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POLITICS OF THE DAY

PRIEST SET FREE.

Coroner's Jury Acquits Him of Murder of Miss Reichlin.

Rev. Ferdinand Walser, who was arrested in connection with the murder of Agatha Reichlin at Lorain, Ohio, was discharged from custody after a coroner's inquest had determined that "Agatha Reichlin came to her death from wounds inflicted by a stone in the hands of a person unknown."

Immediately after being released Father Walser was congratulated by the large crowd that had assembled in the Mayor's office during the hearing. Father Reichlin, the brother of the murdered girl, was the first to shake hands with the man whom he has defended staunchly since the arrest.

The inquest, which was held at Elyria before Coroner French, developed testimony in support of the theory that a burglar or some other desperate man committed the crime. Captain Ketchum

Good Democratic Doctrine. The steady but rapid spread of the referendum principle forebodes evil to the party of protection and plunder and good, and nothing but good to the party which stands for "equal rights to all and special privileges to none," and which believes in, and is not afraid to trust, the common people. Missouri is the fifth State to vote on the adoption of this system. The vote will be taken at the next general election. The other four States that have adopted it are South Dakota, in 1898; Utah, in 1900; Oregon and Illinois in 1902.

By this system of direct legislation the people are really getting back that control over legislation with which they never should have parted, and which they never "intentionally" gave up. By it they are simply reasserting the power of the majority to rule and the right of the people to veto legislation which does not suit them and to initiate, if their representatives fail to do so, measures which they wish to become laws.

It would be absurd for the people to give their representatives supreme control over legislation as it would be for a man to give his lawyer an irrevocable power of attorney to do as he pleased with the client's property. Every representative should have, and in theory has, a string to him which, when he becomes a misrepresentative, his constituents can pull. The optional referendum is such a string.

It is the system of optional referendum and initiation which is now still feeding the troops in the Philippines on embalmed beef, though Gen. Miles recommends that beef on the hoof be supplied, but there would be no profit for the beef trust in that way of doing it.

Postmaster General Payne certainly has a tough lot of employees around him, if the numerous charges made against them are any ways near true, yet only one has so far been called to account.

Alaska is the latest scene of peculations by army officers and Secretary Root has been obliged to order court-martial proceedings, but perhaps the matter will be hushed up as the smuggling cases were in Porto Rico.

Favorable signs are springing up in several States to compete with Teddy for the presidential nomination. Senator Elkins is the last one to be groomed and will, it is said, open a big barrel for the occasion. What a good time those Southern delegates will have next year.

The Railroad Merger Company does not so much care what the courts decide, if it is only allowed to continue to our legislature. Formerly our time was occupied by speculative schemes of one kind or another, but since the referendum has been a part of the constitution, these people do not press their schemes on the legislature, and hence there is no necessity for having recourse to the referendum.

It was the Democrats, aided by the Populists, who inaugurated this most excellent system in South Dakota and Utah. It is a Democratic system, and the Democratic party everywhere should make this plank in its last national platform mean as much as possible. If it stays close to the people they will yet come close to it. They cannot be fooled all the time. The referendum is the deadly enemy of the trusts and monopolies; it is an anti-trust weapon in the hands of the people. It will do away with corruption and stop bootlegging and bribery. It will greatly improve our representative system of government and, incidentally, will result in putting more honorable men in office. It will make big campaign funds unnecessary and all but impossible, and will give a poor man a chance to seek and obtain political preferment. It will, in short, take away the power of the monopolists and corruptionists and return it to the sovereign people.—Byron W. Halko.

Tariff Revision Urged.

The National Association of Manufacturers have been holding a convention, and amongst the resolutions reported for consideration was one "urging tariff revision on general lines." Last year at their convention at Detroit a similar resolution was adopted, but the Republican Congress paid no attention to such demands. Manufacturers have discovered that the tariff tax pinches them as well as the consumers and by advancing the cost of living forces increased wages. They have also discovered that the tariff fosters trusts and that the trusts obliterate competition and advance prices, thus still more increasing the cost of living and wages. The manufacturers of farm machinery are paying enormous prices for their lumber and iron, both highly protected, and this comes out of the farmers in increased cost of farm machinery.

The boot and shoe manufacturers find that the duty on hides makes dear boots. The paper manufacturers complain that the duty on wood pulp increases the cost of paper, and the list might be continued to include all kinds of raw material. Most of these manufacturers have felt the pinch of the increased duties demanded by foreign countries on goods they sell for export; for all the European countries except England are trying in this way to keep out our goods as our protective tariff keeps out most of theirs. There

Tariff Reform by Its Friends.

The plan for letting the tariff be reformed by its "friends"—which means by the beneficiaries of governmental co-partnership and special privilege—is about as reasonable as it would be to appoint a committee of foxes to devise plans or the relief and greater security of the geese.—Albany Argus.

Teodor Machnow, a Russian, is 8 feet 8 inches tall, and is still growing.

WASHINGTON Gossip.



Some time ago an investigation showed that there were 2,393 colored persons in the various executive departments in Washington who enjoyed an annual compensation of \$1,870,023.98. Certain offices of prominence under the government like the registrar of the treasury, recorder of deeds, ministers to Hayti and Liberia and others drawing good salaries have been occupied by colored men almost continuously since the emancipation. The policy of all of the Presidents from Grant's time has been to appoint colored men to post offices in the villages throughout the South, where most of the patrons of the office are colored. It has also been customary to recognize the negro leaders by giving them prominent offices in Southern cities. A recent enumeration shows that Mr. Cleveland appointed four negroes to prominent offices, Harrison eight, McKinley fifty-two and Roosevelt fifteen, eight of whom were reappointed to the same offices held under McKinley.

Bucket Brigade Checks Fire.

Fire nearly wiped out the town of Sulphur Springs, a number of stores being damaged. A bucket line, in which nearly every man, woman and child in the town assisted, saved the rest of the business center. The damage was as follows: Thompson's business block, \$2,000; Thompson's general store and stock, \$6,000; Isaac Cory's residence, \$2,400; Cory's business block, \$900; Charles Fately, stock of merchandise, \$2,000; Fately's millinery stock, \$400; Masonic Lodge paraphernalia, \$700; E. M. Berry, general stock, \$100.

Invention Worth \$1,000,000.

Rev. James Stafford, pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Hazleton, several months ago perfected a stopper to make bottles non-refillable, and secured letters patent on his device. It is said that a distiller of Lexington, Ky., has offered him \$1,000,000 for his invention, conditioned that it is a success. It is said the stopper is a very simple device, and that it does all that is claimed, making the bottle non-refillable.

Two Youths Were Killed.

The bodies of Emmet Gwin, 18 years old, and Albert Green, 19, both of Cochrane, were found alongside the B. & O. Southwestern Railway at Aurora. It is supposed that they were accidentally killed by a passing freight train.

Mother and Daughter Die From Burns.

Mrs. Alfred Long and daughter Fanny, aged 3 years, died at Frankfort from burns received by a lamp setting fire to the bed clothing. Clarence, 3 years old, was seriously burned.

State Items of Interest.

Clinton Lane of Atlanta was killed, near Columbus, by a log rolling on him.

Milton Shirk, multimillionaire banker and brother of Elbert Shirk of Chicago, was stricken with paralysis at Peru.

The State convention of Modern Woodmen defeated the proposed increase in insurance rates as it applies to Indiana.

Ground was broken at French Lick for a two-story building to cost \$5,000 for a new State bank to be capitalized at \$30,000.

George W. Beck, a prominent Valparaiso resident, filed suit for divorce from Mary Beck. Beck is 85 and his wife 75. Cruel treatment is charged.

Henry T. Kuhlmeier, Adams Express agent at Vincennes, was arrested, charged with embezzlement. He is alleged to have taken \$2,122. He has a wife and five children.

Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bacon of Indianapolis received notification from Rev. E. H. Hughes of Malden, Mass., that the latter had accepted the presidency of De Pauw University.

While on their way to church at Weisbach chapel, three miles east of Shoals, Ora Melvin and Edward Ritchison, farmer boys, quarreled and Ritchison fatally cut Melvin with a knife.

One of the best known hotels in the West during the early canal days, known as the Lagro House at Lagro, is now without a tenant, and may be torn away. It is the first time it has been unoccupied in fifty years.

The bodies of two young men were found in the Cochran yards of the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern Railroad by the section hands. They were identified as Albert Green, 19, son of Engineer James Green, and Emmett Gwynn, 20.

A warrant has been issued against Edward S. Bingham of Montgomery for attempting to blackmail George B. Brown and the citizens of Montgomery, in writing them threatening letters, saying that unless the citizens and Brown placed \$2,500 in a given place the author would destroy the town with fire and dynamite. Mr. Bingham is a prominent young man and clerks in a store owned by his mother.

The Appellate Court of Indiana has decided that cooking onions is bad for the neighborhood, thus affirming a decision by the lower court. Campbell Bros., merchants, brought suit for an injunction against James Shoyer of New Castle and an order was issued by the Circuit Court forbidding the cooking of the onions, and from this Shoyer appealed. The question was then carried to the Appellate Court.

William Patterson, a member of one of the prominent and wealthy families of Muncie, and a brother-in-law of George F. McCulloch, president of the Union Traction Company, was shot and fatally wounded on a recent night. The tragedy is shrouded in mystery. One story is that Patterson was shot about 3 o'clock in his own home. One bullet passed through his stomach and the other through the groin. Still another story is that he was shot while on the street at an early hour. The most generally accepted report is that the shots were fired while he was in his own room, but by whom is not known.

John Schwantz, journeyman cooper, 50 years old, committed suicide in the Vandalia Railway yards at Terre Haute, by laying his head across a rail and waiting for a passing train, which decapitated him. Schwantz had accumulated \$5,000 in realty and had a bank balance.

William Lemon, a farmer, near Fulton, has been missing from his home for several days. A short time before he left home, he devised his two farms to members of his family. It was thought that he had gone to relatives in Kansas, but inquiry shows that he has not reached there.