

MURDER OR ACCIDENT.**Engineer L. H. Padgett Found Dead in S. A. L. Yards.**

Lexington, Jan. 12.—The new Seaboard Air Line yards at Cayce, this county, claimed its first victim early to-day, when Louis H. Padgett, one of the most popular engineers of the Seaboard system, lost his life, either by falling into a "drop pit" at the new roundhouse, or by being murdered and his body thrown into the pit. How he came to his death will probably never be known, as no one saw the fatal accident.

Mr. Padgett was to have gone out on his run this morning on passenger train No. 59, scheduled to leave Columbia for Savannah at about 7 o'clock, and when he failed to appear for duty a search was made at once. Harry Garner, night machinist at the yards, was the first to find the body and he gave the alarm. A rope was tied around the body and it was raised to the top, when it was discovered that Mr. Padgett was dead, a long gash being on the top of the head and his neck was broken. The body was still warm. Mr. Garner notified the superintendent and Dr. Weston, of Columbia, the company's physician, was called.

Result of Inquest.

At the inquest held this morning by Coroner W. C. Reed, a number of witnesses were sworn, but no one could be found who had seen Mr. Padgett in the vicinity of the roundhouse. Mr. Garner stated that he had seen the engineer at about 3 o'clock in the morning at the superintendent's office. This was the last seen of him until his body was found in the "drop pit" at 6:30, three hours and a half later.

The coroner's jury returned the following verdict: "L. H. Padgett came to his death by falling into a drop pit, which pit was open and situated in a roundhouse of the Seaboard Company, and which building was without lights."

Accident, Say Employees.

The employees at the yard stick to the theory that Mr. Padgett accidentally fell into the pit while taking a walk previous to going out on his run this morning. The roundhouse is without lights, the building being unfinished. There are ten pits in the building, but only one "drop pit," however, this being about ten feet deep.

There are those in the vicinity who cling to the idea that the engineer was first struck on the head and his body thrown into the pit to conceal the crime. There is no night watchman at the yards. It could not be ascertained to-day where the engineer boarded while in Cayce, the general foreman stating that the men had not been located at the new point long enough for them to secure permanent lodging places.

Sheriff Not Satisfied.

Sheriff Sim J. Miller, who accompanied the coroner, is of the opinion that there was undoubtedly foul play and the Lexington sheriff will run down every clue in an effort to find the truth, and it is not unlikely that the case will be reopened by the coroner.

L. H. Padgett had been in the employ of the Seaboard about fifteen years, first starting as a fireman. He was well liked by all of the employees and was rapidly going up. Up to a week ago he was freight engineer, and only last Sunday was he promoted to the fast passenger run between Columbia and Savannah, and between Savannah and Jacksonville. It was stated to-day that he was one of the most trusted men in the entire service.

Leaves Large Family.

He was about 40 years of age and leaves a wife and seven or eight children, all young girls, residing in Savannah. His relatives reside in Edgefield county and his aged mother is still living.

The post-mortem examination was made by Dr. F. R. Geiger and immediately afterwards the body was turned over to a Columbia undertaker. At the request of General Superintendent Shea, of Portsmouth, the body was prepared for burial and was shipped on the 5 o'clock train this afternoon to Savannah, where the funeral and interment will take place tomorrow. Mr. Padgett was a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and was also a member of other orders, it is said.

"Hang Heads in Shame."

"We hang our heads in shame whenever asked what South Carolina is doing to prevent tuberculosis. We can only answer, 'All that the legislature of the State will permit us to do,'" is a statement in the annual report of the State board of health, which has been prepared and ready for submission to the general assembly. A review of the work of the year and the means that have been used to fight the various diseases is contained in the annual report. Emphasis is laid on the greater value of prolongation of life by the suppression of preventable diseases than the cost involved.

ENGINEER BLAMED FOR WRECK.**Drinking Night Before Disaster July 4, Says Report.**

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 10.—The engineer had been drinking the night before and had slept less than three hours; hence the wreck on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad at C. rning, N. Y., last Independence Day, in which 40 persons lost their lives and 75 others were injured. The State public service commission so declared to-day after a careful investigation.

William H. Schroeder, the engineer thus accused, was indicted for manslaughter, but never brought to trial, the indictment being dismissed upon motion of the district attorney.

"The primary cause of the wreck," reads the commission's report, "was the entire failure of Engineer Schroeder to observe signals. The train into which he ran was protected by a full stop signal 250 feet east of the rear of the train, by a flagman 2,550 feet east and by a caution signal nearly 4,500 feet east. All three signals were disregarded."

"The investigation developed that the engineer had disregarded the duty of taking proper rest before attempting the important work of running the train. He acknowledged drinking during the evening before the accident."

"The action of the engineer should be considered as much an offence against the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, of which he is a member, as it is against the railway and the public."

RACING FOR A WIFE.**Physical Excellence Counts for Chief Merit Among Tribes.**

Among some of the ruder tribes of men, where physical excellence counts for the chief merit, the custom of running races for a bride has always been a favorite one.

Among the Huzarehs, a people of Asia, the suitors of a maiden, usually nine in number, appear in a field all unarmed but mounted on the best horses they can procure. The bride herself, on a beautiful Turkoman horse, surrounded by her relatives, anxiously surveys the group of lovers.

The girl has the advantage of a certain start, which she avails herself of to gain a sufficient distance from the crowd to enable her to manage her steed with freedom, so as to assist in his pursuit the lover whom she prefers. Whichever first succeeds in encircling her waist with his arm is entitled to claim her as his wife.

When satisfied with her position she turns round to the impatient suitors and stretches out her arm to them. Each of the eager lovers darts like the unhooded hawk in pursuit of the fugitive dove. The savannah is generally 12 miles long and three in width, and as the horsemen speed across the plain the favored lover becomes apparent by the efforts of the maiden to avoid all others who approach her.

On a certain occasion, after two hours' racing, the number of pursuers was reduced to four, who were all together and gradually gaining on the pursued. With them was the favorite, but his horse suddenly fell, and the girl turned anxiously to persevere with dismay the hapless position of her lover.

Each of the more fortunate leaders, eager with anticipated triumph, bending his head on his horse's mane, shouted at the top of his voice. She, making a sudden turn and lashing her horse almost to a fury, darted across the path and made her way for her lover. The three others instantly checked their careers, but in their hurry to turn back two of the horses were dashed furiously against each other, so that both steeds and riders rolled over on the plain.

The maiden laughed for she thought she could easily elude the single horseman, and flew to the point where her lover was. But her only pursuer was rarely mounted and not so easily shaken off. Making a last desperate effort, he dashed alongside the maiden, and, stretching out his arm, almost secured the unwilling prize, but she, bending her head to the horse's neck, eluded his grasp and wheeled off again. Ere the discomfited horseman could again approach her lover's arm was around her waist, and amid the shouts of the spectators they turned toward the starting point.—N. Y. Herald.

These Times.

Ex-Gov. Pennypacker, discussing the divorce evil in Philadelphia, said, with a smile:

"In these times one never, as the saying goes, knows where one is at. An acquaintance of mine extended his hand to me at the Historical Society the other day and cried:

"Congratulate me! I am the happiest man alive!"

"I looked at him doubtfully."

"Engaged, married or divorced?" I asked.—N. Y. Tribune.

W. L. HARRIS IN WASHINGTON.**Charleston Postmaster Investigating Status of Recommendations.**

Washington, Jan. 10.—Postmaster W. L. Harris, of Charleston, is here looking into the status of his recommendations for appointment of postmasters in South Carolina. Mr. Harris has been referee of Federal patronage for South Carolina, but since the decision of the National Republican Convention in favor of seating J. R. Tolbert as national committeeman for the State, Mr. Harris's advice does not seem to have had much weight with the administration.

The nomination of J. R. Montgomery for postmaster at Marion, Representative Ellerbe's home town, over Benjamin Miles, who was supported by Mr. Ellerbe, was in opposition to Mr. Harris's recommendation and within the past few days the president has renominated Geo. A. Reed, a negro, to be postmaster at Beaufort. It is said that this Reed nomination was made without consulting Postmaster General Hitchcock. Mr. Harris did not endorse Reed, and says that he has never recommended the nomination of a negro postmaster since he has been referee for South Carolina.

National Committeeman Tolbert also is in Washington.

A Soldier of Napoleon.

Dr. W. W. Keen, one of the most distinguished of living surgeons, sometimes tells his friends how he assisted in an operation on a soldier of Napoleon:

"In 1862, while a student at the Jefferson Medical college, Prof. S. D. Gross, my teacher of surgery, took me in his carriage to a house in the northeastern part of the city to give chloroform for him—he always used chloroform—for an operation. The patient, a man of seventy and over, had been wounded just fifty years before, at the battle of Borodino in 1812, at the time of the disastrous retreat from Moscow. The ball had buried itself in the calf of the leg and had not emerged. A mere flesh wound at Borodino was not of much account. There were other fish to fry. After lying there quietly imbedded in the tissues for half a century the bullet had at last worked its way to the surface, and finally caused an opening through the skin. One day, through this opening, the old fellow had pried it out with a hair-pin; but the wound did not get well. There was a small but annoying discharge and moderate but continuous pain. Some hard substance could be felt deep in the tissues.

"This Professor Gross proposed to remove. Accordingly, when he had laid out all his instruments, as was his custom, had whetted his knife on his boot—a fine septic procedure!—but remember it was in 1862, years before the antiseptic method was devised by Lister—he said to the patient:

"Now, my good man, lie down on the sofa, and my young friend will give you a little chloroform."

"Do you suppose," replied the patient as he straightened himself up with pride, "that a soldier of the first Napoleon wishes to take any chloroform?" Here he stretched his leg out straight and concluded with an emphatic: "Go ahead!"

"Professor Gross went ahead and never once did the old soldier wince or budge. The lump was cut out and proved to be a bony mass cup-shaped in form, that had been caused by the irritation of the ball during its long sojourn. He made an excellent recovery—in spite, too, of the boot incident. How near to me it brought the great emperor!"

PASSED AS GIRL 18 YEARS.**Police Discover Young Fellow's Secret and Arrest Him.**

Victor, Colo., Jan. 8.—After masquerading as a girl for 18 years the sex of Irene Moynahan was learned yesterday. He was arrested in La Junta by the sheriff, who, because of his masculine appearance, decided he was a boy in girl's clothing. Irene was on his way to visit his father in Bisbee, Ariz.

Until the holidays Irene had been a student in the Victor High School and all of his life had passed as a girl.

Mrs. Moynahan, when told that her son had been arrested and that his sex had been discovered, stated that she had always passed him off as a girl because of her disappointment in having two sons. Not even her husband was aware of the boy's sex, she said. This was borne out by the discovery of a letter in the boy's effects. The letter was addressed to his father in Bisbee and declared that the mother was "sending a son to him as a New Year's gift."

Robert W. Lawson, who was convicted in Laurens last week of manslaughter in the killing of his father at Clinton last October, was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. He will appeal.

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