BIRMINGHAM ECENTRIC.

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THE new torpedo boats need not be built of steel, but of aluminum and bronze, as was the Vigilant, if the contractors so wish it.

THE idea of a husband traveling over half a continent, disguised as a woman, to hunt a truant wife is a new departure in detectivism.

At a sheriff's sale in Wayne, Pa., last week horses were sold at from five to twenty-five cents a head. This is worse than the $2 hog feeding idea.

PROFESSOR ANDRE, of Stockholm, is unfolding a plan to reach the North pole by balloon. It probably is as feasible as any other that has yet been tried.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL may, as reported, have started the recent fashion of planting a wife's hair half upon their foreheads, but it is rather mean to assume him of it now that he can't defend himself.

THERE used to be a saying, "One might as well be dead as out of fashion." Paraphrased, "One might as well be dead as unknown," it is equally true and embodies much of the philosophy of advertising.

ACCORDING to the latest advices the commission sent to investigate the Armenian outrages is still at Moosh parleying with the local authorities, while in the interior new and horrible atrocities are being committed. It is not unlikely that even the commission will be welcomed by the Turks with bloody hands to hospitable graves.

A FEW years ago New England was much concerned about its abandoned farms, and some writers pictured a gloomy future for country property in that region. But the demand for these farms now exceeds the supply. City people seem to be recuperated by them and by spending a little money will show that they were simply farms misunderstood.

AS THE value of the cold storage system of preserving fruits becomes better known farmers are thinking more about the value of their plum and peach orchards. We are a fruit-eating people, taking oranges, bananas and figs from other countries, but none more delicious than the plum or more wholesome than the fruits that can easily be grown in our own country.

THE college faculty that expelled young Elliott Shepard in spite of the entreaties of the Vanderbilt family was deliberate in its judgment. It made a patient investigation and discovered that the boy had no athletic record and could, therefore, not enhance collegiate reputation. So it fired him to lily, thereby intimating to the corps of students that college properties must be observed.

C. P. HUNTINGTON has pointed out the way for a young man with a little capital to make a barrel of money. In the Congo Free State, he says, beyond the mountains, crude rubber gum can be bought for about a cent a pound; it can be got down to the sea for another cent and in New York it will bring not less than 40 cents a pound. There is more wealth in this kind of profit than in all the gold mining in the world.

SENTENCE of a two months' residence in the penitentiary is not a big too severe upon a politician who assaults a reporter. There are few more valuable members of society than reporters, except editors, and they must be protected. If politicians there is always a superfluity, and it matters little to a community what becomes of them, but properly guarded reporters grow up to be editors, and we cannot have too large or healthy a stock of these valuable creatures on hand.

GEORGE WASHINGTON was in favor of preserving the battle-fields of the country as a matter of patriotic sentiment. In fact, he bought the famous scene of Braddock's defeat, where he proved himself a thorough soldier in a time of disaster. The tract purchased contained 234 acres, valued in the schedule attached to Washington's will at $5 an acre, and referred to in that document as "the Great Meadows where the first action with the French in the year 1754 was fought."

EVERY operator on a typewriter is now a stenographer. Stenography and typewriting are so intimately associated as the needle and thread. Why not call the operator, therefore, a stenographer rather than a typewriter? Why apply the name of a machine to the person who operates it? It is a misuse of English as malapropos as it would be to call a motorman a street car, the engineer an engine, the driver a horse or a mule. The English language is too rich to longer tolerate any such misuse of terms.

A CORRESPONDENT asks the exact meaning of the word paranoiac. Difficult as it is to define the whole word, it is clear that noiac means a wealthy criminal; para, a parapet, Italian, meaning to guard—parapet (military) to guard the breast; parapluie (umbrella) to guard against rain.

THE blizzard in Florida may have dimmed the prospects of a big crop of oranges, and the peach trees may not bear fruit, but there is one thing that seems to interfere with the crop of strawberries and cream.

THE war on the theater hat is no joke in California. The lower branch of the legislature in that state has passed a bill imposing a fine of $50 on every woman who wears a hat in any public place of amusement. California is apparently working up an immigration boom.

THIS is a good year to advertise because people have exhausted their supply of necessities and must buy more. Though money may be scarce it will be spent, and the live advertiser will get more than his share.

The women of New Haven, Conn., have voluntarily agreed to taboo big hats at the theaters and have received more applause than the actors on the stage each night since the uniform was inaugurated. There is good field for missionary work in that line in the cities of the West.

It may be feminine instinct in women that prompts them to carry a few pins about their person, but what humoring impulse in men is it that prompts the latter to clap upon their hands over the gold mining in the world.

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN.

A CHAPTER OF THE DOINGS OF MICHIGANERS.

Michigan Forester's Meet in Convention at Lansing.—Output of Saginaw Valley Mills Decreased Last Year.—Adjt-Gen. Eaton Died Very Suddenly at a Funeral.

Democratic State Convention.

Owing to the fact that there was no opposition to the renomination of Chief Justice John W. McGrath as judge of the Michigan supreme court the Democratic state convention which assembled at Saginaw was very brief. The temporary organization was effected by making Rowland Connor, of Saginaw, chairman, and John C. Callan, of Wyandotte, secretary. "The Democratic party of Michigan," in the person of Mr. Donovan, of Bay, was called upon for a speech, after committees were appointed a recess was taken.

Upon reassembling the temporary organization was made permanent and nominations were called for. The First District offered the name of Justice McGrath for renomination; it was seconded by every delegate and the nomination was made by acclamation.

The roll call for nominees for regents of the Michigan university brought forth the names of ex-Judge C. J. Pailthorpe, of Petoskey; Stratton D. Brooks, of Mt. Pleasant, and Miss Ella Hutchins, of Ionia. There was heavy opposition to the lady's name. The party resulted in the unanimous selection of Judge Pailthorpe and the naming of S. D. Brooks by a vote of 319 to 157 for Miss Hutchins. The resolutions committee presented their report there was considerable surprise as it had nothing to say of political matters of the state or country, and contained but one section, as follows.

"The Democratic party of Michigan, in convention assembled, hails with delight the rapidly increasing sentiment in favor of the restoration of silver to the position it so long held in the monetary system of our country, and unqualifiedly declares in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold with full legal tender power and at a ratio of 16 to 1. We invite every patriotic citizen of Michigan, regardless of previous party affiliation, to join us in an imperative demand for immediate legislation to that end, and without regard to the position of any other nation in respect thereto."

Foresters of Michigan.

Nearly 300 delegates attended the ninth annual session of the Grand Independent Order of Foresters in Lansing. High Secretary John Chambers reported a cash balance on hand of $145.67. The total assets of the court are $5,430.19, with liabilities of $2,313.85. The year's two death claims, aggregating $51,000, were paid during the year. The high court degree was conferred upon a class of 125 delegates. Supreme Chief Ranger Oronhyatekha of Montreal, addressed the public at Hilda's opera house. In his address High Chief Lee E. Joslyn, of Bay City, recommended that the sessions of the court be reduced to but one session in two years. The order now has a total membership of 70,000 and a reserve fund of over $1,000,000. In Michigan the membership has grown from 1,863 in 1890 to 8,243 in 1895, the increase during the last year having been 25 subordinate courts and 2,67 members.

Adjt.-Gen. Eaton Dies Suddenly.

Charles L. Eaton, adjutant-general of the state, died suddenly of heart disease at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon at the residence of Albert Pack, while the funeral of the late Greene Pack was in progress. He had come here from Lansing with other state officials and committees from the senate and house of representatives to attend the funeral of Mr. Pack. He appeared to be in his ordinary condition of health, and it was not until the Masonic services over Mr. Pack were being concluded that Gov. Rich and others observed him gasping and struggling. He was carried into the open air and expired in a very short time. The cause was apoplexy.

Miesnar Guilty of First Degree Murder.

The Miesnar murder case at Cold water resulted in a conviction of the 16 days' trial. After 40 minutes deliberation the jury brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree. Judge Yaple granted a stay of execution for a new trial. When the jury returned their verdict Miesnar's face was as pale as death, and he seemed to be completely exhausted, though he continued his insanity dodge in a weak way. Sheriff Swain found a pocket knife concealed in a window of Miesnar's cell, with which he probably intended to commit suicide in case he was sentenced to the penitentiary.

Muskegon After a Big Lumber Deal.

Parties from Georgian Bay have been in Muskegon for a day or two examining documents with a view to closing a deal in pine lands with John Torrent. The lands are at Georgian Bay, and it is figured that it would cost from 25 cents per thousand more to bring the timber to Muskegon via Lake Michigan, than it does to Bay City, where most of it now goes, and Muskegon is considered a much better market. The deal takes in about enough to cut from 10,000,000 to 20,000,000 feet.

Adjutant-General W. S. Green.

Gov. Rich has appointed Col. William S. Green, of Detroit, adjutant-general to succeed the late Gen. Eaton. He was detailed to assist the latter in familiarity with the duties of the office, having for two years been president of the state military board, which was legislated out of office January 1.

A CORRESPONDENT asks the exact meaning of the word paranoiac. Difficult as it is to define the whole word, it is clear that noiac means a wealthy criminal; para, a parapet, Italian, meaning to guard—parapet (military) to guard the breast; parapluie (umbrella) to guard against rain.

Elizabeth Robertson died at Grand Rapids in the morning and her husband expired the same evening. They were both 71 years of age and were married in one grave.

John Swigle, who was held at Lansing for complicity in the murder of Michael Goit, has acknowledged that he helped in the crime only to get notoriety and now says he was not in the county at the time.

The sawmill, drykiln, butter tub factory and stock building owned by Henkle at Howard City, burned, loss $10,000. No insurance. It is a severe loss to the village as many will be thrown out of employment.

Christopher Ellery, a stone mason, 45 years old, was found in a wooded lands of his home near Ionia, hanging with the top of his head blown off and the lower part of his face gone. He had shot himself twice with a double barreled shotgun. Domestic troubles.

John Lindsay, an 80-year-old man, committed suicide at Mason by cutting his throat with a razor. He purchased a vessel to catch the blood and then, leaning over, made the cut. Mr. Lindsay had lost his wife, and was suffering from melancholy, and probably did the act in a fit of temporary insanity.

Rev. Isaac Aldrich, pastor of the Congregational church at Wayne, has applied for a divorce from his wife, on the grounds of adultery. The name of E. R. H. Cummings, a local physician, is mentioned in the bill. The trustees of the church decided to hold no services until the unfortunate family tangle was straightened out. Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich have been married 20 years and have six children. All the parties are prominent.

A balance of $345.50 is due Michigan from the net proceeds of the sale of public lands. Gov. Rich received advice from Secretary Smith that it would be forwarded.

MICHIGAN HAPPENINGS.

Dowagiac will have electric lights.

Jackson prison has a population of 800.

Marlette is to have a new planing mill.

East Tawas has voted for a city charter.

Niles is to build a new opera house this summer.

A. H. Lockwood died at his shoemakers' bench at Vassar.

Adolph A. Meyersahn, a Grand Rapids cigarmaker, hanged himself.

Mrs. Mercedes Cole, of Ionia, has passed into the hands of a receiver.

J. H. Clements, barn and contents were burned at Hillsdale. Loss $2,000.

Mills G. Hawley, charged with barn burning, died in the Paw Paw jail.

Charles Manty, aged 14 years, broke through the ice at Calumet and was drowned.

Richard Calkins, near Flint, fell down stairs and broke his back and neck and died instantly.

Mrs. Fred Stites, formerly of Port Huron, committed suicide at Ann Arbor, because of her husband's drunkenness.

J. Eiling, of Zeeland, engineer in Kepler's flouring mills, was arrested charged with counterfeiting silver coin.

Niles and other points interested are talking of a system of dams and locks to make St. Joseph river navigable to Niles.

James Miller was arraigned at Saginaw charged with assaulting 14-year-old Myrtle Webster. Miller is 50 years of age.

Joseph Dale, of Port Huron, committed suicide in the American Exchange hotel at San Francisco, with strychnine.

E. D. Thomas, of Centerville, who has been spending the winter in Florida with his wife, fell dead at Jacksonville.

R. F. Davis, of Minden City, has just received news of the death of an uncle in Lake county, whereby he has fallen heir to $3,000.

John Lindsay, a farmer near Mason, aged 80, cut his throat with a razor. He had been depressed since his wife's death last year.

John Delange, a harnessmaker, hanged himself to a bedpost at Sparta. It is alleged that his mind was turned by religious matters.

Edwin Wyant was helping to fell two cedar trees near Mashtee. A dead ash got caught in the top of the tree, killing him instantly.

Fred Miller, driver of a delivery wagon in Battle Creek, was arrested charged with assaulting a respectable 9-year-old daughter of Milton Benson.

Hans Gilbertsons an employe of the Elk Rapids Iron company, drew his pay and soon after disappeared. Later his body was found in a swamp frozen stiff.

Cattle near Central Lake are dying from mysterious diseases. Their lungs are shriveled away to a small bunch, and they die within a day of being taken ill.

Section men found the body of John Long, aged 20, on the track near Flushing with the head entirely cut off and lying inside the track. The evidence points to suicide.

Willis Ross, 24 years of age, near Lapeer, was taken with bleeding of the nose. Before he could be summoned, but their efforts were of avail. Ross dying in a few hours.

The works of the Chicago Pipe company, manufacturers of iron water and gas mains, located at New Philadelphia, O., were destroyed by fire. Loss $100,000; insurance $40,000.

Menominee county will give Menominee city $10,000 towards building a bridge across the river, and work will begin next spring. The Wisconsin Michigan boundary line can be determined.

Mrs. Emma Obenauer, manager of the Manistee Industrial home and aid society, was shot twice at home while visiting near Saginaw, slipped on the ice and badly fractured her left leg.

Thomas Young, of Chicago, was found guilty in the Oakland county court of stealing some beans from a farmer near Pontiac 3 years ago. His father served a term at the time, but Young went to Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Markle, of Ishcham, left their home at Ishcham and 15-months-old daughter alone in the house. The sun's clothes caught fire, and he was burned to death. The little girl had a narrow escape.

The loss of life on the steamer Chicora has been decreased one, making it 23. Which bodies have been numbered with the dead, is at Hersey, near Reed City, cutting shingle bolts, and has been living there 18 months.

Frank Brown, employed in the ohio paper mills at Niles, was badly injured by being caught in the belting, which revolved twice and other terrible injuries about the body were received. He is in a serious condition.

Ignatius Pelot is 86 years of age and has passed all his life on Mackinac island. He has never crossed to the mainland and has never seen a locomotive. The most thrilling day in his life he has seen the smoke of one. Pelot is still active and has many interesting stories to tell of early life there.

The Woman's Relief Corps of Michigan will hold its annual session at Mt. Pleasant next week. The department now numbers 237 corps and 7,633 members. Twelve corps have been organized since last year and relief extended to the extent of $2,562. The relief other than money amounted to $4,054.

Mrs. E. Carrington, the well-known Bay City lumberman, put several ladies to the blush. At a minstrel entertainment in that city she appeared in the garment of high hats. He arose and, in behalf of his suffering brothers, requested the lady to remove the offending hat, and many of them were sensible enough to do it.

John Adamson and D. Bergeron, a blacksmith, got into a quarrel at Sturgeon Bay, and the former began to thump Bergeron, who is a small man. Bergeron obtained a shotgun and warned his assailant to desist. Adamson paid no attention to it, and the contents of the gun was fired into his arm, striking the bone. Both sides of the abdomen, and he may die. Bergeron is in jail.

A fire broke out in two miles the Ontonagon river below Ewen is jammed with pine logs. They fill the channel and overflow on either bank, towering 20 and 30 feet high. They measure about 20,000,000 feet, and if sawed into lumber and arranged in 10-foot piles they would cover a 10-acre lot, and would be worth $500,000. This is said to be the largest amount of logs ever banked on a single banking ground.

S. P. Gibbs and Chief of Police Amos LeMieux, together with their wives, sailed into a hole in the ice while ice boating at Menominee. All were thrown into the water except the chief of police, who succeeded in pulling the boys out, but not until one of them was nearly drowned. The weather was very cold, and it was with difficulty that the party reached the lighthouse without frost bites. They were more or less frozen, and one boy is in a critical condition.

E. A. Larsen sold cigarettes to the 12-year-old boy of Richard Newman at Manistique, against the lad's wishes. He paid a fine for doing so, too.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.—20th day.—Senator Clapp's resolution, which declared for free silver, was taken up and a discussion between Senators Clapp and Jewett followed, the former charging the latter with the remainder of the day was devoted to the consideration of bills of local interest. Bills were passed: Prescribing a maximum passenger rate and giving compensation for delivering packages within the limits of the corporation and for the keeping of children under 14 in the Detroit House of the Good Shepherd. Bills Not much was done in the House. Prohibition amendment resolutions continue to be the resolution was passed prohibiting smoking in the House during the session. Resolutions are resolutions on the death of Greene Pack were adopted and the house adjourned to attend his funeral. Bills passed by the House: Relating to the Detroit Law Library. For the incorporation of L. A. W. clubs; for the removal of cemeteries which have become nuisances.

SENATE.—21st day.—The sudden death of Adjt.-Gen. Eaton at Detroit put an early end to all business for the day. The general re-organization bill was brought up and promptly referred to the committee on finance. It is believed it will be allowed to expire. The senate committee on judiciary reported adversely on the amendment prohibiting the employment of convicts in any shop, waverby or wherein their labor or its products is profited by any person, association, firm, sold or given to any individual, copartnership or corporation. There were numerous petitions of Michigan's leading furniture factories, and also of organized labor asking for the passage of the measure. Hon. O. M. Barnes, president of the Bay City Board of Public Wardens Chamberlain, of Jackson, and Fuller, of Ionia, appeared before the committee in favor of prohibiting convicts from being employed in any shop. Bills passed: Relating to the receiving of petitions had not been finished when the House left at 5 p. m. Eaton was announced in the House.

SENATE.—22d day.—Several bills were passed; then the senate took up the resolution by providing that no candidate's name shall appear twice on the ballot, to repeal the act authorizing courts to sentence women convicts under 18 years of age to the House of the Good Shepherd at Detroit, to prohibit express companies making a rate for the transportation of eggs within the limits of incorporated cities; prohibiting the sale of the stock of any corporation to compel beneficiary societies to make a 50-50 investment of their surplus funds. The House joint resolution for a constitutional amendment providing for the salary of the attorney-general came up, and Senators Hilliard, Carrick, Brown, Jewett and Dunlap, finally spoke in favor of it. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 29 to 3. A resolution of regret was passed at the death of Gen. Eaton was concurred in and Senators Jewett, Carrick and Brundage, barle and Gage were appointed a committee to attend the funeral. Senator Brundage's bill to bail palace cars was reported without recommendation. House: A large number of local measures were passed. The senate resolution for an amendment to the constitution relative to the salary of the attorney-general was passed and given immediate effect. The joint resolution was brought up to amend the constitution so as to allow in cities entitled to more than one senator, a senator to represent such representatives by single districts instead of two senators at-large, was adopted. There was a great deal of debate, and it was objected that it would be a step in the direction of a state senate, and that it would work against the party now in power. The joint resolutions were adopted reciting the virtues of Gen. Eaton. Senators Jewett and Carrick were pointed to attend the funeral.

SENATE.—23d day.—Senator McLaughlin introduced a resolution for final adjournment on May 10. It was laid on the table. Gov. Rich's Detroit board appointments were all confirmed. Senator Harbaugh introduced a resolution which was adopted, of a sympathetic character as follows: Resolved, That the people are to be congratulated that this session of long, bond-issuing, debt-increasing, treasury-depleting, time-wasting, tariff-tinkering, pension-repudiating and queen-restoring adjournment is fast drawing to a close. There is an effort being made to get local messages out of the way and pass the general bills. Other bills were passed: Amending the garnishee law so as to exempt from the garnishee defendant shall not be discharged upon the payment of the debt, but shall be liable so as to permit the U. A. A. S. M. to organize in the state of Michigan. The senate commission's bill for the incorporation of Duluth-superior and Western railroad, the objection from several cities, was discussed for some time. In his amendment to the committee of the whole the bill was amended so as to exclude the principal places of amusement open on Sundays. HOUSE.—Tuesday, the 21st, was the day of the whole over Rep Waters bill for the incorporation of Duluth-superior and Western clubs and societies. The bill provides that any seven citizens may form a club, and Rep. Ferguson, of Detroit, moved to cut it to 50 acres. Rep. Ferguson's motion was lost by a vote of 29 to 31. The bill was finally passed, 50 to 29. Rep. Ferguson's motion to strike out the last clause, which provides that the corporation shall be a corporation for some time to the bill was amended by adding a provision for the incorporation of Duluth-superior and Western railroad, which was lost