

CONVICTS FOR CAPITAL PARKS

Attempts to be Utilized by Government in Beautifying Finances Spent in Washington.

Convicts may be employed to beautify the parks of Washington. Messrs. Theodore A. Bingham, superintendent of public buildings and grounds, has applied to the commissioners of the District of Columbia for a detail of men from the jail, who would guard, clean grounds and improve the roads and the public reservations of the capital.

The request of Col. Bingham is likely to cause objection from residents of the district who are opposed to the use of convict labor on city work, but the engineer officer is determined to carry his plan out.

"The United States pays half of the expenses of the administration of the district," said Col. Bingham, "and residents pay half. Among other things, the United States pays half the expense of supporting certain prisoners who are confined in jail on account of various crimes they have committed. It is a reasonable proposition that, since the United States pays half for their support, it should receive some return for the expenditure. I have prepared plans for certain park work which involve digging and grading, and convicts will be able to do the manual labor, leaving skilled men who will be employed the more important improvements to make."

"The appropriations usually made for the parks are small. For instance, only \$2,000 is placed at my disposal for the care and improvement of the monument grounds, which are of large extent. I have had difficulty in making the appropriations cover the work absolutely necessary to be done. With the aid of convicts better work can be done than has hitherto been possible."

LESS PRIZE FOR AERONAUTS.

St. Louis Fair Management Approves \$250,000 for Flights in 1904.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition company has issued its rules and regulations governing the aeronautical contests to be held at the world's fair in 1904. The company has appropriated \$250,000 for the contests. Of this sum \$100,000 is offered as a grand prize to be competed for and awarded under the rules and conditions given out. Fifty thousand dollars has been appropriated for minor and subsidiary prizes for competitions between dirigibles, balloons, airship motors and kites. The remaining \$150,000 is reserved for the expenses incident to the competition. The rules are:

Competition for the grand prize of \$100,000 is open to all the world without limitation as to the power used or mechanical principles involved. Each applicant must present satisfactory evidence of having at some time made a flight over at least a mile course and return with a machine similar in principle to that which he proposes to use in the competition.

As an evidence of good faith in entrance to the contest, which will be refereed when the exhibitor occupies the space assigned him with an apparatus conforming to the rules. Each vehicle shall carry at least one person during its flight. The competitors making the best average speed shall be awarded the grand prize of \$100,000, together with a suitable diploma, medal or certificate.

YOUNGEST BRIDGE JUMPER.

Wheeling (W. Va.) Messenger Boy Drove One Hundred and Fifty Feet for Sixty-Five Cents.

In full view of several hundred people, Teddy McGrane, a messenger boy, jumped from the suspension bridge over the Ohio river at Wheeling, W. Va., a distance of 150 feet, for a paltry sum. A professional high diver, showing at a street carnival in a neighboring town, had reported he would do it, but he failed to show up, whereupon young McGrane, who was one of the assembled spectators, quietly announced he would make the leap. His words were not taken seriously, but when he got 65 cents from the people close around him in the crowd he mounted the rail and dropped off, making a beautiful descent, feet downward all the way, though his body curved slightly before striking the water. He disengaged a skill that hurried to him and swam the 50 yards to shore, landing without a bruise. The boy is said by his playmates to be a water dog.

BIG PHILIPPINE CIGAR.

One Which is Sixty-Three Inches Long in Possession of Paymaster General Bates of Army.

Paymaster General Bates, of the army, possesses the largest cigar in the world. It is 63 inches long and as large around as a man's arm at the thickest section. Its composition includes 22 classes of Philippine tobacco. The huge cigar is the gift of Maj. W. H. Comery, of the pay department, who sent it to the paymaster with this note: "I send you the largest cigar you have ever seen. It is made of a number of the finest brands of tobacco grown in the islands. This was manufactured at San Fernando do Union, in Union province, P. I. The case is also a curiosity. It may be called a family cigar, as all smoke it, and the grandmother is supposed to finish it, or the cigar to finish the grandmother."

King Edwards Wine Cooler.

The biggest wine cooler is at Windsor and belongs to the king. It was made for George IV, and two men could sit in it with ease.

MUST OBEY THE LAW

Tried Foreigners to Be Questioned Same as Immigrants.

Inspection at Port of New York Insisted on Entry and Provisions of Law Without Fear or Favor.

European tourists, titled or otherwise, who have been accustomed to enter this country by way of New York, are likely to be a good deal surprised by the enforcement of the treasury order, under which they must, as a neglected law directs, answer the same questions that are put to steerage passengers.

The law was enacted in 1883, when Chester A. Arthur was president. Almost from the time of its passage, however, it has been a dead letter at this port in the case of alien first and second cabin passengers, although enforced at some ports, such as Boston. The new order of things was instituted by Commissioner Williams nearly six weeks ago, but he explained today that the steamship officers were only just beginning to get used to it.

"In the case of a cabin passenger whose general appearance is all right," said the commissioner, "there is a way to comply with the law which would not be offensive. If I were a boarding inspector, for instance, I should take such a passenger, explain to him that the paper had to be made out, and when I came to some of the questions, such as the one about polygamy, write in 'No,' telling him, perhaps, that I knew of course he wasn't a polygamist. So with the other questions of that kind. The passenger would, of course, have to give his own answer as to his destination, and the questions of that order which you would have no way of telling about yourself."

"With the use of a little tact there is no reason why any passenger should be offended, and I don't believe in a thousand would be, once they were informed that it was only done to comply with the laws of the country. For our protection we have got to ask these questions of foreigners coming here, and the foreigner with any intelligence will understand that. Of course it may seem unnecessary, and insulting, to ask a French count, for instance, if he is possessed of 500 or not, and whether he is able to read and write. As I said before, it isn't exactly necessary that he should answer those questions for himself, as the officer filling out the blanks, unless he wants to be offensive, would under ordinary circumstances write in the answer himself."

WOMAN DONS MALE ATTIRE.

Her Devotion to Husband Impels Her to Put on Trowsers and Ride with Him on Freight Train.

Pretty Beatrice Philburn, charged with masquerading in boy's clothes, wept bitterly when arrested at Battle Creek, Mich., the other day.

"Do you think I'd let Bob go away to Portland, Ore., to work without my going along?" she said.

Bob, or Robert W. Philburn, is a furniture worker of Detroit. He received a better offer from a Portland, Ore., firm, but had not the money for two fares, so he figured on leaving his wife Beatrice with his mother at Cleveland place.

He richened without his Beatrice. She met him at the train with her brown curls cut short and dressed in boy's clothes.

"I'm going, too," she said. Consequently Bob and Beatrice took passage in a freight car instead of a Pullman. They were discovered by a patrolman. The woman gave credentials and was released after her trunk of clothes came from home. She will make the remainder of the journey in a Pullman, as a purse was made up for her, but her husband will have to make his way across the continent as best he can.

RICH GEMS FOR MUSEUM.

J. Pierpont Morgan Gives New York Institution Two Magnificent Sapphires.

J. Pierpont Morgan has sent to the American Museum of Natural History, as a gift, two of the most magnificent sapphires in the world. They are to be added to the collection donated by him to the institution. This collection, which is considered among the finest existing, was gathered by Tiffany & Co. to be exhibited at the Paris exposition, after which it was bought by Mr. Morgan at great cost. Prof. Bumpus, director of the museum, said that the value of the collection had never been appraised exactly, as far as he knew.

South Africa Needs Live Stock.

E. R. Creber, who represented the Orange Free State at the world's fair at Chicago in 1893, has written the secretary of agriculture stating that large numbers of live stock, especially sheep and cattle, for slaughtering, breeding and dairy purposes, are needed in South Africa, and that an excellent market is offered there for agricultural machinery and farming implements.

When the Squeeze Will Come.

The people are not worrying much now about the exertions of the hard coal trust, says the Cleveland Leader, but the squeeze will come next winter.

A CORNISH DOSE-FALL.

Dragnation of Krakatoe in 1901 Shows How Bad All Over Central Europe.

In the course of a paper on "The Cornish Dose-Fall of January, 1902," read before the Royal Meteorological society at 78 Victoria street recently, Mr. E. R. Mill said that since the Krakatoe eruption in '68, when the volcanic dust thrown into the air made itself apparent for many months all over the world in a long series of brilliant comets, the most remarkable instance of far-traveled dust was that which occurred in March, 1902, reports the London Telegraph. In Italy the rain fell so thickly charged with red sand that the peasants took it for blood and became panic-stricken. For three days the dust cloud traveled northward over central Europe, substantial traces falling as far north as the Danish islands, and instances in which it reached parts of England and Scotland had been recorded. A large quantity of similar dust fell about January 21 last in Cornwall over an area of 2,000 square miles, and the conclusion seemed to be that about this time the atmosphere over the extreme west of Europe consisted of air which had come from the African deserts, carrying with it a quantity of fine dust, of which a mere vestige—some 100,000 tons or so—had been caught in its fall and carried to the shores of the channel. There seemed to be little doubt that the farmers of the west of England had this spring plowed many tons of the sand of the Sahara into their furrows.

A NEW VEGETABLE SWEET.

South American Herb That May Be Used in Place of Sugar in Tea and Coffee.

A plant has been found in the northern part of Paraguay whose leaves contain a sweet substance. Small pieces will have the same effect as a large lump of sugar if dropped into a cup of tea or coffee. The stuff is not the same as sugar, though, because it is much stronger and cannot be fermented. The director of the Agricultural institute at Asuncion believes that its chemical nature is different from anything else now known. The herb is a rather common one, and the Germans in that part of the world are about to make some elaborate experiments in cultivating it for the market. It is said to contain no deleterious substance, but possibly the matter has not been investigated sufficiently. Fifteen or 20 years ago Prof. Remsen, now president of Johns Hopkins university, devised a method of manufacturing out of coal tar a substance 300 times as sweet as cane sugar. He named it "saccharin." Its use has been recommended for victims of certain diseases who are forbidden to take sugar. Nevertheless, for some mysterious reason, there has been a disposition in Germany to prohibit by law the introduction of saccharin into beer. Possibly the explanation of this procedure is political, not scientific. Whether the Paraguay plant, botanically known as Eupatorium herbardianum, will eventually prove a disappointment time alone can tell.

LITTLE SERGEANT MAJORS.

Lively Fishes at the New York City Aquarium That Fleek Together Like Chicks.

Among the tropical fishes lately received at the aquarium from Bermuda were 20 or more little sergeant majors, two or three inches in length, which will flock together precisely like little chicks, and with the same confident fearlessness, says the New York Sun.

Let them be scattered through the water in all parts of their tank and let somebody tap gently low down on the outside of the glass and the whole bunch will come a-scurrying, as fast as their fins can drive them, all crowding in together as near those finger tips as they can get.

What draws them so, whether curiosity or hunger, or what, they all swarm at the call. And as little chicks will run, a moment later all together to another part of the field at the old hen's bidding, so will these little sergeant majors rush together again a moment later, at a second gentle tapping on the glass.

ONLY A GIRL'S PURSE.

The Delicate Receptacle Contained Variety of Things Almost Equal to Boy's Pocket.

Poems and stories used to be written about the infinite variety of articles to be found in a boy's pocket. Girls do not have pockets so much the worse for them—but the things they stow away in their pocketbooks would put a boy to the blush, says the Pittsburg Dispatch. A girl emptied her purse the other day. "I have to clean it out," she explained, "every once in awhile, just as I do my bureau drawers." These are some of the things that were in it: Two one-dollar bills, a 50-cent piece, two quarters, a five-cent piece (lead) and ten pennies, a "lucky" Italian coin, a Japanese "pocket piece," two receipts, three bills, a parlor car check, four street railway transfers, five mutilated stamps, a pencil stub, matinee coupon, three keys, newspaper clippings and a cleaner's check for gloves. That was not at all an unusual case. Almost any girl can match it.

Our Coal Product.

Enough coal was produced in the United States last year to give three and a half tons to every one of the 75,000,000 men, women and children in the country.

HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS.

A Few Items of Information for the Housewife for Use in Warm Weather.

In scalloping tomatoes many cooks fail because of too free use of breadcrumbs. A cooking-school receipt for this dish emphasizes that only a top layer of the crumbs should be used. Put one level tablespoonful of chopped raw onions in a baking-dish with a tablespoonful of butter, a teaspoonful of salt, and a dash of cayenne pepper. Pour over these three parts of canned or raw tomatoes. Cover with a layer of breadcrumbs, and bake long enough to cook the onion. The breadcrumbs should be dry and not too fine; this, however, must not be construed to mean that chunks of crumb are to be used.

When gasoline is to be used as a cleanser it will be found to be much more effectual if diluted in water. Pure gasoline serves merely to loosen the dirt, while the added water will wash away the traces of it. Use in the proportion of two quarts of water to a cup of gasoline. Those who use it should understand that it is always employed at the risk of an explosion, says the New York Post.

Cham-juce is particularly welcome, both as a food and appetizer in hot weather. To extract it, steam the chams, pour off the juice, let it settle, and strain very carefully. It can then be reheated and served as bouillon or mixed with milk, seasoned with celery sauce, and made into a clam shake. Many persons find food clam-juce palatable on a hot day. The less should not be added to the juice, but the juice cooled on ice.

Alumbeerized milk is a most nourishing drink for an invalid, and in hot weather, taken at intervals of three hours, between breakfast and a six o'clock dinner, would be all the nourishment required by a person in health. Drop the white of one egg in a glass, add two-thirds of a cupful of milk, cover, and shake until thoroughly mixed. Strain into another glass and serve.

A few drops of camphor added to the water in which the face is bathed in warm weather will do much to remove the shiny appearance of the skin.

IN FASHION'S REALM.

Misses About Hair-dressing, Dress Materials, Etc., for Up-to-Date Dressers.

Those who decide the fashions in hair-dressing have commanded us to wear it hair low. This suits all but the middle-aged and accords well with the Gainsborough modes of the hour. It has opened the way for the wearing of triple flowers, such as roses, forget-me-nots or green leaves. Strings of pearls mingle in the hair. Small black blossoms are suitable for blondes. Elderly women wear bands of velvet round the neck and mingle lace with the algrete, says a fashion authority.

White stockings will be very much worn this summer. To wear with fluffy white gowns, there are white stockings showing a dainty floral design embroidered in white and also pale colors. While silk or lisle stockings with insets of white lace will be among the boscary novelties of the summer. Stockings to match the gown in color are also the correct thing, and much pale-tinted hosiery will be worn.

The most modish costumes are made of velvety and shot taffeta. The usual combination is a little jacket of the silk, with short sleeves, slashed over undersleeves of the veiling and lace. There is perhaps a lace front and a collar of lace and veiling. The veiling skirt may be inset with lace or of the voile alone, made elaborate with many rows and clusters of fine plaits.

Fine white serge makes the most fashionable yachting suit, with stitched bands of the same material covering each seam, a ditched hip yoke, and a short jacket with pale blue glace silk revers.

With white pique and linen skirts, the correct shoe will be the white canvas Oxford, the basket weave canvas being the most fashionable. The toe of the shoe is white kid and the facing, sole and heel of natural finish leather. Egyptian designs are largely in evidence. Fashion authorities say that the interest fashionable people take in Cairo accounts for the new fad.

Wisdom for Women.

The woman who smiles when she sees her best tablecloth ruined, who puts aside the little mishap and makes the people around the table forget it does well. But if when she is alone she allows her mind to dwell upon the loss of her cherished linen, if she lies awake at night fretting over it, or lets it prey upon her waking hours—that is, if she worries over it—she is not the entirely wise, sensible and comfortable woman she ought to be.—Woman's Home Companion.

Speed Cherries.

Tie an ounce of stick cinnamon and an ounce of whole cloves in a muslin bag and boil it in a pint and a half of vinegar for 15 minutes. Add four pounds of granulated sugar and boil ten minutes longer; skim well. Put in seven pounds of pitted cherries and cook gently for one and one-half hours. Then skim out and put in heated jars. Boil the syrup down until the consistency of honey and fill up the jars and seal.—Washington Star.

Driven to Bankruptcy by Rats.

A merchant of Essex, England, recently declared in the bankruptcy court that he had been ruined by rats, which had entered his warehouse and ate and destroyed his wares.—N. Y. Sun.

BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.

President Butler Pleads for Its Restoration.

Declares That the Barring of the Book Robs Education of One of Its Most Helpful Sources of Knowledge.

"Quarrelling among the religious sects and the shunning of interpretation has stricken the Bible from the reading of the American people. Sectarianism has brought about such a serious condition in this nation that the English Bible is no longer known as literature, and consequently the people cannot understand the basic elements of our civilization. This is what Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, told 5,000 persons at the general session of the National Educational association at Minneapolis. He made an impassioned appeal for the restoration of the English Bible in the schools, not from a religious standpoint, but from that of a book which had been the foundation of Christian civilization, and the inspiration of the best in English literature. His appeal was interrupted by tremendous applause from all points in the Exposition building. Dr. Butler spoke on "Some Pressing Problems in Education," and that of the Bible be considered to be of vital importance.

"I am not talking of the Bible now in the sense of using it for religious instruction, or for the promotion of theology," he said. "My thesis is that the neglect of the Bible caused by sectarianism has imperiled the rising generation from knowing the beauties of the greater writers in the English language from Chaucer to Browning, and from understanding as well as placing them outside the pale of knowledge of their own civilization. Without knowledge of the Bible one cannot read and understand the glories of Milton and Shakespeare and Tennyson. I read the first 15 lines in 'Paradise Lost' to a group of college students one day, and none of them could understand the reference to biblical history.

"When visiting Jerusalem I witnessed a disgraceful scene during a most solemn Christian ceremony. Christians were fighting and struggling among each other to see the procession, and the sneering Mohammedan soldiers, the miserable Turks, were pushing the unruly Christians back. This is a sample of what we have here. The Christians are fighting among themselves over their interpretation of the Bible, and are gradually driving it out of mind.

"The present condition is shameful. We have and are impoverishing life and literature by burying our treasure-house under the dust of theological discussion. The Bible is the inspiration on which the best English style has been built. Even the non-Christian has to read the Bible in order to understand history. You cannot understand oriental history without reading the Vedas, nor Grecian history without knowing something of Greek mythology."

TO TRY STEEL ROADS.

Interesting Experiment to Be Tried in New York in Interests of Better Roads.

Experiments shortly will be made at New York with steel roads. A committee of the Automobile Club of America, appointed some time ago, has been at work on the scheme, but had about given up because of the difficulty experienced in procuring prompt delivery on the special steel plates required. Chairman Seligman, of the special committee, announced, however, that President Schwab, of the United States Steel corporation, has become interested in the experiment, and not only will have the plates rolled at once, but will donate enough to build one mile of road.

Conferences are now under way with the city authorities with a view to selecting suitable locations for the tests. It is proposed that one section shall be placed in the heavy trucking district down town, another in a street of general travel, and a third in the suburbs, on a earth foundation.

MISSOURI'S MANY FARMS.

Government Census Report Gives to the State \$24,986, Valued at \$442,978,213.

The farms of Missouri number 284,886, valued at \$442,978,213, according to a census report issued recently on agriculture in Missouri for the census year 1900. The total value of farm property was \$1,083,121,897, which includes \$28,802,680, as the value of farm implements and machinery, and \$160,540,004 as the value of live stock. The total value of farm products for 1899 was \$219,296,970, of which 45 per cent. was in animal products and 55 per cent. in crops, including forest products, cut or produced on farms. The total value of farm products for 1899 exceeds that for 1898 by \$100,945,946, or 100 per cent. The gross farm income of the state for 1899 was \$161,344,610, and gross income upon investment 16 per cent.

Success of American Women.

A Londoner of exalted social position was asked recently to what he attributed the social success of American women. He answered that the causes were "splendid dressing, self-possession, and freedom from aghyness and a superlatively good education."

Cheap Carriage Rides.

One can take a carriage ride anywhere for ten cents in Key West.

AQUARIUM FOR PROF. LOEB.

University of Chicago Determined to Keep the Scientist at Almost Any Cost.

The installation of a completely equipped aquarium at the University of Chicago is the possible result of the tempting offer made by Prof. Jacques Loeb, the head of the department of physiology in the Midway institution, by the University of California. The university authorities are determined to keep Prof. Loeb at all costs, and such an aquarium, which he needs in order to carry on his experimentation with marine animal life, is talked of as a means of holding him.

Prof. Loeb is engaged in research work at the biological station at Wood's Hole, Mass., at present, and his colleagues at the university are unable to say how seriously he is considering the California offer. Prof. Lowell Harker, head of the department of anatomy, said, however, that the superb facilities for research work in biology which the University of California had to offer would undoubtedly be most tempting to Prof. Loeb.

The cost of erecting such an aquarium would be from \$7,000 to \$10,000 and the cost of maintenance a few thousand dollars a year. Such an aquarium could be used, not only for physiological experimentation, but for botanical and embryological work as well. Its value to the university and to the city of Chicago would be out of all proportion to its cost."

ATMOSPHERE OF OXFORD.

Birmingham, England, Professor Declared It is the One Thing American College Lacks.

After a trip of inspection through a number of American universities, Prof. R. D. Redmayne, of Birmingham, England, who is in New York city, said:

"I could not fail to be struck with the fact that all your great institutions of learning are yet lacking in that indefinable something that contributes so much to making Oxford what it is. Apart, removed a long way from the practical life of the world, or seemingly so apart, the community of Oxford scholars has given to the place a priceless heritage. We all know how, in the course of time, their influence has filtered out to the world and affected men's thoughts and ideas, has become potent in shaping history. But when I saw the stamp of men you have in your universities, and the stamp of young men they are turning out, I became convinced that your institutions will have in time this potent and precious atmosphere, and will treasure names like those of Arnold and Newman and the rest. The secret for you is the secret of the Oxford laws, as told by the old gardener to the rich American. Still, I am glad that the new scholarships will enable you to send over to us each year so many men as to feel this atmosphere, and carry back the word of it."

STEAL OLD ENGLISH RELIC.

River Pirates Succeeded in Carrying Off Historic Bell Which Was Intended for King Edward.

There was excitement the other morning on board the ship Attractor, moored at the Morris street dock, Jersey City, when the crew discovered that during the night river pirates had boarded the vessel and carried away the most precious thing on board—part of an old ship's bell, bearing the inscription, "Prince of Wales, 1740," and consigned to King Edward of England.

The bell, or rather the pieces of it, were entrusted to the care of Capt. Scott, of the Attractor, by the British officials of Kingston, Jamaica, the captain promising to forward it to the king upon his arrival in port at Jersey City. The relic, together with coins valued at more than \$10,000, had been recovered from the sea by native fishermen at a point near Kingston and turned over to the British officials, who upon discovering the inscription, decided to send it to King Edward as a coronation gift.

"LOST CHORDS OF SOLOMON."

Center of Boston Hebrew Congregation Makes a Very Important Discovery.

Rev. Max Halpern, cantor of the Hebrew congregation of Beth Israel of Boston, has just unearthed a number of the sacred tunes and airs of ancient Jewish composition, known as the "Lost Chords of Solomon." They are contained in some very aged manuscripts and have remained hidden because of the profound learning necessary to recognize and translate them. These newly-discovered hymns, which are unquestionably of Solomon's own time, exceed in excellence any more recent compositions and furnish evidence of the high attainments of the Jews of old. The key to the songs consists of an arrangement of accents about the letters of the text, and its discovery is a highly important one.

Enhances Value of Diamonds.

An obscure diamond cutter at Antwerp, Belgium, has invented a new system of diamond cutting, giving to the gem 84 facets and nearly a spherical form. This treatment redoubles the brilliancy of the gem and, as the patent is kept a secret, it is hoped that it may revive the diamond-cutting industry, which has lagged badly of late.

Didn't Need Title.

If it is true that Archbishop Williams, of Boston, has twice refused a Harvard degree, the only explanation that seems reasonable, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, is that he had no particular use for it.