

DYING IN JAIL.

"We Could Have Escaped But For the Woman."

They Tried to End Their Lives When Capture Was Certain.

Erring Wife of Warden Soffel Gave Her Husband Chloroform.

Bulletin.—Butler, Pa., Feb. 1.—12:20 p. m.—The Biddles are believed to be dying, and, contrary to expectations, Jack may pass away first.

Inflammation has set in, in his bowels, which were torn to pieces, with bullet wounds, and it is said he cannot live long.

Ed Biddle is in a dying condition. He is in convulsions and the death rattle has been detected in his throat. Mrs. Soffel has developed pneumonia and her condition is more serious than ever.

Butler, Pa., Feb. 1.—Cornered on a snow-covered highway, seven miles from here, the two fleeing Biddles, with their accomplice, Mrs. Kate Soffel, gave battle yesterday afternoon, just at dusk to three Pittsburg detectives. The fugitives were all wounded, vanquished and captured. The officers of the law did not receive a scratch. Mrs. Soffel was wounded at the first shot, according to her own statement. The battle raged along a roadside, and Winchester, shotguns and revolvers were used. The Biddles were defiant to the last, and only succumbed from loss of blood after the officers shot in to them at close range. The capture was made at about 5 o'clock at a point seven miles northwest of here, on the New Castle road, between Mt. Chestnut and Prospect. Previous to that time the Pittsburg officers had several times secured a trace of the fugitives and had passed them at Mt. Chestnut. The detectives made inquiries at a point within 200 yards of where the trio was stopping to get dinner. The detectives went on to Prospect after securing every road in the vicinity, and there they telephoned to every surrounding town. They telephoned to Mt. Chestnut and secured the information that the suspects had taken dinner there and were just about leaving. Jumping into the sleigh with which they had come from Butler, and for which a fresh team had previously been engaged, the party started back at full speed for Mt. Chestnut. The Biddles and the party of detectives saw each other about the same time. The fight which followed was full of sensational incidents.

After being almost killed the two men and the woman were taken to Butler, the men placed in jail and Mrs. Soffel in a hospital.

Mrs. Soffel is resting easy. Her only wound was made by a bullet which penetrated the left breast within an inch of the nipple. It was from a .32-calibre revolver and coursed around the fifth rib on the left side, lodging under the shoulder blade.

About 3 o'clock doctor G. K. McAdoo operated on her, removing the bullet.

Mrs. Soffel tells two different stories of the shooting, one to the effect that she shot herself during the fight and the other that she was shot by Edward Biddle. The bullet did not go through her outer garment, which indicates that the shot was fired by herself or by Biddle by putting his hand under her coat. A legal battle is expected when the Pittsburg authorities arrive today. It is said the only way the Pittsburgers will be able to secure the Biddles will be by a writ of habeas corpus. The Butler authorities will fight against their being taken away.

From the statement made last night by Biddle, dying in his cell, it is evident the escaped convicts and their accomplice had arranged to commit suicide in case capture became imminent. In addition "Jack" also told how they escaped. The manner of getting out of jail, according to his statement was as has already been published. He says Mrs. Soffel helped them to escape, but would not say that she supplied the saws. The sawing of the bars of the cells, he says, was completed January 14, and that several times previous to the day on which the escape was made their plans failed through some little detail. "Jack" again reiterated that he never killed anyone and that he never put a bullet into anyone except Keeper Reynolds. He said the first crime he ever committed was assisting to rob a liquor store at Carnegie, but admitted that he had participated in a number of robberies after that. After they had left the jail they went to a house near a railroad in Pittsburg. They remained there all of Thursday. The people in the house, "Jack" said, when they read of the escape from the jail recognized them and would only let them remain after the Biddles gave them a "bunch of money." They remained at the house until Thursday night.

Leaving it as soon as it grew dark, Jack says he wanted to stay there and that Ed was also willing to stay, but that "the woman" was nervous and afraid they would be caught. "I wouldn't let them go alone," Jack said, "and as soon as it grew dark, we went down the street and took a Perryville ave. car. We rode to the end of the line and from there walked until we reached the farm where we stole the horse. If it had not been for the woman we would not have been caught, for we could easily have gotten another horse, and by this time been more than 100 miles away. It's a lead pipe cinch that we could have escaped but we could not let that poor woman go by herself. She did all she could for us—betrayed her husband, deserted her family—all to help us out, and we would have been a great deal worse than we are thought to be, if we had thrown her down.

"When we saw the officers coming toward us on the road, we knew it was all up. We did not fire a shot at the officers but agreed to kill ourselves. I shot myself in the mouth." "Ed shot himself over the heart and the woman shot herself in the breast. We knew we had no chance to get away and we knew we would swing if taken back and that is why we wanted to kill ourselves."

Pittsburg, Feb. 1.—District Attorney John C. Haymaker, left for Butler at 10:45 this morning. He stated that he did not think he would have any difficulty in straightening out the tangle at Butler in connection with the arrest of the Biddles and also said that if it was at all feasible the Biddles would be removed to this city at the earliest possible moment.

The declaration by Edward Biddle that he did not shoot Detective Fitzgerald and was not implicated in the Kahney murder is given no credence by Superintendent of Police Demmel

and Detective Kelly.

Former Warden Soffel has made the startling revelation that he had been under the influence of chloroform during the night when the Biddles broke jail. He believed the anesthetic was administered by his wife. The Butler officers demand half the reward of \$5,000 and in order to hold the prisoners warrants were sworn out for the Biddles, charging them with felonious shooting, in attempting to kill Mrs. Soffel. District Attorney Haymaker says the position taken by the Butler officials is wholly untenable.

As there is nothing to hold Mrs. Soffel as a prisoner Mr. Haymaker will prefer charges against her of felonious assault and battery and assisting prisoners to escape from a place of confinement.

Kubelik's Luck.

Chicago, Feb. 1.—When Jan Kubelik, draws his bow across his violin this afternoon he will be richer by nearly \$22,000 for his four concerts in Chicago and records of the Auditorium theater will be broken.

FLOOD

Pouring Through Canal Valley,

Sweeping Away Lives and Property.

Picture Painted by an Akronian.

Mr. Buchtel Not Alarmed by the Prospect.

The valley of the canal flooded, the rubber shops inundated, houses swept away, and many people drowned by a flood filling the valley from Water st. to Main st.—this is the picture painted by an Akron man in writing to Representative Wm. Buchtel asking that he use his influence to see that the reservoirs south of the city shall not be converted into public parks and the like. He contends that some farmer or other person for spite, or some such reason, might cut the reservoir embankments and let loose a flood of water from the reservoirs and Long lake which would sweep all before it. "Fiddlesticks," said Mr. Buchtel. "There would be no such danger, but for that matter the bill introduced does not apply to any of our local lakes or public lands."

Mr. Buchtel returned from Columbus, Friday evening. Speaking of the bill to abandon the canal, he said he did not believe it would pass, much as many people desire it. He has in view a measure providing for a commission to appraise and sell in parcels the canals and State lands, if the bill goes through, a member of the proposed body to be the State Engineer, Mr. Charles E. Perkins. Mr. Buchtel says the canal waters are necessary to Akron and her factories and must be secured to this city whenever the canals shall be abandoned.

I Have Absolute Faith In the Future, Says J. P. Morgan.

J. Pierpont Morgan stands on record as a staunch believer in a continuance of the country's prosperity. When asked if he thought the turn had been reached, he said:

"Such a question scarcely needs an answer, for the facts speak for themselves. The phenomenal prosperity of the country is so self-evident that you have the answer to your very hand. More; not only is the prosperity here, but all the signs, all the promises, all the indications are that it is here for a long time to come. I have absolute

USED GASOLINE IN THE LAMP.

A Mistake, But Fortunately, the Damage Was Small.

The mistake of using gasoline in a lamp, under the impression that it was oil, very nearly resulted in a serious fire at 1208 South Broadway, Friday evening, at 6:12. One explosion occurred, and the firemen averted another by pitching a lamp from the house. The explosion was in the residence of Mr. Aaron Hubler, and fire departments 4 and 6 responded to the alarm. The fire was soon put out, and damage done amounted to scarcely more than \$10.

AKRON TO HAVE LARGEST

Delegation at Municipal League Meeting.

(Special Correspondence.)—Columbus, O., Feb. 1.—It is expected that at least thirty cities and towns of the State will be represented at the annual meeting of the Ohio League of Municipalities, which is to be held here next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Despite the fact that Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo and Dayton will all send delegates, the largest delegation is looked for from Akron, Secretary Griffin saying that he expected there would be at least 25 delegates present from the metropolis of Summit county.

Xenia has given notice that the next meeting is wanted there, and Mayor Linkhart of that city, will be a candidate for president of the League.

LARGEST

Attendance the High School Has Ever Had.

Professor Roney, of Chicago, who trains the "Roney Boys" and several large boy choirs in Chicago, addressed the pupils of the High school Wednesday afternoon. His talk was particularly directed to the training of boys' voices.

Both High school societies have started in with unusually bright prospects for the term. The Academic society initiated 22 new members and the Philomathean 26. This is the largest number of new members that has been received into the societies for several years.

The High school, this term is crowded to its utmost capacity. The number of pupils actually attending is greater than it ever has been.

The chapel has been re-seated, so as to secure the best results in music. Each pupil is assigned a definite seat which he is to retain throughout the term.

GATES HAS MADE A MILLION

By Getting Hold of Links Wanted by the Pool

New York, Feb. 1.—John W. Gates has made another coup and is said incidentally to have made a million dollars, perhaps more, by the sale of a group of roads to the big railroad pool—The Morgan-Hill group. He indirectly has become the medium through whom control of certain "Link" railroads of the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys has been obtained for the Burlington. The deal is said to involve \$10,000,000 in money and more in railroad securities.



J. P. MORGAN.

"MY CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN ABUSED."

—CHIEF OF POLICE DURKIN.

ORGANIZED.

Barberton and Norton Democrats Arranging Primaries.

Democrats of Barberton and Norton township organized Friday night to make arrangements for holding the spring primaries. W. A. Morton was elected president; James McNamara, secretary, and A. J. Lusk, treasurer. An Executive committee composed of two members from each ward in the village and four from the township was also elected, as follows, with W. A. Morton, as chairman: Ward A, Manuel Wertz, John R. Davis; B, Wm. Mitchell, Moses Hastings; C, John Paul, Wm. D. Prutzman; D, A. A. Alt, Geo. Weyrick; from the township, Dr. S. S. Wagner, Fred J. Ries, jr., John Wiser, John Meneer. A meeting will be held Wednesday evening, Feb. 12, to set a date for holding the primaries.

HOURIET

Pathfinder's New President.

Succeeded the Late N. R. Steiner.

He Has Long Been Interested In the Order.

Mr. U. F. Houriet was chosen Supreme president by the trustees of the Pathfinder at their meeting Saturday, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late N. R. Steiner. T. Harvey Smith, of Massillon, treasurer of Stark county, was chosen to fill the place vacated by the promotion of Mr. Houriet, who was formerly Supreme outside guide.

Mr. Houriet is one of Akron's most prominent younger business men, being connected with the Akron Realty Co. He was an intimate friend of Mr. Steiner and will prove a worthy successor.

The new trustees of the Pathfinder are: G. C. Berry, Fred E. Smith, Dr. W. C. Jacobs, C. A. Stebbins and U. F. Houriet.

PRIMARIES

Will be Arranged For In Two Weeks.

The Republican County Executive Committee will meet in Walsh block Feb. 15, at 1 p. m. to arrange for the primary election in April.

NEW CHOIR

Will be Led by Mrs. Frances Marvin.

A new choir was organized at the West Congregational church Friday evening to be led by Mrs. Frances Marvin, who will also be the soloist at this church the coming year. Mrs. Marvin and the choir will have charge of the music at the church tomorrow.

A General Shaking Up of the Police Department Promised.

The Result of Charges Against Operator Russell Will be the Beginning.

"If my charges against Patrol Operator Edward J. Russell are proven true," said Chief of Police Durkin, Saturday morning, "the result will be merely an incident in a general crusade I am about to make for better police service. Heretofore, I have had little worry over the conduct of the officers, owing to the fact that I had abundant confidence in them. It is now plain that my confidence has been abused, and it is only with a view to the proper discharge of my duties that I have begun a crusade.

"Mr. Russell is accused of neglect of duty and falsifying records of reports of men on beats. It has been complained that some of the officers on beats have not been serving full time, that they have occasionally knocked off earlier than usual, and that the records showed that they had rung up regularly. This is what is aimed at in the charge of falsifying records. Now, if my charges against Mr. Russell are sustained, it will also be self-evident that other officers are guilty of misconduct."

It is known that some vigorous complaints have been made by letter to the Board of City Commissioners against certain officers, but all such letters have been promptly turned over to the Chief of Police. In some instances the attention of such officers

have been called to the complaints against them, and if circumstances warranted it, they have been reprimanded. In most instances, the letters have been signed, but the signers when requested to do so, would not appear to stand by their charges.

There is a disposition among some of the older officers to accuse that a number of the latest additions to the force believe themselves to have acquired their positions wholly through political "pulls," and to imagine themselves guarded against punishment for any minor offense they might commit. In view of this, an effort will be made to show that although politics may figure in getting a man on the force, it will not be suffered to interfere with his service.

Mayor W. B. Doyle, when spoken to with reference to these matters, declined to give an expression of opinion. "I have been watching the Russell case," he said, "and as it may be necessary for me to make a recommendation later, it would be impolitic for me to express an opinion now."

Hearing of charges against Operator Russell, to have been held Saturday, at 1:30 p. m., has been postponed to Monday. Mr. Russell sent a certificate from his physician, stating that he was physically unable to attend a trial Saturday. He was taken sick suddenly in the morning.

WILL MEET TO TALK OF NEW LAW.

Summit and Mahoning County Representatives to Get Together.

Representatives Wm. Buchtel and C. F. Seese plan to meet the Representatives of Mahoning county in Columbus, Monday night, and discuss with them a new form of government for Akron and Youngstown, in case the Pugh-Kibler bill, giving a new form of government to all cities, does not become a law, which is considered unlikely.

"Our general idea is," said Mr. Buchtel, Saturday, "to frame for Ak-

ron and Youngstown a bill changing the form of government for the two cities so as to have the City Commissioners elected instead of appointed, reducing their number to two or three and making the Mayor an ex-officio member of the Board. I believe that some such law can be enacted and, should the Pugh-Kibler bill pass, it will supplant anything else that may have been done and no injury can result and no expense will have been incurred."

Fountain Pens Add

To the Cost of the General Assembly of Ohio.

(Special Correspondence.)—Columbus, O., Feb. 1.—Legislatures come high, mighty high, but we must have 'em, at least the people seem to think so. The present General Assembly has been in session just four weeks and \$56,000 has already been appropriated for "contingent expenses," that is for the payment of the members' salaries and mileage and the

salaries of the small army of employees. Even this amount does not cover near all the expenses, for there is still some money due the members. Then there is a bill of about \$500 for fountain pens, with which every one of the members has been supplied. These pens cost \$3.50 each, and it is the first time in the history of the State that they have been supplied to all the Legislators.

GAS CAME BACK,

And a Normal Supply Is Promised This Evening to Local Consumers.

But it is thought the see-saw play of the natural gas is at an end, "with the victory on our side." After answering about 3,000 questions, in a non-committal way, the clerks at the East Ohio Gas Co.'s office were able to answer at 9:30 Friday morning: "It's on again." And Manager Terry said: "The break in the main seven miles on the other side of the Ohio river, has been permanently repaired. The gas was turned on at half-past nine in the morning and by night the supply will be normal. I trust that all our patrons will use great care to avoid accidents, and I think that within a few days the service will be all right again."

Many cold suppers were eaten Friday evening, and breakfasts were little better. In many instances people had to go to bed earlier than usual to keep warm. Many people have gone back to coal, and the Akron Gas Co. has been receiving orders almost by the hundreds.

Funeral of Edwin McCauley.

The funeral services of Edwin McCauley, a prominent citizen of Hudson, who died of Bright's disease Wednesday evening, were held Saturday afternoon. Mr. McCauley was 39 years old.

The Weather:

GENERALLY FAIR TONIGHT AND SUNDAY, EXCEPT SNOW NEAR LAKES.

Declined to Pay Fire Insurance, Claiming That Liquor Was Kept In the House.

The case of Mr. Lizzie Veon vs. the British Merchant Insurance Co., which has been pending in Common Pleas Court for some time, was on Friday marked settled at plaintiff's cost, without record. The contention was over a fire insurance policy. Mrs. Veon conducted a hotel, known as the "Kidney House," in Stow township. The building was insured, it is said, upon condition that no liquor be kept in it.

Not long after the policy was obtained the building burned down, but the insurance company declined to pay the policy, claiming that it had been discovered that liquor had been kept in the house. Mrs. Veon denied this and brought suit to obtain payment of the policy. In the settlement she received almost the full amount of the policy, but was obliged to pay the costs.