SHORT CUTS IN STATE NEWS

The Latest News From All Over the State

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

Hagerstown.—Soft coal in Hagerstown is retailing for $9 a ton, the highest price ever known for soft coal here. Dealers say they do not hope for any immediate relief from the high prices. Very little coal is being received in Hagerstown and stocks are low.

Chestertown.—W. W. Hubbard and other members of the Potomac Poultry Food Company have decided to build a plant at Crisfield. This company was organized for the manufacture of agricultural lime from oyster shells. The new plant will cost $150,000 and employ 30 to 40 persons. The main office is in Baltimore.

Centerville.—With not a single applicant in the field for superintendent of school of Queen Anne's county the Board of Education will meet in special session this week, confronted by the necessity of prompt action in the selection of a successor to Byron J. Grimes, who resigned last week to accept a post as head of the public schools in Washington county.

Hagerstown.—Charged with having intoxicating liquor in his pocket that was not secured upon prescription, H. C. Smith was held for the action of the Federal grand jury by United States Commissioner Alexander R. Hagner. His bail was fixed at $150. The arrest was made under the Volstead act and was the first one made here under that act.

Frederick.—In his annual report to the Aldermen, Mayor Gilmer Schley recommended that the city tax rate, if possible, be kept at $1. The total receipts for the year were $144,280.65; disbursements, $123,209.94; balance, exclusive of Liberty bonds, $21,070.71. A total of $21,294.45, including a new automobile fire engine to the United Company, was expended for the three fire companies during the year.

Cumberland.—A taxi-cab and the automobile of Philip Mixsell, Washington street, collided on the National pike, near the Six-Mile House. Jessie Robey, Martinsburg, W. Va.; Harry Morris, Mrs. Elmer Dumire and Ada Roby, in the taxi, driven by a chauffeur named Sprigg, were injured. Jessie Roby so seriously that she was taken to the Allegany Hospital. Crispen Oglebay, in the Mixsell machine, was also removed the same institution. Both have scalp cuts and body bruises.

Havre de Grace.—Closing exercises of the Havre de Grace High School were held Friday night in the city opera house. J. Walter Huffington, of the State Department of Education, delivered the address. County Superintendent C. Milton Wright conferred the diplomas. The class night exercises were held Thursday evening. The baccalaureate sermon was delivered June 13 by the Rev. Paul Walenta, pastor of the Presbyterian Church here. The graduates were Louis Barkey, Lillian Barnes, Annie Cooper, Margaret Foard, James Foard, Mary Hill, Joseph Haut, Helen Jones, Katherine Kennedy, Isabel Mitchell, Helen Maslin, Katherine Maslin, Josephine Quirk and Elizabeth Silver.

Chestertown.—The County Commissioners for Kent county fixed the tax rate for the coming year at $2.51 on the $100. The State tax is 36 cents, making a total of $2.87. This is the highest tax rate ever declared in Kent, the next being $1.87 a few years ago. The rate last year was $1.32. Under the law the County Commissioners are compelled to levy certain sums for specified purposes. Last year the schools were allowed $27,000, while in this levy $118,996.97 is provided. Roads last year cost $26,000, as required by law, and $24,864.92 extra. This levy provides $40,000 for roads. The amount in the cash levy in 1918-1919 was $131,163.71; certificate levy, $37,137.60; total, $168,301.31. The cash levy this year is $236,580.42; certificate levy, $97,700.96; total, $334,281.38.

Cumberland.—The statement of Col. D. John Markey, of Frederick, who mustered in members of Company G, First Regiment, Maryland National Guard, here, that he could not understand why the miners of Maryland opposed the National Guard, since the State Federation of Labor convention and the State executive committee of the Federation of Labor indorsed the National Guard, has brought a denial from Francis J. Drum says the American Legion only was indorsed. Mr. Drum is also president of the United Mine Workers of this district. The statement of Mr. Drum has drawn fire from Capt. John F. Zapf, of Company G, who denies that the National Guard is opposed to labor, declaring that it does not want the O. K. of any organization, either capital or labor; that it goes along regardless of either.

Frederick.—Low-neck or sleeveless evening gowns or both will be barred from Hood College in the future. This announcement was made by Miss Helen Price, dean, in a letter that has been sent to the mothers and guardians of all students. The college has an enrollment of about 300 young women and is the largest institution for the higher education of young women in the State outside of Goucher College, Baltimore. The decision is a move to check radical fashions and to bring about more conservative styles of female attire.

STATE CAPITAL

$2,195 For Land Sought At $1,000.

Annapolis.—An effort was made last winter to have the General Assembly authorize the sale of some House of Correction land to W. Fleming Lankford, son of the warden of the institution, for $1,000. The effort failed, but a bill was passed authorizing the Board of Prison Control to sell the tract at auction.

This sale was held at Waterloo Station, on the property, and it brought $2,195 net to the State, the purchaser to pay all expenses of the sale. It was knocked down to Samuel Leibowitz, but, according to Secretary Robert D. Case, of the Prison Board, Mr. Leibowitz was acting for the younger Lankford.

The land is a piece of the Gardner tract, consisting of about 8¾ acres, lying along the Baltimore and Washington Boulevard, and has a four-room house on it. The Gardner tract of 50-odd acres was bought for the House of Correction during the war. An effort was made last fall to have the Board of Prison Control agree to sell the corner of it lying across and along the boulevard to Mr. Lankford.

Frank Metzerott, a member of the board, objected and there was a deadlock, because Charles T. Crane was too ill to attend the meetings. Finally a special meeting was called at the death-bed of Mr. Crane, and there the sale was authorized by a vote of two to one.

It was decided, however, that the assent of the General Assembly was necessary and a bill to confirm the sale to Lankford was introduced by State Senator Wolfe and reported favorably from the Finance Committee. When the report was made Senator Oliver Metzerott stated that he saw no reason why the sale should be made, unless the whole Gardner tract was sold, and that in any case the price was too small.

He offered to give the State $2,000 for the land, with the idea that he could resell it for $500 to $1,000 profit. Chairman McIntosh, of the Finance Committee, thereupon asked that the bill be recommitted for amendment. The amended bill, which merely authorized the Prison Board to sell the land at auction to the highest bidder, was passed.

On Way To Convention.

Maryland's main delegation, head by Governor Ritchie is on its way to the Democratic National Convention at San Francisco.

The party, numbering about 30 delegates and their friends, was given a rousing farewell Sunday just before its members boarded the 12.45 P. M. train from Union Station.

Five members of the "big eight" were on hand. They were Governor Ritchie, Joshua W. Miles, J. Walter Lord, Thomas H. Robinson and Ogle Marbury. Senator John Walter Smith, who is a delegate-at-large, will not make the trip. He has given his proxy to Dr. J. Hubert Wade, chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, to represent him at the meeting of the National Committee to be held prior to the convention. Dr. Wade left Saturday.

Robert Crain was the remaining member of the "big eight" unaccounted for.

Frank Kelly, a delegate from the Fifth district, left Saturday with a party of friends, which included Judge Vincent J. Demarco.

Almost all of the remaining delegates were in the Governor's party. They included W. Irving Walker, of Queen Anne's county; Curtis E. Crane, Kent; Charles R. Disharoon, Wicomico; Alonzo B. Sellman, Carroll; Thos. V. Wedge, Baltimore county; Joseph P. Kennedy, Baltimore city; John J. Mahon, Baltimore city; William I. Norris, Baltimore city; Dr. Frank J. Powers, Baltimore city; William F. Jacobs, Baltimore city; George Arnold Frick, Baltimore city; Edward J. Colgan, Jr., Baltimore city; Daniel J. Loden, Baltimore city; Harry L. Riall, Baltimore city; W. Meade Holladay and A. Theodore Brady, Anne Arundel; John Keating, Allegany; William Grove, Frederick; "Cy" Cummings, Montgomery, and William Miller, Garrett.

The Governor's personal suite included his secretary, W. Oscar Anderson, and Ogle Marbury, Mrs. Albert C. Ritchie, the Governor's mother, was at the station to bid him farewell.

War On Overloaded Trucks.

The State Roads Commission and the Motor Vehicle Commissioner cooperating will declare war on overloaded trucks driven over the State roads. Chairman John N. Mackall, of the Roads Commission, and Col. E. Austin Baughman, Motor Vehicle Commissioner, each will furnish a deputy to patrol the roads in a big truck equipped with portable scale. Truck drivers carrying too heavy a load will be obliged to unload their extra cargoes and will be arrested and prosecuted, according to Mr. Mackall.

"Colonel Baughman and I agree on the subject of overloaded trucks," said Mr. Mackall. "If the practice of overloading trucks is not stopped it is hard to tell how long the roads will last. The wear and tear on them from over loaded trucks is very heavy."

Belair.—Judge and Mrs. William H. Harlin, of Belair, have announced the approaching marriage of their daughter, Elizabeth, to Cushman Lyman, of Walla Walla, Washington. The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. Dr. John I. Yellott, rector of Emmanual Protestant Episcopal Church, on Wednesday, June 30, at the home of the prospective bride's parents. During the war Miss Harlan was a nurse in France, and was decorated. She was a member of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Unite.

First "4th of July" Celebration

By John Dickinson Sherman

THOUSANDS [illegible] citizens had [illegible] streets of Philadelphia where congress was assembled, for it was known that the final vote on the Declaration of Independence would be taken that day. Since the hour of the assembly of congress the old bellman of the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall had been in the steeple. He had placed his little grandson at the door to give him the word when the announcement should be made. As hour after hour passed by and no announcement came the old man shook his head and said sadly, "They will never do it."

Suddenly a shout came up from below and there stood the little blue-eyed lad clapping his hands for joy and shouting, "Ring, grandfather, ring!"

So the old grandsire swung the big iron tongue and the Liberty Bell, clanging 100 times, sent its brazen notes throughout the land proclaiming that the United Colonies were and of right ought to be free and independent, and there was a tumult of rejoicing in the city.

This in effect is the first Fourth of July, as many an American schoolboy has been taught it. It reads well and there is a thrill in it. But it has one large fault—it isn't true. As a matter of fact there wasn't any real "Fourth of July Celebration" at all in 1776. There couldn't be, for the reason that the Declaration of Independence was a continuing operation that lasted pretty much the whole summer of that year. Incidentally, its culmination was July 2, instead of July 4. Moreover, it was not until 1777 that July 4 was fixed upon as "the day we celebrate." And it was in 1777 in Philadelphia that the first Fourth of July celebration was held.

To get the history of the Declaration of Independence straight, we must start with the fact that the American Revolution was not begun for the achievement of independence. The American colonists began with the idea of securing the right guaranteed them as Englishmen by Magna Charta, the Bill of Rights, and their own charters. The idea of separation and independence was an afterthought and an outgrowth of the hostilities faced by the British at Lexington and Concord.

The historic declaration of the citizens of Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, in May, 1775, was one of the earliest manifestations of the trend of public opinion. In January of 1776, Thomas Paine's pamphlet "Common Sense" appeared and gave the movement a tremendous impetus. June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee, under instructions from Virginia, presented to the continental congress his famous resolution which reads:

"Resolved, That these United Colonies are and of right ought to be, free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved;

"That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign alliances;

"That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective colonies for their consideration and opprobation."

Here, in fact, was the Declaration of independence in a nutshell. June 8, congress went unto a committee of whole to consider the resolution. For various reasons the delegates were not all ready to vote on it. June 10, congress postponed final consideration for 3 weeks. June 11, congress appointed a committee of five to draw up the Declaration of Independence. Lee would naturally have been made chairman, but he had been called home by the illness of his wife. Thomas Jefferson of Virginia was made chairman and his colleagues were John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut and Robert L. Livingston of New York. The committee instructed Jefferson to write out a draft of the Declaration. Jefferson did so. The committee made some changes and Jefferson then made a clean copy. Congress reassembled July 1, and the Lee resolution was passed July 2. How this action was then regarded is shown by John Adams' letter to his wife, in which he said:

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generation as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverence by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, bells, bonfires, and illumination from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore."

Jefferson then presented the report of the Declaration committee, the document now known as the Declaration of Independence. It was adopted the afternoon of July 4. John Hancock, as president of the congress, affixed his signature. Charles Thompson countersigned as secretary. It was then printed and sent off to the several colonies. July 15, the clerk was instructed to prepare the document for signatures. Properly engrossed, it was signed by all who were present—50 members. Others signed in September and one member, Colonel McKean, did not sign until 1781. Seven members, for one reason or another, never did sign it.

Pennsylvania, being the first colony to receive its Declaration of Independence, was the first formally to make public the action of congress. July 8, a general election day in Pennsylvania, was chosen as the time. A crowd of about 1,000 gathered near the platform erected by the Philosophical society seven years before from which Rittenhouse observed the transit of Venus. Mounted upon this, Colonel John Nixon read the document in his big voice and winsome Deborah Logan, leaning over the wall of the Norris homestead, which was upon the present site of the customs house, heard him quite plainly. Both she and Charles Biddle, writing of the scene in their diaries, make the comment that "few respectable persons were present." This was not remarkable, for Philadelphia's wealthy class of that day was outright Tory in its sympathy and John Dickinson, Edward Biddle, Thomas Willing and the others expressed its sentiments accurately when they voted against the Lee resolution.

After the reading the crowd gave three huzzas and took down the king's arms from the state house. The bell in the tower boomed its message, Christ church bell keeping it company and the funny old guns of the Association battery down at Old Swedes' church, roared out their salute.

The Philadelphia Fourth of July celebration of 1777 was a public demonstration, planned in advance. Fortunately we have a short contemporary account of what took place. The Pennsylvania Gazette, published weekly by John Dunlap, tells in its issue of July 9, 1777, of this first of a long line of Independence day celebrations. Here is the full account:

"Friday, the fourth instant, being the anniversary of the independence of America, was celebrated in this city with demonstrations of joy and festivity.

"About noon, all the armed ships and galleys in the river were drawn up before the city, dressed in the gayest manner, with the colors of the United States and streamers displayed. At 1 o'clock the yards being properly manned, they began the celebration of the day by a discharge of thirteen cannon from each of the galleys in honor of the thirteen United States.

"In the afternoon an elegant dinner was prepared for congress, to which were invited the president and supreme executive council and speaker of the assembly of this state, the general officers and colonels of the army and the members of the several continental boards who were in town.

"The Hessian band of music taken in Trenton the twenty-sixth of December last attended and heightened the festivity with some fine performances suited to the joyous occasion, while a corps of British deserters taken into the service of the Continent by the State of Georgia, being drawn up before the door, filled up the intervals with feux de joie.

"After dinner a number of toasts were drunk, all breathing independence and a genuine love of liberty and commemorating the memories of those brave and worthy patriots who gallantly exposed their lives and fell gloriously in defense of freedom and the righteous cause of their country.

"Each toast was followed by a discharge of artillery and small arms and a suitable piece of music by the Hessian band. The glorious Fourth of July was reiterated three times, accompanied with triple discharges of cannon and small arms.

"Toward evening several troops of horse and corps of artillery and a brigade of North Carolina forces which was in town on its way to join the grand army were drawn up in Second street and reviewed by congress and the general officers.

"The evening was closed with the ringing of bells and at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks, which began and concluded with thirteen rockets on the common, and the city was beautifully illuminated.

"Everything was conducted with the greatest order and decorum and the face of joy and gladness was universal.

"Thus may the Fourth of July, that glorious and ever-memorable day, be celebrated through America by the hosts of freedom from age to age till time shall be no more. Amen and amen."

"Scientific" Legislators

For lack of technical knowledge, legislators are sometimes guilty of passing measures that are soon found open to severe criticism and sometimes fail to accomplish the end which was intended and desired. To overcome this condition an Australian doctor has come to the fore with a scientific first aid for legislators. He suggests that "royal commissioners of science" be appointed in each house of the Australian parliament, who should have the right to be heard at the bar of the house on any matter in which science plays a part. They would devote their whole time to this work and be paid such salaries as would attract men of the highest talents.

Roman Way With Peace Negotiators.

In the brave days of the early Roman republic the consuls might indeed negotiate and sign treaties of peace on their own responsibility. But if the senate and people failed to ratify, the correct practice was to surrender the consuls to the enemy. Thus, according to Cicero (De Officiis III., 30) Titus Veturius and Spurius Postumius were delivered up to the Samnites, with whom they had negotiated an unsatisfactory peace. And on a much later occasion Caius Mancinus, who had negotiated a peace treaty with the Numantini which the senate failed to ratify, was on his own motion surrendered to the enemy.—New Republic.

Accidental French.

An American lady in Paris wanted some water, but could not make the maid understand she wanted it hot. After several vain attempts, she explained in disgust: "Sho!" The maid brightened up suddenly, went off and returned with a pitcher of hot water. It was not until some time afterward that the lady learned from a friend that the girl had evidently mistaken "Sho!" for "chaud," which is the French for "hot."—Boston Transcript.

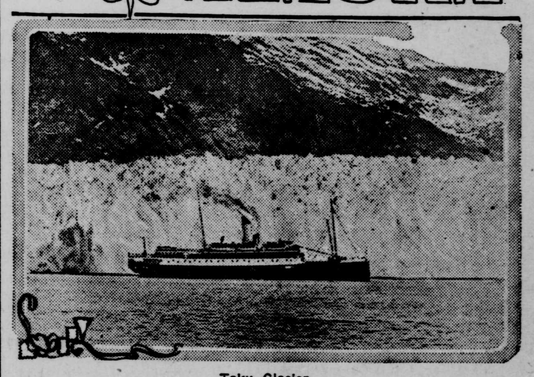
What Dreams Mean

To dream of land is a sign you will travel; to dream of owning it, promises profit and happiness. The happiness and profit will be in proportion to the extent of the land owned in your dreams. If the land is improved with gardens, houses, arbors and so on, it is a sign of a beautiful home filled with harmonious people. If it is planted with grain, it foretells wealth in proportion to its extent. If planted with vegetables, it is a sign of afflictions in the same degree. If you dream of black land, it signifies sorrow and melancholy.—Chicago Herald and Examiner.

The Oligarchy of Art.

"Ten thousand francs for that old picture? . . . I could understand it, of course, if you were offering a modern painting—with oil at its present price. But in the eighteenth century oil wasn't worth more than 4 sous a gallon!"—Le Pele Mele, Paris.

THE LURE OF ALASKA



Taku Glacier.

ALASKA, the land of mystery and silence, the land of the midnight sun and the Northern lights, the land of romance and gold, has a lure that draws men to it—and then draws them again and again. It is no mere legend that the North calls back those who have once lived in its snows and amidst its towering mountains and known the beauty of its summers. There may be exceptions among the great army of gold seekers who endured privations during the Klondike rush of 1896, but travel and entertainment conditions today are totally unlike those when, to quote Robert W. Service, "good men and bad men and bold" pressed into the Northland leaving their homes and their loved ones, "crying exultingly—Gold!"

There was an inadequate and inferior steamship service northward along the coast and no railroad to make easy the perils and hardships of passes, canyons and rock-fanged rapids where death was ever at the argonaut's elbow. Nowadays the traveler, leaving Victoria or Vancouver, speeds north a thousand miles to Skagway on a palatial steamship which winds in and out between picturesque islands and the mainland, and White Pass, the mighty Yukon, Miles Canyon and White Horse Rapids down which bold adventurers were whirled to safety or to death nearly a quarter of a century ago, are viewed in comfort from the windows of a railway train.

Up the Inside Channel.

The long inside channel from Vancouver to Skagway is so well guarded by innumerable islands from the storms of the Pacific that the passage is exposed to the ocean in but three short stretches which are quickly left behind. During the remainder of the trip past towering mountains and picturesque islands, gulfs and villages the ship is steaming through an endless lake, sometimes a few miles wide and then narrowing until one can almost throw a stone from the deck to either shore. At Alert Bay, the first port of call, the traveler finds himself in the land of totem poles, those huge, grotesque carvings representing the protective familiar, usually an animal, which each Indian selects for himself at his initiation into the tribe. Many of these poles are as tall as the houses before which they stand, and a close-range view discloses their weirdness of design.

Side by side with these strange totems of a passing race are salmon canneries packing the fish which are eaten throughout the world. Past Bella and through Queen Charlotte sound the ship moves northward to Prince Rupert and Port Simpson, and then enters United States' waters. Ketchikan, with the Stars and Stripes floating over it, is famed for its great salmon stream and thriving fishing industries. Farther north lies Wrangell with its many interesting totem poles, and then comes Juneau, capital of Alaska, from which the traveler can go by automobile, one of the swiftest things created by man, to the face of a great glacier, one of nature's slowest creations.

Wonderful Taku Glacier.

On Gastineau channel, close to Juneau, he can see three of the largest gold quartz mining plants in the world wresting the yellow metal from the rocks. Near by, too, is Lynn canal, the most beautiful fiord in Alaska, and still another wonder of the Northland is mighty Taku Glacier, an astounding mass of ice one mile long and rising from the water from 200 to 300 feet. This great glacier, from whose summit huge bergs are constantly falling with a roar to the water below, is in plain view of the passing steamer. Some of these bergs, estimated to weigh 50 tons, disappear beneath the waves and reappear several times before they finally become floating islands of ice.

The trip by coast steamer ends at Skagway, once the wildest and wickedest city in the world, but now a model of propriety and known as the "Flower City of Alaska." Hard by is the grave of "Soapy Smith," whose gang of outlaws once terrorized the town before the strong hand of the law ended his career.

At Skagway the tourist goes over the famous White Pass by rail, a steel highway that is one of the great engineering feats of the world, to Carcross. At times the train glides along the side of a wall that rises hundreds of feet, while below are the dark depths of an abyss. Majestic mountains, waterfalls and flower-bestrewn valleys please the eye as the train climbs Tunnel mountain, and then for 27 miles the railway follows the shores of Lake Bennett. Twenty miles north of Skagway is the international boundary and here the British and United States flags fly side by side.

Atlin Lake and Llewellyn Glacier.

Atlin Lake, which reflects like a huge mirror the snow-capped peaks that tower above it, is one of the scenic wonders of the North. This lake is 90 miles long and at its southern end is Llewellyn glacier, called "Big Ice" by the Indians. Out of it, apparently, rise mountain peaks which stand like huge sentinels on guard.

Continuing the trip by rail, Miles Canyon and White Horse Rapids, two historic gorges, are passed, and when the Yukon is reached, the tourist takes steamer again for a 461-mile trip on one of the world's greatest rivers to Dawson, made famous in song and story by Robert W. Service, Rex Beach, Jack London, and other writers. Dawson is still a great gold-mining center. Further north is Circle City, 80 miles south of the Arctic circle, and Fort Yukon, where the sun may be seen at midnight for nearly two weeks during June. Seven hundred miles from Dawson the Tanana river empties into the Yukon, and on the 275-mile trip up the Tanana to Fairbanks a good view is afforded, if the weather be fair, of Mount McKinley, the highest peak on this continent. All in all, the trip to "the great, big, broad land "way up yonder," as Service calls it in the "Spell of the Yukon," is one filled with rare charm and interest.

Purely Chinese Industry.

A strong combine of Chinese firms in Hongkong, headed by Yuet Loong Chan & Co., controls the importation of "Soo Mook" wood from the Philippines; and makes the red ink or paste that up and down the Chinese republic is used for inking the "chops," or seals, that the Chinese employ in affixing their signatures to documents of a formal nature. In Iloilo and other parts of the Philippines the tree is called the "cibucao," and it has its interest for Americans in that it provides also the dye which stains red the paper that the Chinese use to make the fire crackers that the American small boy has long been familiar with on the Fourth of July. Thus the tree, which is so little known to the world at large, gets rather amazingly distributed in the form of a dye, inking "chops" for China and coloring fire crackers for the United States, as well as helping in coloring Chinese cloths and stationery.

Terrors of the Tub.

One of the strangest things in this world is why a twentieth century boy thinks that bathing in a tub is a relic of medieval torture.—Dallas News.

Device Filters Hot Air.

A wire device has been patented to be hung over a heating register to lessen its blasts of hot air and filter dust from them.

The Midnight Sun at Fort Yukon.