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BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC,

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL.

Entered at the postoffice of Birmingham, Mich., as second-class matter.

Miss Canada might be able to cool off by walking around a few blocks.

"Attorney General Harmon is after the Joint Traffic Association. What will the outcome be?

Japan is hurrying to build adequate coast defenses. And she doesn't talk eternally about it either.

Lord Dunraven made a long journey to demonstrate that the popular impression of his pout is the correct one.

The cable informs us that the Monroe Doctrine is opposed in Chile. It is certain to encounter a chilly reception down there.

The slaughter at Zeitoun by the Turks is the crowning infamy. Banish the sanguinary Sultan to the deepest recesses of Asia!

Kentucky is a good name for the new battle ship. Old Bourbon will probably be used instead of champagne when she ship is set afloat.

The thief who laughed at the bicycle policeman found that he could not run away from him. The auld wad on him when the race was over.

The talk of war involving England has had its usual effect on the Russian bear. He is eyeing the Bosporous and his mouth is watering freely.

The latest news from Washington is to the effect that J. Pierpont Morgan has consented to keep the government running a few months longer.

Queen Victoria is an admirable woman and an excellent queen, but this fact need not blind public opinion to the fact that she is no judge of poetry.

It will cost $46,000,000 to keep New York City running this year. At this distance it looks as if this sum were about $45,000,000 more than the thing is really worth.

Chicago's only thought when it learned that New York will spend $3,000,000 in cleaning her streets this year was "Whew, how dirty New York streets must be!"

The students of the Missouri university have been brought face to face with the stern reality of life, early in their career. Their base club has been sold at Michigan as security for a hotel bill.

Two persons in Chicago are arranging to be married next spring, and quite their wedding will be a quiet affair. They dread the publicity, probably, of journeying about the country in the ordinary way.

The story that England meditated a trade with Spain of Gibraltar for Cuba is swiftly disposed of, and was absurd on its face. Apart from the fact that we object to European transfers of real estate in any of the regions of either America, it would be no time for Britain to swap horses while swimming the Rubicon river.

The insurgents of Cuba have marched with 12,000 men over three-fourths of the island, with 80,000 drilled troops all about them. They went out for a specific purpose, accomplished it in spite of the Spaniards, and withdrew. And yet from Spanish sources the public is informed of a continued series of victories of the Spanish troops. The people of Havana are especially gushing over the fact that General Campos saved them. Doubtless he did!

United States Consul Seymour, writing from Canton, informs the state department of the inauguration of a war on freight rates between Asiatic and American ports by British steamers reaching the East from New York via the Suez canal. Writing on the 7th of September, he said that the Annandale, a ship of 7,000 tons burden, had left Hong Kong the week before direct for New York via this route, and that the Nestor, another large British ship, was then taking cargo for New York to be taken through the canal. The price per ton charged by these vessels to New York is about $6, or less than one-fourth of what shippers, who transport overland from New York to the Pacific coast and thence to China and Japan by any of the established Pacific steamship lines. The trip through the canal enables these steamers to take advantage of consuming only about half the time taken by sailing vessels, which are the vehicles generally employed for cheap transportation by the Pacific route in making the trip to China and Japan. Mr. Seymour expresses the opinion that this competition is certain to injure the transpacific business of the Pacific coast. He suggests a semi-monthly line of American steamers between New York and Eastern Asia.

The deformed Globe-Democrat resuscitates the assertion that Missouri has no Goldsmith or Gray. It claims of the Hon. Scott Wike of Pike County, that for that production are to be thus coldly and contemptuously ignored then indeed are republics ungrateful and modern civilization is a moth-eaten sham.

Internal revenue collections for the Peoria district last year were over $13,000, and the Peoria seeks to be understood as making its annual explanation that it did not drink half the whisky this sum represents.

Of all the English colonists on American soil the English sparrow is easily the most impudent, overbearing, and disgreeable. It has few if any redeeming traits. It drives away better birds, it has no song to cheer, and it can't sing. It is the Russian thistle of the feathered tribe. Drive it out.

A horrible suspicion has been broathed to the effect that the peace dispatch purporting to have emanated from the Prince of Wales was unauthorized, and everything may have to be done over again.

An exchange says: The people of the United States spend twenty millions of dollars yearly in chewing gum. It should be made stiffer, so possibly it might close some of the widespread mouths and bring refreshing silence and help a struggling people to resume prosperity.

Farmers in Southern Illinois are again turning their attention to apple orchards. It is estimated that 15,000 trees have been planted this year. The soil and climate are admirably adapted to the fruit.

IN TWO PENINSULAS.

NEWS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE PENINSULAR STATE.

A Young Man Near Ionia Shooted His Best Girl's Father in a Quarrel—Civil Engineers of Michigan Meet at Saginaw—Epitome of Events.

Practical Joke Causes a Murder.

Albert Johnson's practical joke on Joseph H. Holmes, a boarder, at Grand Rapids, brought on a fight and ended in a tragedy. The joke was a motor man and when he left his boarding house after a morning trip, he found his cold hands down the backs of Holmes, who was quietly reading. Holmes angrily remonstrated and, soon, came to blows of fighting. Holmes finally broke away, ran to his room, secured a revolver and returning, fired twenty shots at Johnson. Three of the shots took effect and Johnson fell dead, without putting on a coat or hat. Holmes went to the police station and gave himself up. Holmes is 27 years old, and his father, a forper postmaster, is one of the most prominent citizens of that place. Holmes is a member of the Agricultural College.

Shot His Sweetheart's Father.

Samuel Reeder, aged 21, was employed on the farm of Charles Hagadorn, near Long Lake, and has been keeping company with the daughter of his employer. Hagadorn caught him on a family row, Hagadorn secured an old army musket, where upon Reeder ran to his home, a mile and three shots, one of them lodging in the abdomen of Hagadorn, mortally wounding the aged veteran. Reeder was arrested, at Ionia. He claims that the shooting was in self-defense, that Hagadorn was a bad man and that the revolver with which the shot was fired was furnished by Mrs. Hagadorn. The mother and daughter both testified for Reeder. Hagadorn's is a critical condition.

Michigan Civil Engineers Convented.

The Michigan Engineering society held its twenty-seventh annual convention at Saginaw. An address of welcome by Mayor Merrill was responded to by President Ashley of St. Louis. A large number of valuable papers were presented and discussed and several interesting addresses were given.

MICHIGAN NEWS.

Flint barbers have organized a union.

Paw Paw has a "Good Citizenship" league.

Osceola county will vote on local option Feb. 24.

A falling tree killed Chas. Bargo near Flushing.

John Lambert shot and killed himself at Lansing.

Hogs killed John Bartles flock of sheep at Stalbridge.

Samuel Lake was fatally kicked by a horse near Montrose.

The stone pile has almost cleared Kent county of tramps.

M. E. Ralf, of Traverse City, died from an overdose of laudanum.

Carr Tucker was fatally kicked in the abdomen by a colt at Richfield.

A Salvation Army post has been established at Adrian, and the cold boy is trembling.

The old high school at Saginaw was destroyed by fire. Loss, insured for $9,000.

Andrew Jackson day was celebrated by the Andrew Jackson democratic society at Jackson.

Alpena's business men's association is now an industrial one, with the past year.

Cadford wants the Au Sable & Northwestern to extend the line to Cadford and offer a bonus.

Dave McGay, aged 19, was killed at the cabinet A Hecla mine by being caught in a pulley shaft.

John Main, an old veteran, slipped and fell from the cars at Ferrysville and broke his neck.

Robert Ricema, while felling a tree near Ferrysburg, was caught in the fall and fatally injured.

A nugget of gold found along the Menominee river, near Wausaukee, has caused great excitement.

Frank Wright was killed in the Oneida stock factory at Kalamazoo by being caught in a shafting.

Walter H. Harrison, of West Bay City, suddenly went violently insane and tried to kill his family.

Albert Hanks, a seaboard at Port Huron, was arrested on a charge of passing counterfeit money.

Twenty four of Ionia county's insane have been transferred to Kalamazoo to the Traverse City asylum.

Mrs. H. T. Morgan tried to poison herself at St. Louis because her husband's mother-in-law quarreled.

Horace Pratt, head sawyer in Hancock's mill at Flint, was killed by a Jackson fast train while crossing the track.

The prosecuting attorney will investigate the death of Peter Day, who was found in Hooker street Sanitarium under.

The Michigan Chickamauga park commission will erect on the memorial tablet commemorating the Michigan troops.

Lennie Blamy, assistant engineer of the Michigan central, has been appointed chief engineer of the Detroit & Mackinac railway.

The farm house of John Warren near Maple Rapids, burned to the ground, with all its contents. Loss about $1,200.

The Oakland county fair association sold their old grounds, bought larger ones, and now is independent and still have $500.

The Chapin, Hamilton and Lindington mines, on the Menominee range, have been shut down and will be worked as one mine.

Excitement over biddings has paid to the state $50,000, overcoming salary paid last session, the fraudulent salary amendment and of jest.

Several hundred feet of an old corduroy road between Benton Harbor and Stevensville, built about three feet without apparent cause.

Wesley Hagerman's farm residence near Decatur was destroyed by fire, with his household goods and his wheat crop, which was stored in the building.

Michigan health authorities are kicking vigorously against the bogus "Illinois Health university" of Chicago which furnishes diplomas to any graduate who has the price without requiring the usual course of study. The Illinois authorities will try to stop it.

The N. & H. Mills lumber planing mill at Marquette in some manner caught fire and a great conflagration was for a time threatened, but the fire was confined to the mill plant. Only little of the lumber was consumed, but the mill is a total loss. It had not been used for several years and $5,000 will cover the loss.

Tom Farnsworth, aged 15, followed his dog into an abandoned well near Prescott, expecting to capture a coon. But a ferocious bear pounced upon him and was about to tear him to pieces when a passing farmer came to his rescue and killed the bear, which weighed 350 pounds.

Elmer Brockhill cut down a tree near Greenville, the trunk flew back and over the stump and struck him in the stomach causing death.

Nearly 100 carloads of dirt a day for four weeks were dumped into a slough near the lake Shore and Manchester, without apparent effect.

Wm. H. Cole, of Flint, went to take a dose of bitters but got the wrong bottle and took a quantity of corrosive sublimate. He may recover.

Eugene V. Debs, the labor leader, was given an enthusiastic reception at Detroit parents of his wife for, and addressed a large labor mass meetings.

John Butcher, an Eaton convict, attempted to hang himself with his suspenders in the county jail, was cut down, and then he cursed the guards.

Bert McKenzie has begun suit against John Lantscharge and wife, parents of his wife, for $10,000 damages for the alienation of his wife's affections.

Ed J. Jenks, aged 11, son of the Port Huron shipbuilder, committed suicide at Sandusky, O. Being afflicted with an incurable disease caused his despondency.

Has recently got rid of tramps by building a wooden enclosure, in which stone is broken. The entire apparatus, including balls and chains, cost only $13.05.

A special election at Buchanan on August 5 to bond the town for $10,000 to build an electric lighting plant, it was lost by a vote of 176 to 170.

The superintendent of Kalamazoo investigated charges made by Mrs. Hugh Bush and found him guilty of inhuman treatment of applicants and of general incompetency.

Miss Minnie Spanke, near St. Joseph, who was recently assaulted by a young man and bound and gagged, has recovered sufficiently to tell her story. He assaulted her. He has not been captured.

Analysis of the stomach of Mrs. Cora Ida Latimer, who died suddenly last April for whose supposed murder Jackson and his wife were arrested, proves that she was not poisoned.

John Gutke, Henry Kaiser, and Thomas Barron, Port Huron liquor dealers, pled guilty to selling liquor on Sunday. Gutke was sentenced to pay $50 or spend 50 days in jail.

Charges of misconduct, malfeasance, neglect of duty and extortion have been filed with Gov. Rich against John D. Officer, school commissioner of the Saginaw county, Michigan, jail.

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Marshall, of Saginaw, awoke to find their house ablaze in flames. The latter threw their children out of the window and helped their night clothes and bare feet. The loss was $2,500.

The Standard Malleable Iron Co., of Muskegon, is a new industry with 50,000 capital which will employ 100 men in the manufacture of carriage and wagon hardware and malleable iron specialties.

Lulu Maxwell, a girl of 14, threatened to hold herself at Bay City, unless her stepfather would agree to her to go to a dance. She took a butcher knife and stabbed herself in the chest, but her corset steels prevented any damage.

Geo. Garside, a well-known Kalamazoo citizen, was arrested charged with threatening to beat his wife to death. The poor woman exhibits frightful bruises resulting from beatings he has given her with heavy belting and an anchor chain.

A robber's retreat has been found in cedar swamp south of Gladwin, where have been broken recently frequently of late, frequent daken from cars and large quantities of goods and some money carried off. No trace of the thieves could be found.

Port Huron's new pottery company has been organized, but it is before it will be recognized by the state railway officials. Lightner, Rogers and Mercier made most apologies for having publicly criticised the Michigan officials for mustering out the oil company.

Several hundred of the leading citizens of Detroit attended a mass meeting to express sympathy with the suffering Armenians. Resolutions and petitions to President Cleveland and Queen Victoria urging speedy relief were adopted and $50 was raised as material aid.

At Sable and Oscoda are trying to move the village of Sable bodily over to themselves. The shops of the Au Sable & Northwest railroad will, if they have $4,000 bonus, which they are likely to do, and they propose to move all the industries of the little town at the same time.

George Beaman's little daughter started a fire with kerosene oil at Sand Beach. The flames belched forth from the can, burning her 5-year-old brother, and she was sent to the dock for her father. It was a bitter cold day, and the little boy was frozen so badly that they will have to be amputated.

Charles Brant, a laborer at Chelsea, received a letter from his May Trip, ten and asked her to meet him in a certain place. When Brant arrived he found two men engaged father and friend who immediately gave him a sound thrashing. Then the latter made a complaint against him and he was locked up.

John Ackerhosen, near Benton Harbor, would allow his family—wife and nine children—to go to bed and their supplies and a coarse smoked mushroom crushed bread and water. He also refused that each child should be given air with cold water every morning, and claimed they would live 200 years. He will be sent to asylum.

John Wachsmuth, of Muskegon, is writing a book to show that the Armenian massacres are the result of the progress of civilization. He calls it "Civilization the World's Fair." He says that when the Turks found out that the Christians were really in earnest in the matter of giving the Armenians they began to lay plans to kill off the Christians.

The distance between Adrian and Toledo is less than 40 miles and the legal passenger tariff in Michigan for the Lake Shore road is three cents per mile, nevertheless when Hubert H. Clark and wife, of Adrian, tendered a conductor 15 cents each as their fare from Palmyra to Adrian he refused to accept it and put them off the train. Clark will sue for damages.

A largely attended meeting of the Northern Michigan Editorial association was held at Traverse City. A committee was appointed to confer with the railroad officials, and if possible settle on a uniform inspection rule. Steps were also taken toward the organization of a list of manufacturers of the region, to control the entire output of maple lumber.

Nelson Rivard, aged 41 years, a member of one of the most prominent families of the northwest, who lived a miserable bachelor life in a hovel at Grosse Point, near Detroit, was found dead in his well with terrible wounds on his head. Evidences of a struggle there appeared in the cabin, and the theory of murder was at first, but generally accepted. No cause is visible.

The U. S. civil service commission has announced examinations at Detroit April 1 and at Grand Rapids April 3. The commission gives notice that Michigan has received an excess share of the appointments, and consequently no applications will be received from residents of the state for all other regular examinations and also the special examinations that may be ordered.

Herr Marshall hanged himself in his cell at Ionia with his towel, and was recently dead when cut down.

WILL THERE BE WAR?

Dispatches and Rumors of the Trouble Between England and Germany.

London—Great Britain is seriously and steadily preparing for war on a vast scale, either at sea and on land against Germany, or against Germany, France and Russia, should they combine against Britain. The Kaiser has thrown down the gauntlet, it was promptly picked up and energetic steps were immediately taken by the British government to back up this action by a most imposing display of force. The activity in the navy, artillery, war police and other offices called upon to take part in the war preparations is so great that the people of London is aperrun with officers on the retired list or otherwise, who are hundreds of miles from the seat of war of the empire. The rapidity in which the various naval stations are commissioning warships, large and small, for active service is puzzled to with great profit. The Portsmouth authorities have 1,000 men at work on the dockyard, which are being rushed to get ready to join the flying squadron. But large numbers of the British fleet reserve which equip the mass ready for active service at short notice, are disappointed, mortified and disgusted. Even Jingoism begins to see that, the crisis in the Transvaal is over. President Kruger and his ministers have yielded to the demands of Great Britain, they have failed to agree on a settlement of the matters in dispute, it is understood that the Transvaal will sign the annulling of the convention of 1884, and that Chamberlain will be able to dispatch a force of British troops to the Transvaal, or to Delagoa Bay from Portugal, thus settling off any possibility of the Boers getting a port on the sea, and effectually cutting off the Transvaal from all dealings with the outside world. The British government is certainly in a terrible fix, and the report of a second intervention of Great Britain in the affairs of the Transvaal continues unabated and excited rides. It looks, indeed, like a great coup on the part of Great Britain against the Transvaal. The friendly reported assertion that the British government had offered