

SISTERSVILLE DAILY REVIEW

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SISTERSVILLE, W. VA., THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 18, 1905.

PRICE, ONE CENT.

POLICEMAN SHOTS WIFE ACCIDENTALLY

He Was Cleaning Revolver at His Home When One Of the Chambers Was Discharged.

Harry Downs, a Wheeling policeman, fatally shot his wife at 12:20 o'clock yesterday afternoon. He was cleaning his revolver, when the weapon suddenly exploded, the 38-calibre bullet passing through his wife's abdomen, resulting in her death about twenty minutes later.

Mrs. Downs was preparing dinner at her home at the corner of Chaplin and Twenty-seventh streets, at the time, and her husband was standing at the table beside her, the two within a foot of each other. He was oiling the weapon, a blue steel 38-calibre revolver, and the weapon was pointed in her direction, when, supposedly, an unintentional touch upon the air trigger, sent the bullet on its course of death.

Nobody witnessed the pathetic act but their eldest child, a boy 12 years of age. Frightened by the scene he could barely understand, he rushed into the street, and though he could not talk, his fright rendering him speechless, the neighbors saw from his actions that something unusual had occurred, and ran into the home.

They saw the apparently lifeless body of Mrs. Downs grasped in the arms of her husband. Dr. Mary Baron, who was at a near-by house, was called, and a few minutes later the family physician, Dr. A. B. Nichols, arrived on the scene, but the bullet had made its work all too certain, and surgical aid was powerless.

The husband was heart-broken. He carried his wife to another room, where, after tenderly laying her on the bed, he knelt beside her and held her to him, as though he would prevent, by his strong

arms, her spirit fleeing from him. Kneeling beside the bed, the grief-stricken husband clung to her, and sobbed as only a strong man can when his heart is broken. For more than an hour he knelt there, placing his wife's arms around his neck and imploring her to speak to speak to him, and it was only by the earnest pleading of friends that he was taken away.

The kitchen, where the fatality occurred, presented a most pathetic appearance. The table had been set for dinner, and the dishes were all in their places, filled with food, but not a morsel had been touched, as the accident occurred just as they were about to sit down to their dinner. Her sleeves were rolled up, as was her custom when working about the kitchen, and the whole house was in the disorder incident to cleaning house.

The unfortunate victim of the accident was, before her marriage, Miss Laura Friend, and the family home is in the country back of New Martinsville. Two brothers live in Wheeling, Fred and George. Two sisters surviving are Mrs. Anna Nelson and Mrs. Tillie Ingold. The latter lives at New Martinsville.

Officer Harry Downs was but recently made a member of Chief Clemans' force. Previous to his experience as a policeman he had worked in the mills in the vicinity of Wheeling.

Mrs. Downs was 34 years of age, and leaves three children, the oldest, a boy, Harry, is aged 12 years, and there are two girls, Lola, aged 7, and Hulda, aged 4. Mr. and Mrs. Downs had been married thirteen years.

New Phase Of Murder Of Henry Blackshire

A new feature of interest has been developed in the Blackshire murder case, by the offering of a reward by Mrs. Blackshire of \$250 for the arrest and conviction of the persons who killed her husband. This offer was made public in the Grantsville Chronicle Monday. On that same day, Sheriff Gainer thinks he earned part of the \$250 by putting Mrs. Blackshire in jail.

Taking the ground that Mrs.

Blackshire is guilty of the murder of her husband, her reckless throwing around of the money expected to be realized from his insurance in different kinds of rewards, point to another and more parent motive for the crime. The officials think they have found in the woman's desire to marry her deceased sister's husband, who, it is said, has been living at the Blackshire home ever since the murder.

James Jones Makes Confession

James Jones, the suspect arrested and held for the robberies and outrages committed in Wellsburg, W. Va., the last few months, which have resulted in arousing the citizens to a grim determination to find the guilty parties, yesterday made a confession to prosecuting Attorney Geo. W. Mcary, implicating a number of persons in the affairs.

As a result of the confession to Miller, Miles Ralph and Harry Roth were arrested yesterday and lodged in jail. The prosecuting attorney is convinced, however, that Roth had nothing to do with

the case, and he will probably be discharged. The hearing of the accused men will take place today.

Jones admitted being connected with several of the recent outrages, some of which have resulted almost fatally. Prominent citizens returning home near midnight, would be waylaid and struck down from behind. Tuesday bloodhounds were placed on the trail of the guilty parties and a scent which led to the home of Jas. Pryor, a respectable colored man, was followed. The authorities do not believe Pryor had anything to do with the case.

Master Perry Strohl Meets With Accident

Master Perry, the 8-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Strohl, of West Rexford street, had the misfortune to break a leg last evening. The limb was broken

half-way between the knee and hip joint. The accident was caused by the lad jumping over a small ravine and alighting across an iron pipe. Dr. C. E. Kahle reduced the fracture.

Waterways Convention Will Soon Be Called

Special to Daily Review.

Cairo, Ill., May 18.—The steamer Queen City, with the rivers and harbors committee aboard, arrived from the upper Ohio last night and passed into the Mississippi. The boat returned to this city shortly after 8 o'clock. A banquet was tendered the committee later in the evening.

The following resolution was adopted at a meeting on the Queen City this morning:

"Resolved, That for the purpose of inducing the government to adopt a more liberal policy for

the improvement of the waterways of our country, the Ohio Valley Improvement Association be requested to invite within thirty days from date one representative from every waterway improvement association in the country and such other persons as it may deem proper to a conference at Cincinnati for the purpose of devising and carrying out a plan for holding a national waterways convention during the early part of the next session of congress." The Queen City will depart from Cairo at midnight.

Gompers and Mayer Still In Conference

Special to Daily Review.

Chicago, May 18.—Samuel Gompers, chief figure in the union labor ranks in America, and Attorney Mayer, representing the employers' association of Chi-

cago, held a long conference lasting until last midnight. They did not come to a definite understanding, but arranged for a continuation of the conference until this morning.

A Revolution Is Said To Be Imminent

Special to Daily Review.

Manchester, Eng., May 18.—The Guardian says a crisis is imminent in Turkey. Turks have suffered several terrible defeats in

Yemen, province of Arabia, which have never been reported by the press. The Sultan is furious with the heads of his military department. It is thought a revolution is imminent.

Plague Report Strenuously Denied

Special to Daily Review.

St. Petersburg, May 18.—The reports that plague has broken

out among soldiers at Harbin, Manchuria, are strenuously denied here.

Praying For the Destruction Of Fleet

Special to Daily Review.

Odesia, Russia, May 18.—Tens of thousands of copies of a remarkable proclamation issued by

social democratic revolutionists calling upon people to hope and pray for destruction of Rojstvensky's fleet, has been scattered broadcast.

Garrison Well Equipped For Siege

Special to Daily Review.

St. Petersburg, May 18.—Latest Vladivostok advices state the garrison now there numbers 50,000 and well equipped to stand a siege for a year if necessary. Cattle,

coal, provisions and ammunition are there in abundance. It is reported several torpedo boats belonging to Rojstvensky's fleet have returned to Litant, Russia, in a damaged condition.

Vessels Have Headed Northward

Special to Daily Review.

Hong Kong, May 18.—Information has reached here that the

Baltic fleet left Honkohe Bay last Sunday, the vessels starting northward.

Mallory Is Now State Champion

F. E. Mallory of Parkersburg, is the champion marksman of West Virginia. He won the championship yesterday afternoon at the meeting of the West Virginia Sportsmen's Association, at Parkersburg, where one of the

features was the contest of this honor. Fifty targets were shot at in the championship race. Mr. Mallory and F. E. Sample both broke 45. In the shoot-off, to determine which of the two was entitled to the honor, Mr. Mallory made a score of 22 out of 25 targets, while Mr. Sample broke 17.

Forrest Statue Unveiled at Memphis

The statue to Gen. N. B. Forrest, the famous confederate cavalry leader, was unveiled at Memphis, Tenn., Tuesday.

Little Miss Bradley, a great grand-daughter of the dead hero, pulled the silken cord which exposed to view the handsome monument. The ceremonies at For-

rest Park began with an invocation by the Right Rev. Thos. F. Gailor, Protestant Episcopal bishop of Tennessee. Gen. S. T. Carnes then made a brief speech, giving a history of the monument. He was followed by Gen. Geo. W. Gordon, who delivered the dedicatory address.

FARMERS GIVEN SALTY DOSE

Supreme Court Decides Land-Owners and Not Lessee Must Pay the Taxes On Oil.

A special from Charleston says that a recent opinion of the court of appeals will have a tremendous effect on the land-owners of this county. The decision was made on March 28, in the case of Peterson vs. Hall from Wetzel county, and the opinion was by Judge Brannon. It is as follows:

"A lessee under an ordinary oil lease has no vested taxable estate in oil still in the ground either before or after the discovery of paying wells. The oil is taxable only in the name of the land-owner."

This spells confiscation to many of the farmers and land-owners of this county.

A land-owner receives a royalty of but one-eighth of the oil, but he is responsible for the increased value which the other seven-eighths has brought to his land. As the county court of this county has directed the assessors to go back five years in assessing taxes on oil leases the laying of such assessments and taxes will result in taking the entire farm to pay the taxes. The oil man is not responsible. He will escape by paying taxes only on what oil he has stored while the owner of the land

will have to pay the taxes.

The agitation to ferret out and locate the man who is responsible under the new laws for taxes has resulted in the discovery that the land-owner already burdened with the increase of taxes will have to foot other heavy bills if he has been so unfortunate as to have had oil or gas wells on his farm. He will also suffer in the case of leased coal lands.

For some reason the decision has been overlooked until the Southern Law Reporter in its issue of yesterday takes up matter. It thinks the question to be one of the utmost gravity.

Specials from Fairmont state that leading lawyers of that town say the decision is plain and its effects will be those stated. They are very much interested on account of the agitation which has been started in the county and believed also that it will prove a veritable boomerang. They are pointing out that it is merely another of the monstrosities foisted on the people of the state under guise of tax reform and its discovery is only confirmation of the claims of those who opposed the laws while they were under discussion.

Stranded Vessel Is Now Afloat

Special to Daily Review.

New York, May 18.—Cunardor Caronia, which grounded Tuesday afternoon a mile off shore at San-

dy Hook, while en route to Liverpool, was floated this morning. The vessel was apparently uninjured and resumed voyage without delay.

Over 50,000 Paid Honor To Late Veteran

Special to Daily Review.

New York, May 18.—New York paid honor today to the late Hiram Cronk, the last soldier of the war of 1812. The body of the veteran was taken to Cypress Hill Cemetery this morning and interred in Victoria Hill, where sixty of his comrades lie, with mil-

itary honors. Over 50,000 paid honor to the late veteran yesterday.

An escort of U. S. soldiers and National Guard of New York accompanied the remains to the cemetery, where taps were sounded and three volleys fired over the grave.

Man's Last Words Were Protestations Of Innocence

Special to Daily Review.

Hartford, Conn., May 18.—Gershon Marx, aged 74, was hanged in state's prison this morning. His last words were protestations

of innocence. He was convicted of the murder of a farm hand by the name of Paul Rodecki. Marx is also believed to have murdered another farm hand.

Three Buildings In Small Town Burned

Special to Daily Review.

St. Marys, W. Va., May 18.—Fire destroyed the residence of S. D. Snyder, the Junior O. U. A. M.

hall and badly damaged the home of Amos Wagner, at Hebron, a small town in the rear of Pleasants county. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Delegates Being Lined Up For Election

Special to Daily Review.

Winona Lake, Ind., May 18.—With nearly all 700 commissioners present, the general assembly of

the Presbyterian church opened this morning with a sermon by Retiring Moderator Henry. Delegates are being lined up for election of a new moderator.

Novel Suit Instituted

The city of Clarksburg has a damage suit on its hands which in point of novelty exceeds any action of its kind heard of for a long time. E. E. S. Rogers of Dola, W. Va., has instituted suit against the city of Clarksburg, in Magistrate Moses Shaffer's court, at Brown, for the recovery of \$125—the value of a quart of whiskey taken away from him by the city

police when he was locked up in the city calaboose a couple of weeks ago for drunkenness, and which he claims was never returned to him, and also \$10 for damages resulting from the deprivation of the liquor from him during the time he was incarcerated in jail. The summons was served on City Clerk W. H. Cole last evening.