Birmingham Eccentric

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BIRMINGHAM. MICH.

TIMELY TOPICS.

Sam Small, the revivalist, pays the following tribute to newspapers: "I've been a newspaper man for 12 years, and if I wanted to get a right square judgment of anything, I'd rather go into a newspaper office than into a court of justice. No man whose life is true, pure and just is afraid of all the newspaper presses in America. They are the best detective force in this country to-day. They have punctured more shams, and so far as I'm concerned I say take the bridles off and let 'em go. The only ones that will be hurt will be the shams and frauds. And if you think the newspapers print too much of a sensational kind, don't you read it, and they will quit printing it. The papers need to be reformed, but the people have got to reform first. Newspapers are printed for money and to suit their patrons. If you don't think they are run on a high moral platform like Mr. Barnum' circus, why just reform yourselves and the papers will follow suit.

A prominent New York politician who has just returned from the City of Mexico, is quite infatuated with Mexico, not only in respect to the peculiar characteristics of of the people, but also with the great resources of the land. He prophesies a great future for that country which he feels will open up auspiciously when a favorable commercial treaty is arranged between our government and Mexico. This gentleman says that the first thing necessary is to establish a commission in Mexico, an an equality with those among European powers. He had a private conference with President Diaz, who at he describes as a bold and agressive man. The chief thing, t at will awaken a commercial spirit in Mexico is the construction of railroads, in which President Diaz agreed, but the latter said that his people move slowly.

The Victorians have a very sharp way of dealing with the cheap labor difficult. No vessel is allowed to bring t port any Asiatic coolies if she has more every hundred tons of its size. Consequently a ship of fourteen hundred tons would only be allowed to carry fourteen of the heathen ones. We have just seen in a file of Victorian papers that a vessel of that size was found to have fifty Chinamen on board, and the captain was mulcted in a penalty of $250 each. Every Chinaman coming to Victoria has to take out papers of naturalization and pay a poll tax. But the cute Celestials post their naturalization papers to their friends in China who come over with them, and thus escape the tax.

The new congressional library building is at last a certainty. The bill has passed both houses. The measure has been urged for thirteen years but has failed in one or the other house of each congress until now. The site is to be just beyond the east front of the capitol, and $550,000 is appropriated for it. The building is to be 450 by 300 feet, and is to cost $1,823,000 and will be fire proof. The present quarters are nearly buried up under the accumulations of books which are piled up on the floors in great masses and entirely inaccessible. It will be five years in building.

Pension Agent McKinstry of Detroit says: The bill increasing the pensions of widows and others from $8 to $12 a month does not require any action whatever on the part of the pensioners. All that is necessary is to send or bring the vouchers as usual and we will give the checks without question. The only difference that the pensioner will know is that instead of being paid at the rate of $8 a month for the whole time, $12 will be paid commencing on the 19th of March. There is no necessity for even writing a letter to the office The increase will be paid as a matter of course.

The Postmaster General has decided that photographs come under the designation of printed matter, and are, therefore, to be rated as third-class mail matter, instead of fourth-class as they had been classed as merchandise, as has heretofore been the case. Under this new ruling photographs can now be sent through the mails by the payment of one cent for two ounces instead of one cent an ounce.

The Prince of Wales is said to be troubled with chronic dyspepsia. Too much high living will bring a purse as well as a plebeian to grief. The stomach of royalty differs in no way from the stomach of every-day life. As the Prince sets the fashion in England, dyspepsia should be very fashionable there just now.

Business men and corporations may be interested in the following: "It has been ruled by the courts that if a partner of a dissolving firm agrees to give notice through a newspaper of a dissolution of partnership, he is equally liable with his partner for all debts contracted after dissolution.

Leprosy.

The chaplain of the lazaretto at Tracade, N. B., who is in Ottawa urging the government to increase the annual grant for the support of that institution, reports that of late, owing to complete isolation, the acquirement of leprosy by inheritance is fast decreasing, and a generation or two more will witness its virtual extermination. At present the inmates number about twenty-four, females being in the majority. Frequently, during the experience of the remarked chaplain, the number has been larger. The oldest inmate who is now upward of 70 years of age, has dreaded out his miserable existence there since 1860. The plague-stricken pass their time year after year in quietness, looking forward to death. The chaplain says of the origins of disease in Nouveau: "But little is known, the fishermen alone of the coast have suffered from it for eight or ten generations. He says there are several cases under treatment in which the disease, loss or arms have decayed at the joints and dropped off. This experience, he adds, shows that contact, unless it be extended one abandons rarely results in the transmission of the disease by inoculation. It is understood that the government is establishing a lazaretto at Victoria, B. C., at which point a number of cases are reported. The disease has been brought into that country by Chinese.

The King of Sweden drinks nothing stronger than coffee, and wears a blue ribbon.

It is with out-spoond intelligence as with our days; to-morrow is but too often the fault of to-day.

AROUND A GREAT STATE.

Reviving Old Days.

About seventy-five veterans of the Twenty-sixth Michigan infantry attended the annual reunion at Lansing April 9, this date being the twenty-first anniversary of the surrender of Gen. Lee at Appomattox, and the Twenty-sixth being the regiment through whose lines the negotiations for surrender were carried on. The veterans were welcomed by Col. D. H. McComas, deputy secretary of state. The response was made by Maj. L. H. Ives of Mason. Reports of committees were then called for. Nathan Church of Detroit on "The Great Battle of Spottsylvania;" Capt. Wm. Humphrey made the address; Gen. Blair and Jerome, Col. B. J. Robertson of Indiana, Capt. N. S. Wood of St. Louis, Col. J. S. Farrar of Mt. Clemens, and Capt. N. F. Kirk of Howell.

At the subsequent business meeting the following officers were chosen: President, Colonel Benjamin F. Partridge, Mt. Clemens; lieutenants, L. H. Hunt, Lowell, and C. H. Holden, Reed City; secretary, James Bradford, Grand Rapids; treasurer, Asa Melcher, Lowell; permanent historian, Maj. L. H. Ives of Mason; executive committee, Col. B. W. Avery, Lowell; G. K. Mathews, Muskegon, and James Manchester. At the banquet at the Lansing house the following toasts were responded to: "Michigan in the War," ex-Senator Thomas W. Palmer; "Our First Governor," "Adjt.-Gen. John Robertson, Detroit; "Michigan Soldiers in Congress," Nelson of Ithaca; "Our Fallen Comrades," Captain Church of Detroit; "Our Governor," Blair and the ladies of Jackson; Col. J. S. Farrar, Mt. Clemens; "Comrades in Arms," Capt. N. S. Wood, St. Louis, "Our Flag," Capt. Alvet McHale, Muskegon; "The Regular Army," Lieut. J. C. Lockwood; "The Old Trefoil," Col. B. J. Robertson of Indiana.

Letters of regret were read from Gov. Alger, Gen. L. Barlow of New York, Col. J. Sumner Rogers of Orchard Lake, Dr. W. H. Smith of St. Clair, Maj. Martin of Brookville, Pa., and others. The next reunion will be held April 6, 1887.

Michigan's April Crop Report.

For the April crop report the secretary of state has received returns from 882 correspondents, representing 676 townships; 609 of these are from 420 townships in the southern four tiers of counties. The area of winter wheat in the southern counties is reported at 87 per cent, and in the northern counties 86 per cent, compared with being 92 per cent in April, 1885, of average years, but correspondents agree that it has been early to make satisfactory estimates. Freezing and thawing during March and April have probably been severe, in the southern section of the state, yet it is believed that the roots are not seriously injured, possibly not more than 5 per cent. There was a large portion of the northern counties the ground on the 1st of April was covered with snow, in some places to a depth of 18 inches. Ten per cent of the acreage in clover is winter killed. The condition of that portion not sliter killed is 92 per cent as compared with the average year.

In condition horses are 98, cattle 96, sheep 96, and swine 97 per cent. Correspondents being with stock in good health and thrifty condition.

Apples promise 80 per cent of an average crop, and reports from 161 correspondents, 122 in the southern and 39 in the northern counties place peaches at five-eighths of an average crop. The reports from Allegan county place peaches at 72 per cent, 15 from Kent at 68, 10 from Ionia at 66, 40 from Berrien at 65, 20 from Van Buren at 61, and 9 from Washtenaw at 40 per cent of an average crop.

The total number of bushels of wheat reported marketed in the eight months from August 1st to March 1st (424), or 57 per cent of the crop of 1885. The number of bushels reported marketed in the same months of the year was 1,109,940, or 28 per cent of the crop of 1884.

Disposed of His Own Bones.

William D. Kingin, the life prisoner from Kent county who recently died at Jackson, it now appears made arrangements for the disposition of his remains some time ago. At that time he caused a document to be drawn up stating that his remains were not to be buried nor be claimed or removed from the the prison by his brother, to whom the document was addressed, or any other relative, but he consent to the Ann Arbor dissecting table for the benefit of science. The will was drawn up by a notary and signed by witnesses and then filed away by the chaplain. Kingin's death was then notice of Kingin's death was received by his relatives, now living in Chicago, they took steps to secure the body, but the chaplain remembering the documents in his possession produced them and the relatives rescinded by allow his wish to be carried out and the remains were sent to Ann Arbor, where they are now, probably in the pickling-vat awaiting dissection.

The occurrence is regarded as a very strange one by prison officials, as it is usually a matter of considerable dread to dying convicts that by the law their remains, if not claimed by relatives at their own expense, are destined to the Ann Arbor dissecting room.

Sentry Duty at State Encampment.

Brig.-Gen. I. C. Smith has issued the following order relative to sentry duty at the state encampment:

Grand Rapids, March 1.

In anticipation of the coming encampment, the general commanding desires to call the attention of the regimentals to the subject of guard duty.

No part of a soldier's work shows more forcibly his discipline, drill and military spirit than the manner in which his duty as sentry is performed. It is the test test of the benefits derived from an encampment. To this end, therefore, it is urged that all pains will be taken by officers throughout the brigade to make this particular portion of our encampment work a special feature.

It is probable that the entire detail for the day will be made from a single regiment, the giving each regiment in turn an opportunity to assume the responsibilities of the guard.

MINOR STATE HAPPENINGS

Burglars made successful raids the other night on the stores of Chas. McNamara, dry goods, Frank Foster, clothing, Thompson, Avery, and W. T. Hunt, groceries, all in Mt. Pleasant. They entered by forcing large holes in the back doors. Thompson's loss in watches and jewelry is estimated at $300; Foster, $200; Hunt and McNamara, $100 each. No clew.

Ignace Lapaire, an old resident of St. Ignace, died of heart disease while attending church. Mr. Draper was defeated for supervisor at the city election in the first ward, and the excitement probably hastened his end. He was 65 years old.

April 6, was Arbor day in Michigan. There was from one to two feet of snow all over the state, and tree planting was not generally practiced.

Gen. Alger has issued a proclamation, calling attention to the importance of planting trees. He adds that experience having shown that the climatic differences of different sections of Michigan are such that it is not possible to observe a set day for observance throughout the entire state. I therefore suggest that the people do not lose sight of this matter, but instead of naming a day for general observance, I recommend that the time be determined by the condition of soil and climate where the work is to be done."

Passage up your ass before attempting to pronounce the ticket at Holland, Ottawa co. It reads as follows: For supervisor, Wiepe Dirkema; clerk, Isaac Marsilje; treasurer, Aat Kromendijk; school inspector, Klaas Knoolhuizen; justice of the peace, Teunis Van Dijk; constables, Gerrit Riemersma and Roelof Ten Have, jr.

The South Ottawa and West Allegan agricultural society is arranging to beautify their new fair ground at Holland by setting out thereon a large grove of maples.

John McCuaig, has brought suit in $5,000 against the Cheboygan Democrat for a libelous article which appeared in its columns April 1, charging McCuaig with keeping a house of infamous Newberry.

Merritt Seely, who was injured in the railroad disaster near Greenfield, Mass., the other day, was at one time agent of the American express company in Detroit.

A train on the Port Huron & Northwestern narrow gauge railroad, started from Vassar to East Saginaw the other day. When within a few miles from East Saginaw the entire train, except the engine, was lifted entirely off the track and the passengers sent tumbling into the ditch. The passengers were extricated and cared for at the neighboring houses. About 25 persons were injured, but none fatally.

The famous affidavit boat club is making preparations to begin active practice. Three fine boats have been purchased for the club.

Coldwater's new city library will be completed on or before December 1st.

It is reported upon good authority that the F. & P. M. R. R. will construct an independent track to Detroit, with new depots at the terminus of the road. Surveyors are already at work and the line will undoubtedly be built this summer. The road from Pontiac to the new line will start, will be determined when the surveyors have finished their work. Several companies are competitors for the starting point of the new line. It is also rumored that the Ottawa Trunk will join in the enterprise and build a branch from South Lyon, which will give them a more direct route to Chicago than they have Times.

Capt. A. E. Matthews, secretary of the First Michigan Cavalry society, has had the roster of that organization printed in pamphlet form, containing the names of the survivors so far as known, with their place of residence.

The monthly report of the state salt inspector shows the inspection during the month of March as follows: Saginaw county, 80,093 barrels; Manistee, 41,790; Bay, 41,607; St. Clair, 16,830; Huron, 13,993; Midland, 11,933; Mason, 1,955; Ionia, 311; Total, 10,9267.

A citizen of Bay City has worked out a perfect chain of evidence to prove that Jeremiah Gregory, the young man who was shot dead in front of his own home the other night, committed suicide. The foot-prints near the side of the tragedy exactly fit the shoes worn by the young man, and the cartridge exactly fits his revolver. His motive in taking his own life is known.

Mrs. John Snyder, living about three miles from Ionia, was out driving with her daughter, when a dog caught in some of the carriage wheels, frightening the horse, which at once started to run. Where the road was hilly the gutter, it jumped, throwing the buggy into the air. Mrs. Snyder was thrown out, and fell with such force as to break her neck. The young ladies were seriously, but not fatally injured.

The legislative reunion committee has decided upon the following toasts, to be responded to in the War," by Austin Blair; "The Toledo and Detroit War," T. F. Bowles; "Agriculture and Stock Growing," R. G. Horr; "Schools and Colleges," Edwin Willits; "Mines and Mining," J. Q. Adams; "Pioneer Experiences," W. P. Wells; "Early Journalism," Wm. Ball; "Sanitary Matters," "Progress in Michigan," Jas. Hueston; "Personal Recollections of Legislation," Orrin Crossman. The scope of the membership was enlarged to admit all present and past state officers.

Petitions have been signed by nearly 1,000 taxpayers asking for the issue of new "Michigan bonds to the amount of $100,000. Four men were lured under false pretenses, only two of whom were rescued alive.

Mr. Jos. Fullmer, editor of the New York World, died suddenly from the effects of a stroke of paralysis, on the 10th inst., at his residence in the seventeenth district of this state.

The dispatch sheet who did the firing in east St. Louis on the 9th inst. are to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Hon. E. Gerry, ex-Congressman, died in Portland, Maine, on the 10th inst.

Mrs. Caroline Richmond, of Rye, N. Y., committed suicide Sunday the 11th, by drowning herself in the cistern. She had been ill for some time and her mind had become despondent.

A fatal accident occurred in Williamsburg, N. Y., the other morning by which two lives were lost. While a gang of workmen were employed in excavating for the Long Island Brewery extension, a large quantity of earth and sand suddenly fell upon them, burying two of the laborers and burying them alive. It was fully an hour before their dead bodies were recovered.

The New York Central Labor Union has adopted resolutions favoring the Irish cause and denouncing the railroad king as "an arch enemy to the republic."

The woman suffrage association of New York, have sent a cable dispatch to Gladstone praising him for his "noble stand for justice freedom and peace in Ireland."

Vice-President Arthur is seriously ill. His sister, Mrs. McElroy, is in constant attendance on his bedside.

Thaddeus Fairbanks, the inventor of scales bearing his name, died in St. Johnsbury, Vt., recently.

About half the scholars at the eleventh ward school in Troy, N. Y., struck for shorter hours the other afternoon. They demanded a single session per day, to end at 4 until noon. The two proposed sticks and threatened violence if pupils did not join them. Policemen were sent to the scene to give whatever protection was necessary. The strike failed to induce the boys to another school to follow their example.

About one hundred school boys of all ages made a demand upon the principal of the Fifth ward school, Lansing, that the recess be extended from fifteen to thirty minutes. The demands not being acceded to, the boys refused to return to school after the morning recess, and picketed the entrance to prevent others from entering. The strike comprised such proportions that the principal had to send for the police, when a squad of uniformed officers were soon on the spot. Finally the mother of the ringleader arrived and forced her boy to school, after which the rest of the boys quietly marched in.

The Wisconsin legislature has passed a resolution tendering the sympathy of the people of the state of New York to the Irish people in their struggle for home rule, expressing respect for Mr. Gladstone for his stand on that question and congratulating the English people for having a government at last, courageous enough to endeavor to do justice to Ireland.

WESTERN WHISPERS.

Lawyer Scoville, Guiteau's brother-in-law is in jail at Chicago for refusing to pay all money to his divorced wife.

Sam Jones and Sam Small have finished their evangelical labors in Chicago. Besides the converts they made $5,000 each in four weeks.

Lacrosse, Wis., was visited by another fire the day following the fire of the 6th inst. Gates's block, one of the largest and finest business blocks in the city, was burned. The fire department was in a badly crippled condition, and was unable to cope with the fire.

East St. Louis was the scene of a terrible riot on the 9th inst. One thousand strikers gathered at the Ohio & Mississippi depot where a number of men were at work, and compelled every one of the employees to leave their posts. The strikers held full sway until the arrival of a squad of deputy marshal with Winchesters, when the mob, after a lively skirmish, immediately fled. No work is being done at any of the yards in East St. Louis.

Gen. Stanley, it is said, will soon be transferred from the department of Texas to the command of the department of Dakota, with headquarters at St. Paul.

The colored people of San Francisco desire the statement that proper respect was not shown to the new Chinese consul upon his arrival in that port.

The Boston mock in Minneapolis, Minn., one of the finest blocks in the city, was destroyed by fire on the 12th inst. Loss $250,000. The postoffice was located in the block. All the mails were gotten out in safety.

SOUTHERN SAUCE.

Wm. Postell of Charleston, S. C., was abducted last week, taken into the woods, bound to a tree and left to die. Two passing Negroes released and overtook the abductors, who had been there two days

A bloody riot occurred near Laredo, Tex., on the 9th inst., growing out of political excitement. Before order had been restored five men were killed and a number wounded.

The Apaches who surrendered to Gen. Crook on March 25, have been sent to Fort Marion, St. Augustine, Florida, as prisoners of war. The prisoners gave a grand dance at their camp the night before their departure as a farewell to Gen. Crook.

WASHINGTON WAFFLES.

Col. James Q. David, has been named as Indian agent at Osage, I. T.

Experiments with submarine torpedoes are being made at the Washington navy yard. They are the invention of Lieut. Barry, late of the navy.

Strong pressure is being brought by the wool growers upon the ways and means committee to induce them to leave on the duty in the tariff bill.

Prominent irishmen in Washington have purchased two large albums of Parnell views, and propose to collect the editorial opinions of American papers on Gladstone's Irish scheme, and will send the albums to Gladstone and Parnell. For this purpose they have sent copies of every newspaper published in cities of the United States having over 10,000 inhabitants.

The president has nominated Senator Jackson of Tennessee to succeed Judge Baxter, deceased, as judge of the Sixth United States circuit court. The nomination was at once confirmed.

The increase in the postoffice revenues, exclusive of postage on second-class matter, from thirty of the largest offices in the country for the months ended March 31, 1886, is $624,445. The postoffice receipts of the city of St. Louis, $60,417; Cincinnati, $50,362; Cleveland, $15,941; Louisville, $9,396; Columbus, $5,551; Indianapolis, $4,536; St. Paul, $29,840; Minneapolis, $16,945; Omaha, $5,542. The increase of second-class matter mailed during the same period at the thirty cities was 5,785,256 pounds.

FOREIGN FRAGMENTS.

Nova Scotia has passed a stringent license law.

Chinese authorities have denied that China will make reprisals on the property of Americans for the Chinese outrages in the United States.

Prof. Bunson, a Prence specialist, has a new way of curing hydrophobia by inducing one person's system to manufacture the serum successful in three cases in the United States, when rabies were already developed.

Eight thousand ladies of Cork county, Ireland, have sent a petition to the Queen against home rule. One hundred thousand women are Catholics.

The British Canadian Pacific company is building a 20,000,000 bushel elevator at Toronto.

The British government has decided to subsidize a new line of steamers between British Columbia, Hong Kong and Australia.

The Irish Land Leagues have begun the collection of $8,000 the fund to aid the evicted tenants raised Turkey against Greece in the defense of Crete.

Prince Alexander of Bulgaria has telegraphed to the Sultan his formal acceptance of the provisional plebiscite in favor of uniting Eastern Roumelia to five years.

Several soldiers of the Queen's own British Columbia, Hong Kong and Australia.

Lieut. Col. Tryte leads with a subscription of $5,000 the fund to aid the evicted tenants raised Turkey against Greece in the defense of Crete.

A Brooklyn capitalists are investing largely in pine lands in Louisiana and Texas.

Stephen D. Bingham of Lansing has resigned his position in the office of the secretary of the state, and will at once prepare for publication the history of Michigan, which is to be issued by the semi-centennial commission.

The house of Daniel Holcomb, near Jackson, was burglarized the other night. Mrs. Fuller, housekeeper, who was alone in the house heard a noise about 3 o'clock and on going down stairs was confronted by a burglar, who ordered her to go back, and fired one shot from a thirty-eight caliber revolver. The ball passed by her head and imbedded itself in the door. The burglars then left, doing considerable lovernment, and it is thought other things. The house was found to have been generally ransacked. No clew.

Dan S. Holcomb, famous on account of his relation to the Cronin murder case, Saturday