she would retire early so that she could get an early start. Warden Soffel was about the jail until after 12 o'clock. He retired to his room which is separated from Mrs. Soffel's, shortly before 1 o'clock. When he awoke this morning he asked for Mrs. Soffel and was informed that she was absent. Later when the details of the escape became known he telephoned to McDonald and was informed that Mrs. Soffel was not there.

Warden Soffel immediately made a frank confession of his suspicions. The use of the Biddles was a clever one, and was carried out with great success. They sawed out the bars of their cells, John cutting out three in his, but Edward, being the larger man, found it necessary to cut out four.

Nothing suspicious was noticed in the

actions of the two prisoners nor was anything wrong discovered when the day guards went off duty yesterday afternoon. The murderers evidently sawed the bars during the night, using what appears to have been soap to deaden the noise and to reduce friction. The escape has unparalleled the record for crime throughout this vicinity. The police all over the county are searching for the fugitives. While it is not thought they have gone far, the shrewdness of the two criminals is such that the police have a hard problem to solve in their capture.

The two guards injured will probably recover. The bullet wound sustained by Reynolds is not regarded as dangerous. The physicians have been unable to ascertain as yet the full extent of McGeary's wounds. His head is badly contused but there are no signs that his skull was fractured by his 16-foot fall.

For several months preceding the Kahney murder, daring burglaries were of almost nightly occurrence. The police seemed powerless to prevent them, and nervous citizens retired at night in fear and trembling. On the morning of April 12, last, Mrs. Kahney was awakened by burglars and called to her husband, a cripple, who was sleeping in an adjoining room with one of the children.

As he entered the door of his wife's room he was shot dead. The burglars then fled.

A few hours later Detective Patrick Fitzgerald and two officers surprised the Biddle brothers at their home on Fulton st., but before they were captured, Fitzgerald was killed and Edward, who shot him, was dangerously wounded. Walter Dorman, another of the gang and two women, Jessie Bodine and Jennie Heebbers, were also arrested. Dorman turned state's evidence and the two Biddles were convicted of Kahney's murder, and sentenced to be hanged, John on the 14th of this month, and Edward on the 16th, but three days before the date set for John's execution they were respited until Feb. 25 and 27 by Governor Stone, so that their cases could go before the Pardon Board at its coming meeting. Dorman is still in jail awaiting sentence. The women were released.

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investigate the escape will be held at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

### ARE BAD MEN.

### Biddle Brothers Are Known In Ohio.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 30.—Edward and John Biddle, the men who escaped from the Pittsburg jail today are well known by the Cleveland police. They are held responsible for a large number of daring burglaries in this city. Edward Biddle has served time in the Ohio Penitentiary and at the Indiana Penitentiary at Michigan City.

There are several charges of burglary and larceny against the men in

Continued on Second Page.

## CUT OFF

### All War Revenue Taxes.

### Bill Favorably Reported by Committee.

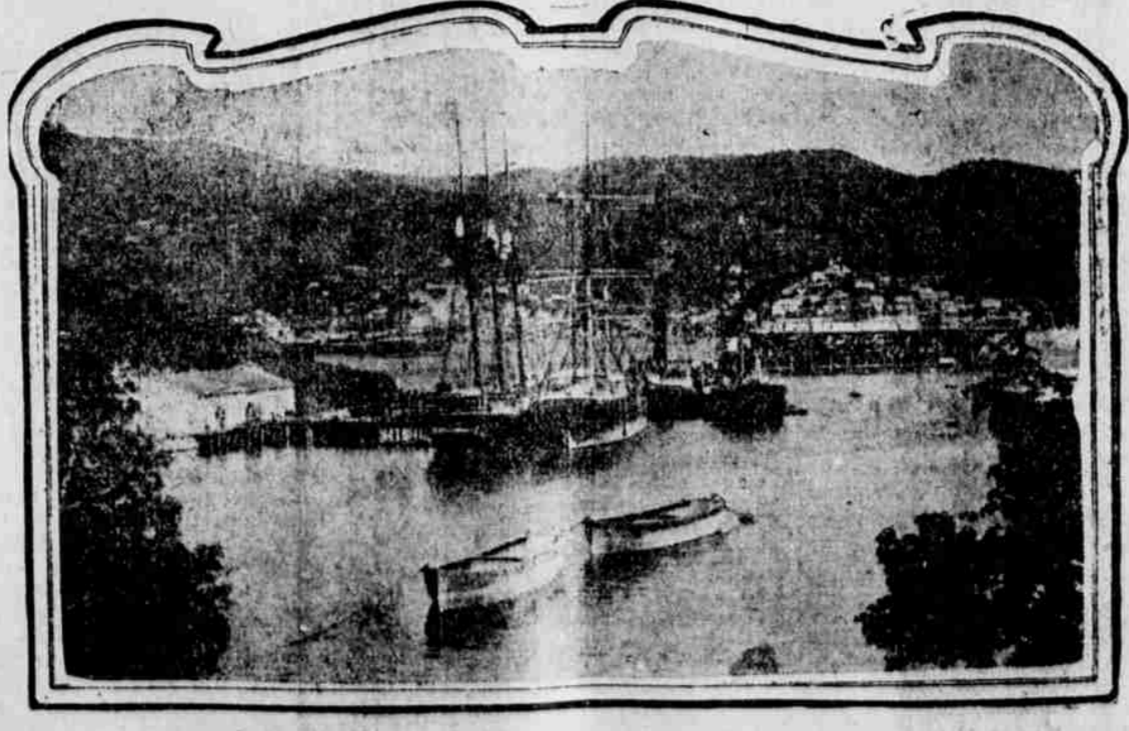
### Law to Take Effect Next July.

### Government Receipts Will be Greatly Reduced.

Washington, Jan. 30.—The House Committee on Ways and Means has unanimously authorized Chairman Payne to report a bill repealing all the Spanish war revenue taxes except the tax on mixed flour.

The repeal is to take effect July 1, 1902, except the duty on tea, which is to take effect Jan. 1, 1903. Chairman Payne made a statement showing that the total reduction would be \$77,000,000 annually. The delay in the repeal of the tax on tea is for the purpose of enabling those who have stocks on hand to dispose of them before the repeal takes effect. Mr. Payne says the counters will start up on the next fiscal year with \$174,000,000 available cash.

## One of the World's Greatest Fortresses to Be Established Here.



The Harbor of Charlotte Amalia, Island of St. Thomas.

It is the purpose of the United States Government to make at Charlotte Amalia one of the greatest fortresses in the world. In fact, Charlotte Amalia in the Danish West Indies, just purchased by this government, is called in official reports the "Little Gibraltar."

The best possible coaling facilities will be provided at St. Thomas, and to this Rear Admiral Bradford, Chief of the Bureau of Equipment, will give immediate attention.

An elaborate plan of fortification will be prepared by the Navy and Army engineers. It is said that the Danish fortifications are now in good shape, but the United States desires to have at St. Thomas a station and fortification such as are in contemplation at Olongapo, which are to be the most formidable in the east, better than even the Russian at Port Arthur.

## GOOD HUSBANDS.

### Shoemakers Are Always Such, It Is Evident.

The fact that he was 61, while she was 63, made no difference to Mr. Chas. H. Du Bois, and Mrs. Sarah Morris. They walked into the Probate office with as much timidity as a pair of lovers just budding into manhood and womanhood.

This is Mrs. Morris' second embarkment on the matrimonial seas. In this instance as in the former one, she has chosen a shoemaker as her husband. They both live in East Akron, and were married Wednesday evening.

## GUILTY.

### Jury Says Howard Helped Kill Goebel.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 30.—At 11:35 o'clock the jury in the case of Jim Howard on trial for the assassination of Wm. Goebel, returned a verdict of guilty against the prisoner and fixed his punishments at life imprisonment.

## THREATS

### Against Litchfield Man.

### Little Child Died of Diphtheria.

### Father Refused to Allow It to Have Medicine.

The town of Litchfield, Medina county, was thrown into an uproar by the death of the two-year-old daughter of John Krugger, a well-to-do farmer of Litchfield, who died without the care of a doctor. Krugger is a Dowieite and a faith curist and would not, it is said, have a physician in the house. Two other children and the mother are also sick with diphtheria, but Krugger would not allow them to take medicine, or a doctor to see them. It is claimed.

When the citizens of the village heard of the child's death, feeling ran high and a mob threatened to deal with Krugger, but cooler heads prevailed, and he was saved from violence. The township trustees took a hand in the case, however, and Dr. Moody is at present attending the patients. The two children are growing better, but the condition of the mother is very critical. Feeling at Litchfield is very bitter against Krugger, but there is no longer danger of violence toward him.

## SEARCHED FOR HIDDEN WEALTH.

### Spiritualist Said Gold Was Buried In the Cellar.

### Isaac Crouse Dug In Vain, But Found Only Threats of a Law Suit.

Nesting under the hill, at 118 Williams st., is a small cottage. Its outside walls darkened by age and frescoed grotesquely by contact with the weather. It is different within. On every hand things are cozy and comfortable. This is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Crouse. He is a laborer, aged 73, and his wife is an invalid.

Mrs. Crouse is a patient woman, and seldom complained, and although her husband was obliged to keep some one in the house constantly to care for his wife and look after household affairs, he likewise did not complain, but went about his work cheerfully. He and his wife are much respected in their neighborhood.

But almost like the proverbial thunderbolt from a clear sky, trouble came and at present a great deal of gloom hovers over the home. It has added to Mrs. Crouse's illness, and made life more tempestuous for her husband.

A week ago Emma Green was hired to wait on Mrs. Crouse. Emma is aged 58, and is a spiritualist. Besides, she had faith in a certain fortune-teller who did business at Bettes Corners. And she is alleged to have also claimed to be a medium. Through her own powers of divination, augmented by advice from the Bettes Corner fortune-teller, Emma claimed to have found out that long years ago a box of gold was hid in the cellar

of the Crouse home. She told Mr. Crouse all about it—and said the money could be obtained by digging directly under a prop which held up the chimney. Mrs. Crouse objected to any trifling with the chimney prop, but her husband heeded Emma. He so braced the chimney that it couldn't fall, knocked out the prop, and dug a deep hole in the cellar. No money was found. Emma said to dig up the whole cellar, as it was surely there. Mr. Crouse objected and the matter dropped. No specific sum had been stated by the fortune-teller, but Emma was to have \$100 for her share.

A few days after the digging, Emma again called on the Bettes Corner fortune-teller, and upon her return claimed to have been told that Mr. Crouse had found the money and hid it with a view to depriving Emma of her share.

Of course, this was denied by Mr. Crouse. Then Emma threatened to sue him. It is this threat hanging over them that causes apprehension and nervousness in the Crouse home.

But Mr. Crouse did not go after the hidden treasure without having a witness to his operations. His grandson, Arthur Crouse, was with him. "And we will both testify that no money was found," said the grandfather, "if I am taken into court."

Neighbors, however, are comforting them with the assurance that no suit will ever be started.

## "All I Want Is a Good Fair Trial."

—Edward J. Russell.

"All I want is a good fair trial and everybody to be there," said Police Patrol Operator Edward J. Russell, Thursday, referring to the charges of his conduct and falsifying records, made against him which the City Commissioners will hear Saturday.

Mr. Russell says he will be able to clear himself of all the allegations

made against him and desires the fullest publicity at his hearing. If any movement is made toward conducting the hearing before closed doors, he will object vigorously. Mr. Russell is a son of Mr. John Russell of East Akron, and his friends hope he will have no difficulty in making his record clear.

## HOT TIME FOR JOHN T.

### Springfield Saloonists Preparing It.

### Alleged That the Detective Accepted a Bribe.

"The Famous" John T. Norris, detective, who has been successful in securing indictments against persons, pictures and other articles, and who acquired a local fame through his having taken the trail of the swindlers of Houston Kepler, has stirred up a hornet's nest at his home in Springfield, and saloonkeepers there who were recently indicted through evidence secured by the "Famous" John T. for keeping their places of business open on Sunday, claim that they will retaliate on the detective and make a heap of trouble for him.

The saloonkeepers claim that John T. was hired to gather evidence against Rev. M. J. Frey, of that place, and formerly an Akron pastor, and that the work was necessarily done on Sunday.

Burnett and Reeder, who were indicted by the grand jury for running a pool room, insist that Norris accepted a bribe of \$550 from them for protecting him, and say that they can produce receipts, along with witnesses of the various transactions. The indictments have stirred up a heap of excitement in Springfield, and the allegations against Norris have added to the interest in the matter there.

It is stated that John T. may receive a telegram from Springfield at any time, which may read something like the following: "Rats, blue blazes, greyhound, sour kraut, thunder and lightning." This will mean that the climate and environment at Springfield will be too torrid for best results and the continuation of health for John T.

## ENDED.

### Last Lecture In University Extension Course.

The sixth and last lecture in the University Extension course, at the High school, was delivered Wednesday evening by Prof. Jerome E. Raymond. His subject was "London," and his word pictures of this wonderful city were greatly added to by stereopticon views. He referred to England's wars of the past and present, and seemed in his description of the South African struggle to give a slight coloring of sympathy for the Boers. This lecture course has covered a series of interesting subjects, being a description of six of the capital cities of Europe.

## GOOD REPORT.

### What Delegates Noted at Bricklayers' Convention.

Messrs. James J. Mahony, A. J. Tigerman and Samuel Headley, delegates to the convention of the International Bricklayers' Union, held at Pittsburg, submitted a report to the local Bricklayers' union, Wednesday evening. The report was complete in every detail, even embodying speeches of Ben Tillet, the English labor leader, and James Duncan, vice president of the American Federation of Labor. The International Union is in splendid shape. During the administration of President Geo. T. Gibbons the membership has been increased 3,111. There are splendid prospects for increased work, and no labor troubles are anticipated. At the convention it was decided to pay the president a salary of \$1,600 a year, for his whole time. Heretofore he has received no salary. The salary of the secretary was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,800, and the salary of the treasurer was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,250.

The delegates were complimented on their complete report, and a vote of thanks given them.

## The Weather:

CLOUDY TONIGHT; SNOW IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN PORTION; FRIDAY, SLIGHTLY CLOUDY.