

**EDITORIAL**  
**OF A**  
**WEEK'S NEWS**

Most Important Happenings Told in Brief.

**Washington**

Attorney General Wickham before the house judiciary committee branded a falsehood the charges of Delegate Wickham of Alaska, that the attorney general had "sleazeballed Alaskan criminals," and had allowed the statute of limitations to run in an alleged coat fraud case.

President Taft came into the Lorimer inquiry from a new angle when Edward Hines, the Chicago lumberman, produced a note, said to have been written by Henry Sherman Boutell, minister to Switzerland, and told of a message he had received from Boutell of the president's interest in Lorimer's election.

A pooling agreement between the Carnegie Steel company and ten other concerns for a percentage apportionment of the steel output of the country—an admittedly illegal document supposedly long since destroyed—sifted the meeting of the house steel trust investigating committee. Chairman Stanley produced a copy of the agreement. It was admitted in evidence against the protest of counsel for the corporations that it was unauthenticated.

Congress has concluded the business for which it was convened in extraordinary session April 4 last. The Canadian reciprocity bill was passed by the senate by a vote of 53 to 27. President Taft did not receive the measure for signature before being adjourned before the senate took the final vote, and the engagement of the bill must take place while in session.

Chairman Dillingham of the United States senate committee on privileges and elections announced Senators Healy, which culminated in the case of Payne as a sub-committee to suggest what recommendation shall be made to the senate on the request for an investigation of the election of Senator Stephenson of Wisconsin.

Senator Hovey of Pennrose, Republican leader of the United States senate, corroborated before the Lorimer committee that of body the evidence given by Edward Hines, so far as it concerned the testimony of the Chicago lumberman.

**Domestic**

President Taft announced to the mine and gray veterans in reunion at Manassas, Va., that France had expressed a willingness to enter into the arbitration treaty being negotiated between this country and England and that both treaties will be signed within two weeks.

E. G. Lewis, president of the Lewis Publishing company of St. Louis, testified before the senate committee on expenditures in the postoffice department at Washington that whereas a few years ago he was worth between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000, he was compelled to borrow the money to come to Washington to appear as a witness before the committee.

The \$2,000,000 monument of Abraham Lincoln, which Senator Cullum introduced the last congress to authorize for the national capital, will be erected on the bank of the Potomac river near the white house, if the recommendation of the fine arts commission is accepted.

The interstate commerce commission has ordered material reductions in freight rates from the east to points between Denver and the western terminals of the great transcontinental railroads. Every year the railroads have exacted from shippers to intermediate points higher rates on eastern freight than were charged for the much longer hauls to Pacific coast points.

In a riot between miners of the Mansfield mine of the Pittsburgh Company at Glendale, Allegheny county, Pa., three constables, two county detectives, and a score of miners were injured, several fatally.

R. F. Thompson of Chicago, on the way from that city to join the Minneapolis-Helena automobile tourists, in a police station at Minneapolis pending the outcome of his trial in Gurnea, run down by Thompson in his automobile.

Barney Dreyfus, president of the Pittsburgh club of the National League, has purchased Marty O'Connell, St. Paul's (Minn.) sensation and spitball pitcher, for \$22,500, the highest price ever paid for a ball player in the history of organized baseball.

An injunction restraining the owners of the Erie (Pa.) Lodge No. 199, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, from trying to force a decree of expulsion pronounced by the International Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, was granted by Judge J. F. Jones.

**FREE CURE FOR BABIES' EYES**  
**TO PREVENT BLINDNESS IN CHILDREN-FROM DISEASE OPTHALMIA NEONATORUM.**  
**DOCTORS PLAN A CAMPAIGN**

Dr. W. R. Parker, of Detroit, in Address, Blames Carelessness or Ignorance of Physicians and Midwives.

Lansing—That the state of Michigan ought to maintain a free dispensary in each state institution could have been prevented by a little attention at birth, the washing of the children's eyes by the physician or midwife.

"There is absolutely no excuse for the deplorable number of children, doomed to a life of blindness through the accurate carelessness or ignorance of these physicians or midwives," said Dr. Parker, who is a U. of M. teacher.

"Ophthalmia neonatorum is an infectious disease apparent at birth. Two per cent solution of nitrate of silver, dropped into each eye of a new-born infant, would destroy the germs of ophthalmia where these existed, and would not injure the sight of healthy eyes. This simple thing was discovered 22 years ago by Prof. Creda, of Leipzig, director of the maternity hospital connected with the university. By its use the percentage of such cases fell from 7.4 per cent to one-half of 1 per cent in a short time."

"Were the prescribed treatment so difficult and delicate that the skill of a specialist is always needed with it, the matter would be different, but it is not; it is the most simple thing to do, and people the world over should be taught, as they are now being taught, how to care for their tubercular cases and to prevent the spread of that disease.

"There is a plan in New York to distribute this preventive medicine, after educating the people to use it. Such a free distribution would cost the state \$2,000 yearly, while the total cost for that same year for the education and maintenance of these blind children in the Massachusetts Normal School was \$14,200 a year. We should do the same in Michigan."

Dr. Parker is one of two Michigan physicians, Dr. Henry Cawston of Detroit being the other, appointed by the American Medical association on a committee to make a campaign against preventable blindness.

Osborn to Inspect Michigan Troops. In view of the statement that President Taft will be unable to come to Michigan the first part of August, as he intended to attend the celebration of the Michigan School of Mines at Houghton, N. Y., institution, Governor Osborn will inspect several days with the state troops at Port Huron.

The Rev. Dr. Caleb Cook Baldwin, who passed half a century as a missionary at Poochow, China, and for whom the Baldwin library was erected in that city, is expected to be in Michigan.

Mr. W. G. Rogers, quartermaster general, has been awarded the contract for the supplies for the troops. The Hammond Beef and Provision company, Port Huron, has the contract for the groceries, fresh bread and bacon; B. B. Hyde, Port Huron, has the contract for the hay and straw; Fred H. Heath, Port Huron, for the straw; J. E. McCollum & Co., Port Huron, for the wood.

Bars Rebates on Insurance. A Michigan law which rebates on the insurance policies will take effect next month and the agents from then on will see whether the agents get a rebate on the rate or at least drive him out to the open.

This law provides that no company or agent, including the Lloyds, shall have the right to force a rate increase on the rate charged for the insured, and that no person insured shall accept such rebate. The maximum penalty for violation of the law is fixed at \$100 fine, or six months imprisonment, or both.

Michigan Pensioners. The following Michigan pensioners have been granted: Bennett Bartlett, \$15; Arthur L. Chappel, \$6; Lucia R. Chappell, \$12; A. J. Charles, \$2; Samuel M. Holtan, \$20; Alex. Lashway, \$15; Charles R. Leonard, \$17; William Martin, \$10; Robert Payne, \$15; James E. Potter, \$20; N. H. Trembley, \$20; Orlando D. Wheeler, \$8; Thomas Hiddle, \$17; Candace Brower, \$5; Charles A. Burton, \$20; John A. Dainoff, \$15; Charles W. Egan, \$15; Ephraim Moore, \$15; Daniel W. Sias, \$24; Ella L. Smith, \$12.

Representatives of nearly every racial division met in London in the first Universal Races congress, whose object is the abolition of racial prejudices and the promotion of peace and arbitration.

The civil court in Paris has issued a decree of conditional separation from M. Riccardi and Mme. Riccardi, the former, French Consul in Genoa.

Miss Annie S. Peck, the American climber, accompanied by Carl Volkner, German climber, ascended two peaks of the volcano Copanagua, July 14.

Heavy Harnessed. One of the most famous added another step to his list when he fought Leon Daudet, editor of L'Action Francaise, first with pistols and then with words in Paris. Both men were wounded.

Jewelry Convention Ends. The Michigan State Jewelers' association failed to meet in Detroit last week for the election of these officers: President, Hugh Connolly, Detroit; first vice-president, J. H. Gault, Detroit; second vice-president, J. W. Grant, Saginaw; secretary, William R. Grainger, Detroit; treasurer, W. F. King, Jr., Detroit.

**State Attorneys End Convention.**  
 Port Huron will be the 1912 meeting place of the Michigan Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police, the invitation of that city having been accepted at the closing session of the convention at Kalamazoo.

Several excellent addresses were made on the final day. W. Glenn Cowell, prosecuting attorney of Coldwater, discussed "Confessions," in which he extolled the sweating process sometimes used to extort statements from prisoners accused of crimes. He declared that improper means should never be used to secure confessions and that promises should never be made in the endeavor to get them, as instances have been known where innocent men have been induced to admit that they were guilty, for the purpose of expediting their release from custody.

"Always have a stenographer present and have every utterance taken when a prisoner is being examined," said the speaker. "Before questioning an accused person, apprise him of his rights and allow him to confer with counsel should he so desire."

"Officers frequently start with the wrongful impression that a man suspected of crime must be guilty. In dealing with a case, do so with an unbiased mind. To do otherwise tends to make the public lose faith in officers. The endeavor should be made to convince the people that a prisoner has been fairly dealt with."

The speaker also condemned the use of public officers in the collection of debts, and declared that all laws permitting this practice should be repealed.

He was followed by the Rev. Caroline Bartlett Crane of this city, who was a guest at the session. She stated that there should be a more rigid enforcement of the laws against wife and child abandonment, which were violated with impunity in many parts of the state.

Rejuvenating Old Orchards. President H. A. Parrand of the State Horticultural society, returned to his home here, after having spent several days looking over the apple prospects in Ingham county.

In an interview he said that the country districts surrounding Lansing and Mason were full of trees looking like the apple prospects in Ingham county. In an interview he said that the country districts surrounding Lansing and Mason were full of trees looking like the apple prospects in Ingham county.

Complaints Made On Assessments. Between 40 and 50 complaints relative to assessments in this county have been filed with the state tax commission, and about the first of August the commission will send out field workers to begin the examination of the assessments.

The commission received a wire from James R. Pinley, an eminent engineer making a valuation of the mining properties of the state, in which he states that he has all the data at hand for completing the valuation of the iron and copper mines, and has finished the field work in the copper region.

Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest. Towel Bars, Soap Dishes, Bath Seats, etc. Value \$10.00. Donated by Wilkinson and Bassett.

Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest. Electric Flat Iron Value \$5.00. Donated by HUSTON HARDWARE COMPANY.

Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest. One Barrel Birmingham Flour Value \$5.00. Donated by COBB-STANLEY-HARRIS COMPANY.

Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest. Five \$106.00 Piano due bills Value \$500.00. Donated by W. H. HOGE & CO.

**\$1,000**  
**in Prizes!**  
 To be distributed by the BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC in its great prize voting contest, the Capital Prize to be an elegant **\$400.00**  
**OAKLAND PIANO**

**The Progressive Merchants of Birmingham Have Contributed the Following Valuable Prizes Printed Below, and Will Give the Eccentric Prize Vote Coupons**

- Rules and Regulations Governing Contest Are as Follows:**
- ANNOUNCEMENT**—The Piano and Popular Ladies' Voting Contest will be conducted fairly and honestly on business principles, with justice and fairness to all concerned. With the above principles the contest will be an assured success.
  - PRIZES**—The capital prize will be an Oakland Piano. Also other valuable prizes will be given to the amount of several hundred dollars, which are announced herewith.
  - CANDIDATES**—Young ladies in this and adjoining towns are eligible to enter this contest, and the party receiving the largest number of votes shall receive the beautiful \$400.00 Oakland Piano, and other premiums will be distributed in accordance with contestants' standing at the final count.
  - TIE IN VOTES**—Should any of the contestants tie in votes, The Publisher's Music Company will award a prize similar in accordance with standing at the final count.
  - VOTES CLASSED**—Votes will be issued in the following denominations: New subscriptions, 600 votes..... \$ 1.00 Renewals, 500 votes for..... 1.00 Renewals, more than one year, 600 votes for..... 1.00 Back subscriptions, 400 votes for..... 1.00 Five-year new subscriptions, 5,000 votes..... 5.00 Ten-year new subscriptions, 12,500 votes..... 10.00
  - INSTRUCTIONS**—Results as to standing of votes will be issued after 30 days. No votes will be accepted at less than regular price of paper concerned in this contest. No one connected with this paper will be allowed to become a candidate in this contest or work for candidate.

Contest to run not less than 90 days. Closing of contest will be announced 25 days in advance of closing. The right to postpone date of closing is reserved if sufficient cause should occur. The contest shall close on a day which will be announced later. Ten days prior to closing the judges will carefully lock or seal ballot box and take the same to the bank, where the same will be kept in a place where the voting can be done during business hours and locked in a vault at night until close of contest, when the judges will take charge and count same and announce the young ladies winning in their turn.

The last 10 days all voting must be done in sealed box at Bank. Put your coupons in a sealed envelope, which will be furnished you and put same in ballot box. This will give every one a fair and square deal.

Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest Towel Bars, Soap Dishes, Bath Seats, etc. Value \$10.00 Donated by <b>WILKINSON &amp; BASSETT</b> Plumbing, Heating and Sheet Metal Work We give a 25-vote Coupon with each \$1 cash purchase. ASK FOR COUPON	Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest One Pair Ladies' Shoes Value \$5.00 Donated by <b>V. NIXON</b> Dry Goods, Notions, Shoes, Gents' Furnishings We give a 25-vote Coupon with each \$1 cash purchase. ASK FOR COUPON
Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest Electric Flat Iron Value \$5.00 Donated by <b>HUSTON HARDWARE COMPANY</b> General Hardware We give a 25-vote Coupon with each \$1 cash purchase. ASK FOR COUPON	Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest Chaffing Dish Value \$5.00 Donated by <b>W. H. HOGE &amp; CO.</b> General Hardware We give a 25-vote Coupon with each \$1 cash purchase. ASK FOR COUPON
Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest One Barrel Birmingham Flour Value \$5.00 Donated by <b>COBB-STANLEY-HARRIS COMPANY</b> Groceries and Drugs We give a 25-vote Coupon with each \$1 cash purchase. ASK FOR COUPON	Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest Five \$106.00 Piano due bills Value \$500.00 Donated by <b>W. H. HOGE &amp; CO.</b> General Hardware We give a 25-vote Coupon with each \$1 cash purchase. ASK FOR COUPON

Place your order with the Eccentric for your 1912 Calendars