

THE EXAMINATION OF BENTON'S BODY IS VERY DESIRABLE

And Villa's Promises Do Not Specify That This Will Be Allowed.

WOULD TELL THE TALE Shows Whether Death Came From Pistol or Rifle Bullets.

[Canadian Press.] Washington, Feb. 25.—Difficulties in the way of obtaining a complete medical examination of the body of William S. Benton, British subject, appeared today to complicate the inquiry instituted by both the American and British Governments into the circumstances surrounding the recent execution at Juaréz.

American officials were not sure that a promise by General Villa to permit an American representative to see the body after it was examined would be kept, and an opportunity would be afforded to examine it, and determine whether Benton died by a pistol shot, as his friends claim, or by rifle bullets fired by a squad as Villa asserts.

Will Press Villa. That the American Government's direct request for the delivery of the body had been denied, was another part of the situation which attracted attention in the official circles. It is believed further representations to General Villa, indicating the importance of turning the body over to the widow, will be made by the state department.

The promise of the United States Government to Great Britain, as cabled from London, was that every effort would be made to secure the exhumation and examination of the body.

Rebels Get Gunboat. Other overnight developments in the Mexican situation, which occupied the attention of officials, were the surrender to the constitutionalists of the Federal gunboat Tampico, giving them their first naval equipment on the west coast of Mexico, and reports of the capture of Mexican Federalists at Nuevo Laredo of Clementes Vergara, an American citizen. Secretary Bryan had arranged to go before the Senate foreign relations committee during the week, and it was expected he would be asked to give information concerning the Benton episode and other details of the Mexican situation.

UNCERTAINTY AS TO VILLA'S INTENTIONS

[Canadian Press.] El Paso, Texas, Feb. 25.—Uncertainty still prevailed here today as to what General Villa, of the Constitutional army, proposed to do regarding the request of the United States Government that he deliver to the widow the body of William S. Benton, the British subject whom he executed last week at Juaréz.

Conflicting reports of the rebel general's proposed action have been received here. A message sent by Villa to the United States consul at Juaréz, was translated to read that Benton's body would be delivered to the widow, but not at the present time.

However, Consul Letcher, at Chihuahua, where General Villa is making temporary headquarters, reported Villa declines to deliver the body, but that he will permit the widow or other relatives to visit the cemetery with American representatives, and that the body will then be reinterred in the grave from which it would be removed.

Respect to Dead. In a telegram to the widow's subordinates at Juaréz, General Villa was reported as saying: "I will not give up the body out of respect to the dead. It was interred with all religious observances, and a cross erected over it, and I will not allow the sacrilege of its removal."

United States secret service operatives said they had received information, which they did not make public, indicated that General Villa, the missing German-American, has met a fate similar to Benton's.

Constitutionalists today expressed pleasure over the reported voluntary surrender yesterday of the federal gunboat Tampico, with its crew, to Constitutional officers at Topolobampo. The surrender of the Tampico gave the rebels their first armed vessel.

INVESTIGATION REPORT.

[Canadian Press.] Laredo, Texas, Feb. 25.—United States Consul Garrett at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, last night dispatched an emissary to Hidalgo, Mexico, to investigate the reported execution by Mexican Federal Troops of Clementes Vergara, an American citizen. Mr. Garrett refused to make a statement other than to say that the case would be investigated.

DESERTED BY HUSBAND

And Two Weeks' Bride Says He Carried Off Her Savings.

[Canadian Press.] Montreal, Feb. 25.—Deserted by her husband, to whom she had been married only two weeks ago, a young woman called on the police yesterday to ask them to try and locate her husband who had, she alleged, taken with him when he left \$170 of her own savings she kept in a cushion.

The couple, whose name was withheld by the police, came here from Boston early this month and roomed in Overdale avenue. It was on their arrival here that they were married by a local clergyman. The young woman said at police headquarters that her husband was supposed to be an engineer, and had formerly been in the United States navy. She had known him for about a year.

Judge Leet, who heard the story of the young woman, said that he would grant a warrant for the arrest of the husband for the theft of the \$170, but requested the police to try to locate the man before the warrant was issued.

FOLLOW EAST ENDERS

Many Storekeepers "Shut Up Shop" This Afternoon.

The example of Wednesday afternoon off for East End grocery clerks, which went into effect today, was followed by a large number of store owners throughout the city.

A great number of stores closed up shop at noon today, and will close up every Wednesday at noon now the year round. Some of the store owners state they will also close up on Saturday night at 7 o'clock, and Wednesday afternoon at 7 o'clock.

ARCH MASONS OF THE DOWN ARE IN CONVENTION

Grand Z. Reports an Increase of Membership of Over 1,300.

FINANCES ARE HEALTHY Methods to Secure Grand Chapter For Western Provinces Was Criticized.

[Canadian Press.] Toronto, Feb. 25.—The grand chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada opened its fifty-sixth convocation in the Temple Building this morning. There were delegates from all parts of the Dominion. His Honor M. E. Comp. D. F. McWatt, of Sarnia, as grand principal, assisted by Right ex-Comp. W. R. R. Church, of Kingston, grand principal; A. S. Gorrell, M. D., of Regina, grand third principal; R. E. Comp. George J. Bennett, Toronto, grand scribe; R. E. Comp. John Sinclair, Petrolia, grand scribe; R. E. Comp. John Moore, Windsor, grand scribe; R. E. Comp. George Moore, Hamilton, grand treasurer and R. E. Comp. Lewis F. Riggs, Toronto, grand registrar, opened at 10 o'clock.

OLD TIME CUSTOM ONCE

MORE COMING TO ITS OWN

"Sleighrides" of First Settlers Revived With a Vengeance Since Weather Has Been of Required Temperature

with which the fun is enjoyed either.

Put a number of young people into a sleigh, together with a vigorous team of horses, and supply each with a tin horn to supplement his or her vocal powers, and you furnish a combination which is likely to provide cause for worry on the part of the Society For the Suppression of Useless Noises. "Nobody else is likely to be concerned, however, and the sound of the merry voices carried on the still night air is a welcome one to most citizens."

Probably the best part of the sleighride is the supper which usually follows. The keen, frosty air is a wonderful appetizer, and hot coffee and rolls are a most acceptable climax to the night's enjoyment. Many such parties have taken place in London during the past fortnight, and should the present cold snap continue, the chances are that there will be many more.

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THE TOWN IN REVIEW

City Clerk Baker appeared at a council meeting the other night all dolled up in a tuxedo and other park harness. Heretofore Ald. Tancock will wear his Prince Albert at all council meetings.

The weather's "comeback" stung this week somewhat or other reminds us of Charlie Graham's third-year leap. Colder than ever, as far as our municipal reporter is concerned.

Factory Inspector Harry Clark, with the assistance of his chief, is going to bring the city to time in providing fire escapes and necessary toilet accommodations.

The board of education took no immediate action Monday on the proposal to pass an anti-cigarette resolution. Surely Chairman Hunt isn't fond of the paper pills?

A world movement for safety at sea was noted in the London Advertiser. Captain Theophilus Valentine Hutchinson, alias M. H. O. Dr. T. V. Hutchinson, should be interested in this.

Rev. J. H. Boyd thinks the people of London can wipe out the bars within the city to time in providing fire escapes and necessary toilet accommodations.

Three Collegiate Institutes: Now watch the R. E. O. A. resolutions.

Did someone murmur that the chair-

man of the board of education had to hunt for the hardware convention that is coming to London next spring?

Industrial Commissioner Gordon Philip is the most modest city official of the bunch. Gordon never wants his name in the paper.

But somehow or other it gets there just the same.

And by the way, did you know that Mr. Philip had another name? David comes before the Gordon.

Now it's up to little David to shoot a few manufacturing Goliaths and drag them triumphantly into London.

Wonder how Manager King of the street railway likes the mayor's demand for seven additional cars. Pretty soon, his workshop will be shouting for a private coach for the chief magistrate's exclusive use.

Robert Taggart, York street, rode on the first electric car operated in London, and is still alive. Perhaps Herr Clausen could construe this into an argument for the installation of hydro in your house.

George Peters had a thousand-dollar

blaze in his candy foundry the other night. The ladyfingers must have been tumbling with matches.

We saw a thousand-dollar blaze in Charley Ward's window a short time ago, but the fire came from South Africa.

Hugh Fullerton, expert sport doppler, says Charley Murphy is the target for everybody's brickbats. Old Bill Incinerator must be the Charley Murphy of London.

While we hate to rob Oakley Smith of the honor, we must gently but firmly insist that he was not the first Sunday car passenger. We got out of a nice, warm bed to cop off that honor, and we copied.

It was quite apropos to say that Joseph Pels, soap king, had crossed the bar. But it wasn't a bar of Pels-Naptha.

The St. Thomas police are unable to locate Fred Lester, a former London man who is wanted for several offences. Fred must be as elusive as some other livers we know.

No, we are not writing these jokes on a floor space basis.

BECKER UNLIKELY

Continued From Page One.

ture for a purpose which he refused to disclose.

Jack Rose, the chief witness for the state against Becker, said today that he was ready to testify again in the case if wanted. He showed feeling when mention was made of the suggestion that Becker was made a victim in order that he and others who confessed their part in the plot might be saved. "If it can be proved," he said, "that it was a frame-up, I want to take the cell made vacant by Becker. I want also to pay the penalty, and I want to waive immunity. We must all face the judgment of God. There and there only can I be judged on the testimony I gave at the trial."

"Bridge" Weber, who is living in Passaic, N. J., refused to discuss the Becker decision. "I have nothing to say. I don't want to be bothered about it any more," he said.

LIVE ISSUES.

Continued from page 1.

parcel post system was not favored at present.

Dr. Bryce, of the immigration bureau, delivered an address on agriculture. Of the two million people who had come to Canada within the past two years, only 174 per cent had gone on farms, the rest to the industrial centers.

W. P. Gundy introduced a resolution favoring more stringent regulation of immigration with a view to excluding all but physically and morally fit. They were getting too many from the slums. The resolution was passed.

Officers Elected.

The officers elected were: President, A. J. Young, North Bay; first vice-president, R. Home Smith, Toronto; second vice-president, H. L. Meek, Kingston.

Executive—W. P. Gundy, Toronto; Col. Brock, Toronto; D. B. Wood, Hamilton; Wm. Taylor, Owen Sound; J. F. Black, Sudbury; E. C. Kingsmill, Haliburton; H. L. Janzen, Berlin; W. B. Burgevine, St. Catharines; W. J. Taylor, Woodstock; Geo. McLean, London; A. A. Wilson, Fort William; Alex. Stewart, Guelph.

Presidents of the Ontario Associated Boards of Trade, by a motion passed, elected honorary presidents for a period of three years, retiring in rotation.

Deaths and Funerals

FORMER ALVINGTON RESIDENT.

William Mitchell, of lot 4, concession 9, Moss Township, formerly of Alvington, died at Victoria Hospital last night. He was 74 years of age, and was born in Canada. He lived in Alvington for 44 years. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Isabella Mitchell, two sons, Duncanson and Neil, of Alvington, George and Peter, of Saskatchewan, Hugh, of Brantford, and John, of Walkerville, two daughters, Mrs. E. C. Kingsmill, of Haliburton, and one sister, Miss Margaret Mitchell, of Detroit. In religion the late Mr. Mitchell was a Presbyterian.

The remains were forwarded to Alvington this afternoon by Griffith and Willis, and the funeral will take place on Friday at Alvington Cemetery.

Extension at Front of Conservatory

Three stores will likely be built in an extension at the front of the London Conservatory of Music, 354 Dundas street. Nothing definite has been decided as yet, but a meeting of the directors will be held probably tomorrow and he final plans drawn up.

THAMESVILLE.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Thamesville, Feb. 24.—Miss A. L. Mayhew, of Sarnia, is visiting at her home here.

The girls have reorganized their hockey club.

Mrs. Burley Lawrence is on the sick list.

Fred Faw is in Chatham Hospital, where he underwent an operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Arnold have returned, after visiting friends in Thamesville.

Misses Vera and Margaret Muxworthy, of Alma College, St. Thomas, spent the week-end at their home here.

Mr. and Mrs. George Richards and son Glen, of Gloucester, spent a few days with relatives in town.

Many friends here of Albert O'Neal will be sorry to learn that he is ill at his home in Detroit.

The basket assembly held in the town hall Thursday night was a decided success.

Born, on Tuesday, to Mr. and Mrs. William G. Cudmore, Windsor, a son.

A number from here attended the dining party at John Miller's on Tuesday evening.

THORNDALE.

Thornsdale, Feb. 25.—Miss Thompson is visiting at the home of her uncle, Mr. W. Carrothers.

Miss L. Stanger spent the week-end at her home in London.

The Excelsior Bible Class and Literary Society will present a play entitled "The Fruit of His Folly" on Thursday at the hall on Friday evening.

Master Harold Wheaton spent the week-end with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dunkin, of London.

At the regular meeting of the Epworth League was an excellent topic on "Safeguarding Children's Youth" was given by Miss B. Hobbs. The topic for this week will be taken by Miss McKenzie.

Mr. E. McMartin, the township assessor, has begun his work.

Miss Alderson is visiting her sister, Mrs. D. Weston.

GRANTON.