

HARD COAL CENTENARY

TO BE CELEBRATED BY WILKESBARRE, PA., NEXT YEAR.

Anthracite First Burned in Open Grate on February 11, 1208—Supposed Original Fireplace Found to Be a Duplicate.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—On February 11, 1908, Wilkesbarre is to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the day on which anthracite coal was first burned in an open grate.

Before the experiment made by Judge Jesse Fell in his tavern in Wilkesbarre and Easton turnpike, now Northampton street, anthracite coal was held to be of little value.

Just 50 years after the experiment four young men were travelling toward Wilkesbarre. One of them was a grandson of Judge Fell.

When they arrived in Wilkesbarre they called a public meeting, to be held in the same old tavern in which Judge Fell made his experiment.

Thus they became the founders of the Wyoming Historical and Geological society. It is this organization that now proposes to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the experiment of Judge Fell.

It was at a meeting of the society that the facts concerning the old Jesse Fell grate were learned. A paper on "Where is the grate on which Jesse Fell made his successful experiment of burning anthracite coal?" was read before the meeting by Rev. H. E. Hayden.

Mr. Hayden has come to the conclusion that the original grate is not now in existence, and that "the only well authenticated grate extant belonging to Judge Fell" is that heretofore known as the Kiernan or Elick grate and now in the possession of the society.

Concerning the original grate as many as six statements are made. The first is that the grate was made of hickory withes. Mr. Hayden declares this untrue.

Next comes the Marble grate, so called because its claims were first put forth by Col. J. M. C. Marble, president of the First National bank of Los Angeles. He states that while visiting his grandfather at Wyoming he was told the story of Judge Fell's experiment.

According to this story some iron bars were set in the old chimney, which is still in existence in the Fell house, bricks were piled in front and on the sides and on the iron bars a fire of hickory wood was built. Coal was then procured and placed on the fire, and it burned nicely.

Judge Fell was so pleased, the story continues, that he took out this grate and had another more substantial one made on the following day. This, then, disposes of the original grate.

In 1858 there was no grate in the fireplace. The projectors of the historical society secured from a Mr. Carpenter an old grate which had been used by Judge Fell and placed it in the fireplace for this celebration.

COAL KILLS WOOL INDUSTRY.

Pennsylvania County Gradually Loses Business by Discovery.

Washington, Pa.—Washington county people were once wont to point with pride to the fact that their county was the first in the United States in the production of wool.

Scarcely a day passes that does not bring some Washington county farmer to the county seat with his demand for damages for the reason that his flocks have been raided by dogs.

Another reason assigned for the deterioration of the industry in Washington county is the fact that men trained by years of experience in raising sheep are fast disappearing by reason of old age.

In lamenting the decline of the once foremost industry in the county one of the old-time woolgrowers made the remark that it was a sad day for Washington county when the discovery was made that the vast bituminous coals with which the entire county is underlaid might be turned into money.

Relief Comes When Fingers Are Examined and Straightened Out.

Gallipolis, O.—The case of Robert Wolf of Couch, W. Va., is another link in the theory that the several members of the human body do not rest painlessly in the grave unless put away in a perfectly natural position.

The pain increasing, and Mr. Wolf still complaining, Mr. Phillip Wolf, a brother, and another went to the place where the hand was buried, dug up the box, and found the hand cramped in exactly the position described by Mr. Wolf.

Physicians explain that the sensation of a severed arm or foot being in place, when in fact it is cut off and buried is caused by the nerves at the end of the wound.

Illinois Central Many Years Ago Honored Noted Defendant's Father.

Bloomington, Ill.—Just at this time, when the Thaw trial is attracting so much attention, it is interesting to recall that a town on the Springfield division of the Illinois Central southeast of here was named many years ago after Jacob Thaw, the millionaire father of the famous defendant.

Shortly after the road was built the Thaw family made an inspection tour. The tour took place in the winter and the train was stalled by snow.

Reading, Pa.—A batch of cigars that were made before the civil war has just been found stored away in the old Schnader homestead near Mohnton.

Cigars Made Before War.

Whiskers Burned; Gets \$101.

Wellston, O.—S. Muel Beatty, 76 years old, has been awarded damages of \$101 by the circuit court against the Southern Ohio Gas company for the loss of a luxuriant growth of whiskers, burned off in a gas explosion in this city two years ago.

SMITH TWICE SAVED

TWO INDIAN MAIDENS RESCUED GALLANT CAPTAIN.

Pocahontas Won Famous Explorer for Whom Another Gave Up Her Life, According to Ancient Documents Just Found.

Rangor, Me.—Robert H. Gardiner of Gardiner has, in rumaging through some old papers relating to the early history of the Kennebec river, discovered that Pocahontas was not the only Indian maiden that saved the life of Capt. John Smith.

In the summer of 1614, according to the papers, Capt. Smith made a visit to the Kennebec valley, ascending the river to the chief village, where now stands the city of Gardiner.

Although Smith was a most gallant and courteous man, the princess made little headway for the object of her affairs and had no time, even if he had the inclination, for sentimental adventures.

When, having been most cordially received, Capt. Smith and his men were ready to take their departure one of his lieutenants named Hunt, a quarrelsome and ambitious man, mutilated and, joined by some of the party, set out on a new expedition, taking along with them several of the Cabassas tribe as captives.

The chief of the tribe, not knowing of the mutiny, and thinking the whites to be all of one party, pursued Capt. Smith's band with a large force, eager for revenge.

Mr. Gardiner, who came upon the record of this romantic episode, is trying to locate the grave of Sebools, with the intention of having it suitably marked.

DICKENS LANDMARK IS TO GO.

London.—"Great clearance sale, premises coming down" are the words on a placard posted on the outer walls of Cheeryble House in Cannon street, Manchester.

With the exception of a few slight internal alterations, the house stands to-day as it did when Dickens described it. It has a carved oak staircase, leading to the upper or domestic part of the premises, and all the oak doors are of exceptional width and quaint design.

GIRL EXHAUSTED BY LAUGHTER.

Physicians Unable to Check Attack and Finally Sleep Brings Relief.

Florence, N. J.—Eight hours of continuous laughter, from two to ten o'clock, with scarcely a minute of rest, was the discomfort endured by Miss Barbara Barr of this city, a member of the Baptist church choir.

Assistance Desired.

Too Late.

WHAT GOOD ROADS COST.

Yorkshire (England) Paid \$910,000 for Repairs Last Year.

Interesting facts as to the cost of main road maintenance in the county of Yorkshire, England, are sent by Consul Walter C. Hamm of Hull.

The roads were well constructed originally and are well cared for now. It is a rare sight to see a rutty or muddy country road in the neighborhood. Most all of them are macadamized, well drained and kept in good repair.

HAD LARGE JOB ON HAND.

Stork Almost Ready to Go Out of Business on One Job.

Entering his humble home, the man was vastly startled to meet the stork coming out; and when he observed that the fabled fowl was sweating at every pore, as being under great stress, a consternation seized him.

Unabashed Petersen.

Although blamed for epidemics and sundry other evils, milkmen sometimes have a redeeming sense of humor. At least a story told by Prof. John C. Scott of Northwestern university would indicate it.

Off Came the Mats.

It isn't hard to persuade women to remove their hats "in season" when you know how to go about it, says the Kansas City Star.

Training Children.

When people learn the importance of properly training the children for whom they are responsible, there will be a new era on earth.

Our Needs for To-Day.

How significant, how exhilarating, are these words! Not the life when we have passed the gate of pearl, but the life that is not, not our life when we stand on the brow of the transfiguration mount, but the life at home, or in the daily walks and common places of existence.

Unfortunate Pantomimist.

Many stories are told of misadventures in pantomimes, which, however amusing to the onlookers, are no laughing matter for the unfortunate actors.

PAPER-HANGING WITH TACKS.

Pretty Hard to Stump the Right Kind of American Boy.

When Wilbur Nesbit, author of "The Gentleman Ragnan," was a boy he lived in a small town in Ohio, and he and his brother one summer concluded that they would establish themselves in business as paper-hangers.

One week they were given the contract to paper the ceiling of a store-room. The ceiling had never been given a "white coat" of plaster, but was smooth-coated with the brown mortar.

HE WORKED HIS "SCIENCE."

New Method Employed by Satisfied and Comfortable Husband.

It is the wife who is the head of the house, and it was she who decided upon the flat—and repented immediately afterward. The building was a new one, scarcely finished, and after the parlor ceiling had fallen twice and the repair man had botched a dozen small jobs she decided to move again.

Much Used Wedding Present.

A Providence girl, who has been married about six months, had wedding cards a short time ago from an old school friend who had given her a wedding present, which of course, demanded one in return.

Teakettles That Sing.

The Japanese, who know so well how to add little unexpected attractions to everyday life, manufacture, in great variety of forms, iron teakettles which break into song when the water boils.

Had Good Eyesight.

A young man from the rural districts went to Boston, and while there visited the Harvard astronomical observatory and was allowed to look through a great telescope at the stars.

The Sneerer and His Sneer.

It is a mark of the savage. The man who sneers is that much less of a gentleman. The sneerer would bite if he was not afraid to do so.

Thinking of a Noisier Time.

Mother—Tommy, little boys should be seen and not heard when taking their soup.