BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

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AFTER all, the best of us must admit that we take less interest in the big theater hat than in what the hat contains.

THE unspeakable Turk may not be wholly bad, as Low Wallace insists, but it is rather an unfavorable time to offer information of that sort.

RUSSELL SAGE explains that the $550,000 he drew from the treasury was for a private personal use. Perhaps Mr. Sage had a plumber's bill to pay.

THE Maine legislature decided that people can't die of "heart failure" in that state hereafter. They must have some more specific ailment or go elsewhere to shuffle off.

IT is announced that Boston and John L. Sullivan are permanently estranged. Beans, bruising and belle lettre; those three; but the greatest of these is no longer bruising.

THE New York Recorder suggests an international life-saving prize fund for saving shipwrecked life at sea. The idea is excellent, as it would cause every derelict to be overhauled, every ship in distress to be assisted, if possible, and every boat signal observed to be attended to. Start it.

EVEN in a long-settled state like New Jersey forest fires last year killed over 197,000, acres and destroyed timber valued at $100,000. They also cooked the fertility out of the soil and killed many valuable trees. Yet the average member yawns a weary yawn when some member wants to talk forestry instead of "politics."

THERE was a decline of 3,000,000 sheep in the country last year, which goes to prove that the American taste for mutton must be growing. The head of cattle in the same period decreased by 2,250,000, or six per cent of the entire number. The decrease in the national wealth by the sheep was $4,500,000; by the cattle, $32,000,000.

THE much advertised Kentucky gentleman did not quite whip his weight in wild cats, but he came very near it. Now the question is, would the Kentucky gentleman have been as successful if, instead of a yelling cat, an opera house surrounded by a yelling crowd of men and boys, he had met the animals in a lonely path in the Rocky mountains?

IT is nearly fifty years since the close of the Mexican war and in the natural course of events the survivors should be limited to a few octogenarians. As a matter of fact, however, the number of pensioners on account of the Mexican war now on the rolls exceed the number of soldiers who participated in the struggle. There is clearly something wrong.

THERE is a kind of comfort in the fact that the grip pays no more respect to princes than to paupers. The disease has laid hold of the prince of Wales, and his royal knees ache and his royal nose sneezes just as though he were only a humble birth. There is no precaution known that will prevent this vicious disorder. The man who lives according to the rules of the sanitarian fares no better than the most heedless.

THE telephone may work some unexpected changes in court procedure. A witness has been permitted to testify by 'phone in a Michigan court. If evidence may be taken in this manner, why should not jury service be performed by telephone? There would be a great advantage in it, since juries would be enabled thus to escape listening to speeches, and could reach determination of a cause on the evidence alone.

THE suggestion that the Turks are bribing Armenians to testify in favor of the righteous and humane rule of Turkey is not worth attention. It is not conceivable that an Armenian Christian could be base enough to be influenced by money to testify in favor of the oppressors. The Armenians, legacies of European interference, may be intimidated, and probably will be, but they will not be bribed by the hope of money.

HAVEN'T had the grip? Don't brag; it is not yet too late in the season for the all-over, feverish, devilish, everybone-in-the-body-aching feeling to strike you like a shock from an electric light wire. One minute you feel you have a chronic weliness, i. e. the minute just before the Russian monster grips you. The minute you don't care a continental how wide or deep they dig your grave or if you are a cremationist how soon they light the fire.

JOSEPH COOK is a perennial. His lectures have been heard, it would seem, by all of the nations of the globe to hear lectures; yet he has begun the twentieth year of his Monday lectureship with unabated vigor. Joseph belongs to the immortals.

A FLOOR walker in a big retail house in Chicago says that more paper patterns have been sold this season than any in his recollection. He says that this is a sign of economy. Women are making their own dresses who never did it before.

SOMETHING is to be said for the New York dude who threw an ottoman at a theatrical performer from a private box and struck the latter on the chest. It is that, in the words of the Eastern proverb, full license is granted to fools upon earth.

AS THE country is now practically dependent on California for its oranges, the fruit growers of that state will show their generosity and love of fair dealing by supplying the market without any advance in prices. Of course they will.

UNDOUBTEDLY men have as much right to wear hats in theaters as women. The reason they don't do it is because they are too courteous and polite. The more the women think about this the more uncomfortable they ought to feel.

THE late czar was so great an admirer of Count Tolstoi that he tolerated his very radical and even seditious utterances. It remains to be seen whether Nicholas will be equally tolerant under the sting of Tolstoi's recent manifesto.

STATE NEWS NOTES.

A CHAPTER OF THE DOINGS OF MICHIGANDERS.

Convention of Third District Republicans Name Lieut.-Gov. Miles for Congress on the 114th Ballot.—Mysterious Tragedy at Mt. Morris.

Third District Republican Convention.

The Republicans of the third congressional district met in convention at Kalamazoo to name a candidate for the vacancy in the Michigan delegation to congress created by the resignation of J. Logan Chipman, who was elected to the seat in the U. S. senate made vacant by the death of Senator Stockbridge. The convention was expected and there was no disappointment on that score. Not much time was lost in preliminaries. Hon. Chas. E. Brown, of Kalamazoo, was made temporary chairman and L. P. Russell, of Charlotte, temporary secretary, after they were also made permanent officers. Nominating speeches were limited to two minutes and resulted in giving the following names to vote upon: Lieut.-Gov. Alonzo Cadwell; State Senator Clapp, Battle Creek; John M. C. Smith, Eaton Rapids; Secretary of State Washington Gardner, Alpena.

The first ballot resulted: Gardner, 27; Smith, 19; Clapp, 12; Milnes, 11. Every ballot until 109 had been taken limited the same way, and then the convention adjourned for the night.

The opening of the second day, of the contesting three, showed no change in the situation as the 110th ballot was the same as the first. Two more ballots resulted but one change appeared in the vote by Smith. The next ballot, however, made a big change, Senator Clapp's friends going home, only to be making the vote stand: Smith, 32; Gardner, 26; Milnes, 11. A recess of one hour was taken and when the 114th ballot resulted: Milnes, 85; Smith, 34. After the defeated candidates, Smith, Gardner and Clapp had made speeches the resolutions committee report was adopted. It declares for the restoration of silver "to its time honored position in the nation's finances."

Suicided for Love.

Alembert E. Keith, a mail carrier of Ann Arbor, committed suicide in a rather romantic manner. He called at the home of Miss Lizzie Lockert to escort the young lady to a dancing school. While at Granger's academy he said they had a quarrel and left Keith took the young lady to her home and then went to his own home and secured a revolver. Half an hour later Miss Covert heard a shot under her window. They opened the door and found Keith stretched out on the sidewalk. There were two bullet holes each about an inch above the heart. He died for 30 minutes after he was found. Asked by Miss Covert why he had shot himself, he replied, "It is all for you, my love."

Third District Free Silver Nominee.

The silver convention for the Third congressional district was held at Battle Creek with about 75 delegates present from every county in the district. A long string of resolutions with the usual demands for free silver at 16 to one were adopted. On the third ballot the result was: Robert McDougall, of Hillsdale, 34; A. M. Todd, of Galamazoo, 32; George Willard, of Battle Creek, 10. McDougall, who has already been nominated on the Populist ticket, withdrew, and Todd's nomination was made unanimous. Mr. Todd is a wealthy manufacturer of Kalamazoo and has also been nominated for congress by the Prohibitionists.

Mysterious Murder at Mt. Morris.

Frank H. Cowles, of Mt. Morris, was found his wife dead in bed with two ghastly cuts in her throat, and the bed clothes saturated with blood. The couple had had trouble, and had lived apart for some months, but he went to his hardware store and said she wanted to stay over night. He gave her his bed and he slept on a lounge. When he got up in the morning, not hearing her, he went to her room and found her dead. She was 45 years old and leaves a son and daughter.

Big Church Burned by Incendiaries.

The large brick Roman Catholic (Polish) church at Posen, Presque Isle county, was totally destroyed by fire. Loss, $30,000; insurance, $5,000. The fire is believed to have been the work of incendiaries. There have been two factions in the church for some time and much bad feeling. Last year the priest's barn was burned with much stock and grain, by an incendiary. Father Bogatski is almost crazed at the loss of his splendid church.

Three Farmers Suicide.

Bellaire: Orlando Bartlett, aged 90, shot and killed himself at his home in Cass township. No cause known.

Hudson: Orrin Bacon, a Medina farmer, deranged and despondent, hanged himself in his barn.

Horton: Marvin Bacon, a farmer near the village, took a fatal dose of laudanum and died. He was in financial difficulties, being unable to pay the interest due on a farm mortgage.

The striking miners at the Cleveland bentonite mines at Negaunee have gone back to work on a compromise basis.

Joseph Hambitzer, ex-state treasurer, has been admitted to the bar at Marquette and will practice at Houghton.

This spring Port Huron will again vote on the proposition to bond the city for $30,000 for a municipal lighting plant.

The common council of Union City has issued bonds to purchase the electric lighting plant and improve the service.

The Democratic convention for the Tenth senatorial district was held at Ann Arbor. Without much discussion James McDougall, of Superior, was nominated.

The monthly report of the Michigan salt inspector shows the inspections in February as follows: Bay county, 28,-930 barrels; Saginaw, 22,053; Manistee, 21,-83; St. Clair, 20,000; Midland, 7,000; Mason, 706; making a total of 60,309 barrels, the smallest output in years. Salt is selling very slowly.

The Goodrich Transportation company, of Chicago, will erect a large warehouse and offices on their new dock at Muskegon. The dock is on the docks, pavilion, warehouses and other buildings will cost upwards of $100,000, and will be the finest on the west shore of Lake Michigan.

J. J. McPhee is getting out 7,000,000 feet of square timber near Mellen, which is said to be the finest timber ever logged in the north country. The timber is to be loaded on vessels at Ashland and shipped to Quebec to England. One single log scaled 3,800 feet, and required three teams to haul it.

The genuine "Parson" J. W. Arney, of race horse fame, surprised the congregation of Pilgrim church at Lansing by tendering his resignation, to take effect April 1, when he will engage in evangelistic work, with headquarters at Lansing. The Rev. J. H. Arney who has resigned at Middleville to accept a call to Pana, Ill. State Journal recommends the latter with the Lansing "parson."

John Torrent, of Muskegon, says that while he has been figuring on a big timber deal on Georgian bay there is no truth in the report that he is heading a syndicate for sawing the logs at Muskegon.

MICHIGAN HAPPENINGS.

Ex-Gov. Felch is ill at Ann Arbor.

Petoskey Christians pledged $1,000 in aid of the Y. M. C. A.

A large three-story hotel is to be built on Les Chenaux islands.

Menominee is going to have a furniture factory employing 150 men.

Clare expects to have its streets lighted by electricity after April 25.

Petoskey is proudly boasting of its latest acquisition—a woman barber.

Michigan University literary classes are so crowded the students have refused admission almost every day.

Charles Ruley, of Northport, killed two wild cats, each of which weighed 32 pounds.

A bust of Judge Cooley will be unveiled by the seniors of Michigan University, April 6.

A new four-story temple to cost $30,000 is the meeting place of the Masons of the west side at Saginaw.

Arrangements were completed for the building of a second railroad between Saginaw and Bay City.

The lumber cut on the Menominee river this winter has been about 350,000,000 feet, a very good record.

The Menominee Sash and Door company will build a three-story brick building for the manufacture of coffins.

Pontiac builders are looking for an unusually active season. Over 100 new houses will be added to the city.

The Universalist church at Bay City burned. Loss, $12,000; insurance, $7,300. A finer church will be erected.

A silver club has been organized at Grand Ledge. The members of the club are composed of adherents of all parties.

Henry Riddle, aged 68, was found frozen in his hut at Saginaw. The entire lower part of his body was frozen stiff.

James M. Turner has been elected president of the free silver club at Lansing. Over 200 have signed the club's constitution.

Moses C. Lichtner, of Muskegon, committed suicide in the toilet room of the union depot at Grand Rapids by taking carbolic acid.

Fire started from a defective furnace flue in the house occupied by Professor Neil, at Agricultural College, and it was gutted. Loss $1,500.

Albion students are much wrought up over the action of President Haven in practically forbidding the wearing of sweaters in class room.

John Miller and family who live near Saginaw were made sick after drinking some tea. They found that an enemy had poisoned the sugar.

A civil engineer with assistants are in the county examining the route of the proposed Michigan Central branch from Buchanan to Berrien Springs.

The Weird cider mill and vinegar house at Ypsilanti was destroyed by fire. 15,000 gallons of vinegar, dried fruit and machinery. The loss is $12,000.

Frank Forey was killed at McManus mill, Ford River, by the falling top of a pile he was unloading rolled upon his head, crushing it in a horrible manner.

Those thieves near Carleton, stole two horses, a carriage or two and several other articles, worth in the aggregate $400. They escaped over the Ohio line.

E. H. Spencer, the embezzling agent of the American express company at Ypsilanti, has returned from Pontiac and surrendered himself. He stole about $400.

Plans for the new court house and jail at Newaygo have been completed. The court house is to be of brick and stone, of imposing architecture, three stories high and 60 by 80 feet.

Tenth district Prohibitionists have nominated Levi Becker, of Jackson, for state senator. The Populists have nominated Walter Gould, a Hillsdale gent young farmer of Tompkins.

Tom Stoddard, of Holland, was knocked down and robbed of $30 by two tramps while in the act of tying the back door of a saloon. The tramps escaped leaving him badly injured.

John Rebeau was crushed by a log falling from a train at Menominee and he died shortly afterward. His back and both legs were broken. He was 35 years of age and leaves a family.

Patrick McDonald, a wealthy farmer at Whitmore Lake, was severely injured by a falling tree, which drove his left shoulder blade through and broke his right arm twice. He will recover.

The D. G. H. & M. railway is offering free passes home to all their respective settlers on its lines, regardless of whether they are looking for farms, sites for mills or mining plants, or general business locations.

The double funeral of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dunning occurred at Jackson, the bodies having been brought from Toledo. Mr. Dunning was 81 years of age, and Mrs. Dunning 79. They had been married more than 60 years, and resided a long time in Jackson.

R. C. Hendrick, a well-known Saginaw man, after 30 years, has just discovered his brother William in Dubuque, Ill. The brother was adopted by a family named Mayhew years ago and has never known his right name was Hendrick. Both brothers are well off.

The town of New Buffalo has given a bonus of $5,000 to the Fort Wayne to a Chicago syndicate to secure the establishment of a brass foundry which will employ 200 men. Skilled and many common laborers. Ground has already been broken for the building.

James Earick, near Harbor Springs, lost his house and part of the contents by fire. Joseph Stirley, of the same locality, also lost his home and all the contents, even to the clothing worn by the family by fire. Fire was discovered in an Indian house, also in Harbor Springs, and before assistance could arrive the building became a total loss, all is gone.

A boiler in the sawmill of A. M. Kinney, near Hillsdale, exploded and Mr. Kinney was killed. His son and assistant engineer severely scalded. The engine, but escaped with a few burns. The boiler was hurled bodily through the air 150 feet or more, landing in a mill to stems. Great trees 80 or 90 feet away were twisted and splintered by the flying pieces of the boiler.

The nomination of Lieut.-Gov. Miles for congress will result in no change in the personnel of the state executive. The constitution makes no provision for filling a vacancy in the office of the lieutenant-governor, simply providing that in case a vacancy occurs in such office the president pro tem. of the senate shall act. Lieut.-Gov. Miles will be in office until after the April election, if at all, and from that time until January 1, 1897, Senator Joseph R. McLaughlin, president pro tem. of the senate, will be acting lieutenant-governor.

Rev. Francis M. Turner, of the Unionville Baptist church, lost his wife and son by death last November and seemed inconsolable in his grief. But what was the surprise of his congregation to learn that he had remarried within three months to a girl 20 years and has left it a secret until cornered. He was then promptly fired from the pulpit. Turner is 40 years of age.

Students of the State Mining school are spending much of their time nowadays going down into the mines, where they work side by side with the grimy miners and soil their dainty hands.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.—80th day.—The resolution to submit to the people the question of increasing the salaries of state officers came over from the House. Committee of Senators Dodge and Dewey reported favorably on the bill to incorporate the Detroit, Monroe & Toledo Short Line railway company. The bill to amend section 1 of act 179, laws of 1891, relative to the Detroit & Mackinac railway company, was reported favorably by the committee on railroads