

DEPT. GETS FIRST CALL YESTERDAY

Gary Laddies Summoned to Two Blazes and Make a Good Showing Under Chief Feeley—Alarm Bell New Thing in Town.

FLAMES DESTROY A BARN; KILL TWO HORSES

Loss Is Estimated at \$800 and Is Not Covered by Insurance—Several Houses Threatened By Spread of Burning Prairie Grass—Change in Personnel Is Made

The first day of actual operations of the Gary fire department gave them plenty of work to do in their line, for one day at least. There were two fires which they were called upon to extinguish, the second resulting in the loss of a barn on Euclid avenue, owned by John Zanzibar, in which two of his horses were killed.

The first run which the new fire department made was to extinguish a threatening prairie fire at Sixteenth avenue and Broadway. The hose cart, with the full complement of men, dashed down the street with the familiar clanging of the bell heard in most cities the size of Gary, but for the first time in the steel city. When they arrived they found that the fire had endangered several of the buildings in the vicinity, but was not a hard one to fight.

Second Fire More Serious.

At 10:10 o'clock last night the second alarm was sent in and the fire time proved to be more serious. On Euclid avenue the barn of John Zanzibar had caught on fire in some unaccountable manner, and before the department could arrive, it was a mass of flames. An effort was made by the watchmen who discovered the flames to rescue the horses, but their efforts proved futile.

The quantity of the hay in the barn and the nature of the structure used made it almost impossible to put it out from the moment that it was discovered. By the time that the fire department arrived, but a few minutes later, it was useless to attempt to save the building. There were no other buildings in the vicinity, so that no other property was endangered. The loss to the building and the horses is estimated at about \$800, with no insurance.

A change was made in the personnel of the fire department today by the substitution of Steven Gersay as fireman in place of Edward Neray, who failed to pass the physical examination.

The Philippines.

Systematic investigation of the Philippine islands reveals the fact that the group consists of 2,600 islands, while before the American occupation the number was estimated at 1,200.

Philosophical.

A girl with freckles feels just as philosophical about them as the man does about being in a stock market panic.—New York Press.

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Fine Old Sweet Catawba Wine	35c	1.50
Fine Old Sherry Wine	35c	1.50

Do not miss the opportunity of this sale and a great deal of more articles also at the very lowest prices.

IS HELD UP AT THE POINT OF A REVOLVER.

William A. Watt of Indiana Harbor Is Relieved of His Roll.

POLICE HAVE DESCRIPTION

Hope to Lay Their Hands on Three Highwaymen Who Committed the Deed.

(Special to THE TIMES.)

Indiana Harbor, Ind., Dec. 17.—William A. Watt last evening reported to the police that he had been held up at the point of a revolver by three masked highwaymen, who succeeded in taking \$44 from his pockets. Fortunately he was able to secure a good description of the men and Chief of Police Higgins now believes that the guilty parties will be apprehended within the next twenty-four hours.

The attack occurred about 7:15 p. m. last evening, while Watt was returning from a walk to the South Bay hotel. As he neared the Baltimore & Ohio tracks on Michigan avenue he saw the three men spring from behind a building, but decided that they were laborers working on the railroad, who had been startled by his approach. Imagine his surprise, when, on catching up with them, one of the highwaymen pulled a revolver from his pocket and leveled it at Watt at the same time commanding him to "Throw up your hands."

The man's two companions then searched Watt's pockets, finding four \$10 and a small amount of change. They overlooked a solid gold watch and chain, valued at \$75, in their haste to get away, and as soon as the money had been secured they raced down the Lake Shore tracks toward Buffington. Watt went immediately to the police station, but the officers could not locate the perpetrators of the attack. Watt is a single man, in the employ of the Indiana Steel company's local plant, and lives at the Kaufman hotel on Michigan avenue.

LAND TITLES CLOUDED.

Ownership of Lots in Gary Questioned in U. S. Circuit Court in Chicago.

Ownership of thousands of dollars' worth of land in Gary, which was sold to private individuals by the Chicago-Tolleston Land & Investment company, following a decision in the federal courts Oct. 22, 1895, may be invalidated on the ground that all the parties involved in the proceeds were residents of Illinois, and that the federal courts were without jurisdiction.

Henry A. Bradford, 84 Adams street, through his attorneys, Lasley & Lasley, today filed a motion before Judge Kohlsaat in the United States circuit court to have set aside a decree entered by Judge Jenkins in the federal court in 1895 in the case of the Land & Investment company against him and other defendants, in favor of the company.

By the decree of the court, Bradford, alleges, his interests in the company, which amounted to \$2,000, were wiped out, although he says he was never subpoenaed at the trial and no issuance of a court order was made to summon him in the matter.

INJURED AT THE STOVE

Mrs. John Coman Upsets Boiling Kettle and Is Scalded.

(Special to THE TIMES.)

Indiana Harbor, Ind., Dec. 17.—While preparing the noon-day meal yesterday Mrs. John Coman of the Casa Romana, Hundred and Thirty-seventh and Cedar streets, received injuries which may yet prove serious. Her arms and face are badly scalded and scalded as the result of the overturning of a large pot of boiling liquid. Mrs. Coman does not know how the accident occurred, but believes that her dress must have become caught in the handle of the pot containing the liquids. Her frantic cries for assistance brought neighbors rushing to the scene, and Mrs. Coman was found to be in terrible agony, the boiling water fairly eating into the flesh.

Dr. F. H. Sauer was called, who administered medical relief. The physician declares that while there is no immediate danger to be expected from the wounds, unless they are given proper attention, blood poisoning will ensue. Mrs. Coman was confined to her bed yesterday, but reported that the burns were not so painful as at first.

FIANCEE'S PROGRAM SAVES POLICEMAN JOB.

Accused of trying to seduce a married woman, Policeman Ernest Griffith of the Kensington station, was saved yesterday by the custom of his sweetheart, Miss Beta Anders, 19045 Avenue M, of keeping her theater program. Mrs. Melvia Anderson, 2595 One Hundred and Sixteenth street, was the complainant. Miss Anders told the civil service board Griffith was with her at a theater the night Mrs. Anderson said he kissed her, and produced her program to prove it. The board dismissed the charge.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL PROMISES

Assures Gary Officials That Crossing Gates Will Be Installed at Once on Broadway; Alarm Bell Will Be Provided.

BIG SAND BANK TO BE CLEARED AWAY

Huge Pile in Rear of McBride's Saloon Has Heretofore Served as a Dangerous Obstruction to View—President of Town Board and Railroad Official Have Conference.

Officials of the Michigan Central railroad decided yesterday to put in gates at their Broadway crossing in response to the letter sent them by the town board. The official who has charge of the gate system conferred yesterday with Mayor Knotts upon many subjects in connection with the improvements of conditions at Gary, and the head of the town received much encouragement.

The gates at the Broadway crossing will be put in at once, and the watchman's shanty will be erected on the east side of Broadway. The gates were asked for by the board for both Broadway and Madison avenue, but the official told Mr. Knotts that he had not thought of the latter street. Mr. Knotts replied to the effect that the gentlemen could not have been connected with the legal department of his company.

The Michigan Central, in accordance with its custom, has taken the initiative in providing for improved service and protection to the public. Aside from that road there has been heard from was the Wabash, who stated that in their judgment there was no need for any action on their part, which the board regarded as party justification.

Other Improvements Promised.

The Michigan Central not only promised to put gates in yesterday, but they promised the city relief in several other ways. They agreed to have a bell put in at the Madison street crossing, if they could not possibly arrange to have gates put in this year. This will afford some relief, as the teamsters and pedestrians coming from in under the Gary and Western viaduct will be able to hear the bell if they cannot see the train.

Another improvement which they are planning is the tearing down of the sand bank along their right of way, between Broadway and Washington street, in the rear of McBride's saloon. When asked if this big bank of sand would be removed by his company, the official said that the city could remove it if they wanted to. Mr. Knotts then got busy and in a few minutes found a man who was looking for some filling and he induced him to haul the sand away for the sand itself. This will be done some time this week, and the first of the improvements will have begun.

CANTATA WAS SUCCESS

Men's Club Entertained in Congregational Church Last Night.

(Special to THE TIMES.)

East Chicago, Ind., Dec. 17.—The cantata given in the parlors of the Congregational church last evening was a pronounced success, about 200 attending. The program was well appreciated and showed the result of considerable practice by members of the Choral society, who under the direction of Miss Mary A. Stone, rendered Dudley Buck's "Coming of the King." The solo work was beyond criticism, while the general chorus work was excellent.

The first part of the program was devoted to local and outside talent. Mrs. H. L. McCoy of Magoun avenue stirred her audience by the rendition of a musical recitation on the civil war. As an encore she gave a delightful little German sketch, which fairly captivated the audience. Miss Mary Lee Morrison of Whiting also rendered two selections which were well received and won for Miss Morrison showers of commendation. Mr. Even Lloyd of Magoun avenue was in excellent voice as he rendered "Arm, Arm, Ye Brave," and his massive voice resounded in every corner of the auditorium. A lano solo by Miss Florence Lewis also proved to be of excellent merit.

EMPLOY 100 AT SHIPYARDS.

One hundred men were put to work in the yards of the Chicago Shipbuilding company in South Chicago yesterday. Shortly after Jan. 1 this force will be increased to 400 men. They will be kept busy all winter at least. There are twenty-eight large lake steamers tied up for the winter in the Calumet river.

CORPORATIONS ALL SOULLESS? NO! NO!

President Knotts of Gary Shows Positive Proof of Fact.

Yesterday President Thomas E. Knotts was stunned, not by any adverse incident, but by the peculiarity of discovering a strictly honest corporation, and a railroad corporation at that. In his mail yesterday Mr. Knotts received a letter from the Northern Indiana Transportation company, and like all other city officials, hastily jumped to the conclusion that another franchise was wanted, some litigation had been started, or trouble of one character or another which is generally looked for from a railroad, was about to ensnare him.

When, however, upon opening the envelope a check was discerned tucked snugly away in one corner, the mystery deepened and a hasty perusal of the contents of the letter hastily followed. The context of the letter was as follows:

The Letter.

"Dear Mr. Knotts: Inclosed find a check for sixty dollars, which is the amount we overcharged the Commercial club on their recent junket trip to South Bend. We did not know who to send the check to, so we thought that you would be the proper person. Respectfully, etc."

Mr. Knotts was not only pleasantly surprised, but all of the members of the Commercial club will have a somewhat more pleasant recollection of the trip. The contract was made for the trip with the Chicago, Lake Shore and South Bend line, but the traction line was used on the trip to Mishawaka and from South Bend to Laporte and Michigan City. A peculiar incident of the sending of the check to the mayor was that the mayor did not accompany the club on the trip.

COURT BOOSTERS MEET

On Saturday night at the Gary hotel delegates from the Gary Commercial club, Retail Merchants' association, Gary Bar association, Real Estate board and Carpenters' union will meet for the purpose of planning an active campaign for the establishment of a superior court in Gary.

For Friday evening a meeting of the Gary Bar association has been called, and it is thought that before Saturday all the other organizations, such as the Gary Medical society and the Contractors' and Builders' association, will hold meetings and select delegates to attend the meeting and discuss various measures toward starting an active campaign to secure the superior court for Gary.

MR. SHOCK GRILLS THE ALDERMAN

In Heated Session of East Chicago City Council Last Night Councilman Schock Makes Sensational Remarks.

(Special to THE TIMES.)

East Chicago, Ind., Dec. 17.—Despite the objections of Councilman Andrew O'Girr, at a hot session of the council, on the grounds that the council was trying to "railroad through" a franchise for an Indiana Harbor to Whiting street car system, the council last evening passed the document to its second reading, and will pass it with a two-thirds majority on its special meeting Friday evening. Their action will have to culminate at this special session, as the L. M. Erb interests have deposited with the city officials of Whiting a check for \$100, which is to be forfeited unless they have a franchise in this city before Monday evening.

Doesn't Like the Harbor.

Mr. O'Girr's attitude toward the proposed franchise is apparently one of antipathy towards the Indiana Harbor, and a prominent real estate man from that ward. O'Girr had poured forth a torrent of abuse upon the mayor and citizens of the Harbor in general, to which the Harborites took umbrage. For a few minutes it looked as though blows were about to be struck or the councilman ejected from the council chambers, but O'Girr finally was compelled to hold his peace. His mournful tale of being twenty years a resident of East Chicago and a big taxpayer, which has become almost a byword in councilmanic circles, fell on unheeding ears last evening.

How About Slot Machines?

"I represent one hundred times as much taxes as you do," retorted the irate Harbor real estate man, in the heat of his discussion, "and during my seven years of residence in this city, I have made equally as great successes as you have."

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GARY MILL WORKERS WALK A LONG WAY

Poor Transportation Facilities Cause Great Many Complaints.

The workmen of the Indiana Steel company who reside in the south end of the city, and who are compelled to be at the works at 5 o'clock in the morning, are complaining of the fact that they are compelled to walk to the plant if they wish to get there on time, as the cars do not start running in time.

The first car does not leave the barns until 4:45, which means that it is 5 o'clock before they are started. There is a small army of men who are employed in the mills for the purpose of starting fires and getting things in shape to begin the day's work. These men are compelled to get to the mills early in the morning, and by not having car service fifteen minutes earlier they must walk.

Some of these men, it is said, are planning a concerted action to get the street car company to run just fifteen minutes earlier. It is estimated by the steel company workers that there are enough of these men to fill two cars in case they were put on, as that is just the time of the morning that they would like to ride. The street car service in general is considered good, but these men are hoping that this improvement will be made.

as you have. Moreover"—and here the Harbor man shook his fist in O'Girr's face—"my earnings have been legitimate and not made through the use of prohibited slot machines." This parting shot silenced the councilman and he left the council chamber, evidently much perturbed over his inability to sway his colleagues with his logic.

Mr. Erb has shown to the council that he is financially capable of handling the franchise. When completed, the road will give service to employees of at least half a dozen large factories and mills daily. Mr. Erb last evening promised that the ground would be broken for the Whiting-Indiana Harbor division of the road on the day following the granting of the franchise. After that time the work will be urged as rapidly as possible, with a view to completing the line before next fall.

Masters of Our Own Destiny.

It is my own deed which molds my character. If I send out hatred, if I retaliate, judge, condemn, or yield to another's dominating spell, then I consciously take part in the fray, and must suffer the consequences.—Horatio Dresser.

African Pigeon Postal Service.

The French Congo has a pigeon postal service.

ENGINEER REPORTS ON HARBOR

U. S. A. Chief of Engineers Favors Improvement of Indiana Harbor and Says That the Work Will Cost \$62,000.

Indiana Harbor people are delighted over the news from Washington which is to the effect that General W. L. Marshall, chief of engineers, United States army, yesterday sent to congress a report on the preliminary survey of Indiana Harbor. The report recommends that the government improve the harbor. In part, the report says:

Text of Report.

"The work which it is proposed shall be undertaken by the general government at the present time is the completion and maintenance of the twenty-two foot channel in the outer harbor, the width and depth gradually to be increased from the ends of the piers out to deep water in the lake to provide a safe entrance for boats at all times. The cost of this work is estimated at \$62,000, with \$5,000 a year for maintenance for the first three years after completion. It is also proposed that maintenance of the inter-harbor channel, except the removal of sewage and other city refuse, shall be taken over by the United States progressively as private interests shall complete the channel and equip existing bridges with suitable draws. Any work on the inner and outer harbor is to be continued upon transfer of title to the water way of the United States free of cost."

Worthy of Improvement.

"I concur in the opinion of the district officers and the board of engineers for rivers and harbors that this locality is worthy of improvement by the general government to the extent and in the manner indicated in the reports herewith."

"In addition to the dredging mentioned reference is made in these reports to the probable necessity of additional work on the entrance piers and for an outside breakwater to protect the entrance; but no recommendations are submitted touching these matters on the ground that these improvements are not deemed essential at the present time, and action in reference to them should be largely dependent on future commercial and other developments in connection with the harbor."

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