

GREAT CANAL YEAR.

ENORMOUS INCREASE IN WATERWAY SHIPPING.

A Total of 21,679 Vessels Passed Through St. Mary's River Ship Passages During 1905—Statistical Report Interesting.

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.—During the past season of navigation, the greatest in the history of the water ways, there was a total of 21,679 vessels...

The statistical report for the year presents some interesting data emphasizing the relative greater importance of the water way on the American side of the international boundary.

Scrutiny of the tonnage record of the various commodities which made up the traffic shows that the movement of iron ore this season was 60 per cent. in excess of that recorded in 1904.

The falling off in copper shipments is considered rather remarkable, and cannot well be explained.

The United States canal was opened a total of 246 days during the past season, having gone into commission April 14 and suspended operations December 16.

PARISIAN GATHERS SEALS OF LETTERS WRITTEN DURING CRUSADES—QUEST EXTENDS OVER 30 YEARS.

Paris.—M. Gustave Schlumberger, a Parisian collector, has one of the strangest hobbies in the world, and interest in the work is doubled by the variety of the objects he seeks.

Exploring Persia. Dr. Sven Hedin is on the way to Persia, where he proposes to explore thoroughly from a scientific point of view the salt deserts of Dasht-i-Kavir and Dasht-i-Lut in the eastern part of the country.

Hetty Doorn's Celebrate. Hetty Doorn was 70 years old on December 21. On that day she devoted her self to all who called to wish her a "happy birthday."

PUTS SAIL ON HIS SLEIGH.

Young Farmer Extricates Himself from Predicament by His Great Ingenuity.

Tolley, N. D.—A remarkable adventure befell a Tolley man recently. While the Tolley papers did not have a reporter on the spot, they secured and printed the story, but without those sidelights and highlights that the incident seems to demand.

Michael Pattison, a young farmer near Tolley, was driving home in his sleigh across the prairie. The wind had beaten down the snow, the warm waves had melted the top layers and the cold nights had frozen them until there was a crust on the snow that would bear a man's weight.

Pattison stood in the road, stamped his feet and cursed the luck. A fierce wind was blowing in the direction of home and he had about made up his mind that it would be fairly easy to walk the ten miles when an idea struck him. It was a life saver.

Pattison pulled the sleigh out of the rut and dragged it out on the prairie. The wind was so fierce that the sleigh would almost skid along of itself.

The wind was right. The craft quickly overtook the astonished horse, who had now reduced himself to a trot, and soon left him hull down in the distance.

GOTHAM BANKER'S PRESENT

Jacob H. Schiff Gives Substantial Christmas Remembrances to "Kitchen Jewel."

New York.—Jacob H. Schiff, the banker, gave his cook, Lena, \$5,000 for a Christmas present, which proves that Mr. Schiff is very lucky to have such a cook and that Lena is equally lucky to have such an employer.

Mrs. Schiff gave Lena a cluster diamond ring which, as she mixes mayonnaise will at once dazzle and encourage the scullery maids who obey her orders in the Schiff kitchen.

SUIT OVER INCH OF LAND.

Owner Ordered to Court to Saw a Silver Off House to Make Up Deficiency.

San Francisco.—A silver one inch at one end and two inches at the other must be sawed from the side of a house in Berkeley to satisfy a novel suit over an inch of land for which W. Mauch was asking \$2,000 of M. L. Wurts, a Berkeley real estate dealer.

According to the testimony of Wurts he was between Mauch on one side and a neighbor's house on the other which abutted on his own lot. He could not move, but rather than submit to Mauch's proposition he took his chance in court.

Judge Waste found that Wurts' house projected over on Mauch's land and ordered so much of the house removed as was necessary to clear the land sued for.

Club of Deaf Women.

One of the most curious clubs on record has recently been formed by retired women in Berlin. The principal condition of membership is that the applicant must be deaf.

America Like Rome.

An Italian historian thinks America now is like Rome at its worst. He wonders what he would think a proper comparison for the corruption of his own government.

SEES EVIL FOR 1906.

PARIS SEERESS PREDICTS MANY CATASTROPHES.

Mme. Thebes Who Foretold Bloody Year for 1905 Presages Mad Twelvemonth—Belgium to Be Prominent Figure.

Paris.—The new year does not bring much good to anybody if we are to believe the prediction of Mme. Thebes, the seeress made famous by Alexander Dumas, his. In her almanac for 1906 which has just appeared, she says:

"As I predicted years ago that 1905 would be a bloody year I now predict that 1906 will be a mad year. The civilized world, or, rather, the world which likes to call itself civilized, is in a stage of transformation. What will emerge from the chrysalis? A monster. It will take a long time and many bloody dramas before wars between the classes and nations will be followed by peace and friendship and establishing of a new social order."

"I once more predict that the small country of Belgium is destined to play a strange and important part in this transformation, which is to come, and which will change the whole political situation in Europe in a most remarkable manner."

"The disturbances which are now threatening the Russian empire will spread to Germany and before the end of 1906 the German colossus, built as it is on a foundation of clay, will begin to crumble into dust. The days of more than one prince are counted, and I am not afraid to say that altogether the year of 1906 will bring the most astonishing events."

"In France the political situation will continue to be as unsettled as ever and to a certain extent more dangerous, though the danger will be more imaginary than real, and in spite of violent financial crises and struggles between political parties the country will emerge unharmed."

"I am not able to say whether we shall have any great war, that depends on too many different circumstances and the book of destiny reveals nothing, but neither does it reveal that Europe will remain in peace."

IS RELIC OF A DINER-OUT.

"E. M. P.'s" Knife and Fork Case Carried 200 Years Ago on Exhibition in Collection.

Chicago.—Just who "E. M. P." was is not known. That he lived in Saxony 200 years or more ago and that in his day and generation he was a great diner-out there can be no doubt.

In those days knives and forks were ranked as the greatest luxuries. The thrifty housewives of Saxony, whatever their wealth and standing, did not possess sets of knives and forks. To own one was a sign of great prosperity.

ADMIRALTY BARS DRINKING. Officers Claim Whisky Habit Destroys Nerve, Quickness of Brain and Efficiency.

London.—When ships belonging to the navies of other countries visit British ships in the future it looks as if there will not be much flow of wine in the entertainment afforded by the officers, for the admiralty has set its face against the consumption of alcohol except in moderate doses by naval officers.

Sea lords assert daily that the whisky habit destroys the nerve quickness of brain and is in consequence fatal to fleet efficiency. Officers' wine books are being examined, and no officer under the age of 20 is permitted to consume spirits of any kind.

Finds Two-Tailed Comet.

A telephone message has been received at the Harvard observatory from Prof. Percival Lowell saying that he had found a second comet on the photograph made on November 29 at 9 hours 54 minutes time, seven hours west of Greenwich, eighth ascension 338.5, declination minus 87.

Story by Kaiser.

Emperor William declares that he has no warlike plans, but the London newspapers will regard this as another of William's clever stories under cover of which he may be suspected of impending to send a fleet of warships up the Thames.

SIGNALS AFTER DROP FALLS

Murderer Proves by Prearranged Motions He is Conscious for Some Time.

Jersey City, N. J.—Dr. Carlton Simon, who witnessed the hanging of Edwin M. Tapley, Jr., declares the murderer gave the prearranged signals in proof he was conscious nearly half a minute after the trap had been sprung.

"The actual test on the gallows was most successful. Tapley was absolutely in possession of his mental faculties. The hands and fingers of the dangling body moved with convulsive contractions. Then the hands fell rigid at the sides."

"Five seconds passed, and then Tapley began the signals agreed upon between us. The first signal came as Tapley, holding the left hand extended rigidly forward, raised the right slowly and as far as the bonis permitted him, and made three distinct contractions of the thumb and forefinger.

"At the third contraction of the left hand there seemed barely strength in the dying fingers to carry out the agreed programme."

"To any man of scientific knowledge, viewing this test with a full knowledge of all the governing conditions, the following conclusions are inevitable: "N amely, Tapley was alive and in conscious torture for nearly half a minute after the fall of the drop."

PINK SHIRT OR NONE.

English Captain Blames Pittsburg Smoke for His Attire at Wedding of the Elite.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Capt. Harbord of England, who has been visiting Pittsburg with his wealthy aunt, Miss Hermione Schenley, and who started the fad here of wearing pink shirts at society functions, was asked if it was customary to wear pink shirts at weddings in London.

"I can't say that it is the fashion in London. You see, I have mused my shirts up so while in Pittsburg I couldn't get them laundered fast enough, I don't see how your men keep a shirt clean half a day. I had to wear the pink shirt at the wedding because I didn't have a clean shirt among my effects."

GIVES AWAY AN OLD CASTLE

Trenham, in Staffordshire, "Italian Palace" of "Lothair," Transferred to County Council.

London.—The duke of Sutherland has given his palatial seat in the Potteries, Trenham hall, which is the Italian palace mentioned by Lord Beaconsfield in the novel, "Lothair," to the Staffordshire county council for the purposes of higher education.

Wife May Keep Ring.

The question of a wife's right to retain her wedding ring after love has grown cold and she and her husband have separated has been decided by justice Mackelfresh, in Cincinnati, in favor of the woman. This point was raised in a suit filed by William Kleeman against his wife, Isabella, to recover household effects and wedding presents which he alleged his wife refused to give up.

Even Statues Catch Cold.

Just as congress is considering changing the date of inauguration, the superintendent of the capitol comes with a request that Greenough's statue of Washington be brought in out of the wet and cold. The climate of the District of Columbia seems to be as trying to dead and gone statesmen as to those of the present.

THIRD SET OF TEETH AT 94

Unusual Case of "Grandpa" Fox Is a Puzzle to the Dentists of Omaha.

Omaha, Neb.—To be cutting a third set of teeth while the second set is fairly well preserved is a record of which but few men can boast. This is what is happening to J. H. Fox, who boards at the Old People's home.

"Grandpa" Fox is 94 years of age. All his life he has been hale and hearty and blessed with exceptionally good teeth, double though they were.

"I have never had no dentist workin' in my mouth," he says. "I mind havin' the toothache pretty bad many years ago. A man I knew gave me some stuff to put in 'em, and finally the ache quit, and they never bothered me again."

There are five new teeth, and they are all incisors. They are coming in from the old double anteriors and peer forth like rice grains among the older teeth. The cutting of them does not seem to affect him in any way.

Every indication would tend to show that "Grandpa" Fox will continue to grow new teeth as fast as his old ones drop out.

STOPPED COUPLE; WEDS GIRL. Fiance Balks Rival—Forgives and Marries Sweetheart of His Choice.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Caught by an angry sweetheart just as he was about to elope with another girl, Joseph L. Berry decided that, after all, he did love the fair captor better than he thought, and so he made Miss Mabel Kinsley his bride.

The other girl, Miss Lela Padlack, was employed at the local telephone exchange, and it was her sweet voice which first caused him to turn from Miss Kinsley, to whom he had been engaged for several years, and who was the choice of his parents.

Berry and Miss Padlack decided to elope, and the young woman went to Sheridan, Ind., where he was to meet her. The young man let a few friends into his secret, and they were at the station to bid him farewell.

DEVIL SEIZED FOR A DEBT. Detroit Atheist's Famous Statue of Satan Dragg'd Away Into Captivity to Satisfy Creditor.

Detroit.—Lugged away in an old cart Herman Henz' statue of the devil now is being guarded by a constable. The image was set up two months ago by Henz and created a sensation. Henz is not a believer in the Devil, and wrought the statue to symbolize his feeling as to the future.

EDITORIAL MISTAKE. Mr. Russell Sage was making a careful survey of the display of marked-down clothing in a ready-made shop on far from Wall street.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS IN JAPAN. In the arrangement of chrysanthemums the Japanese guard against seven faults. Their stems must not be of the same length, a single flower must not turn its back or present its full face.

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THE MAKING OF SWORDS.

Rare Business Which Suffers with the Rise of Modern Civilization.

"I turn out," said a swordmaker, "over 40,000 swords a year. I used to turn out 70,000. But the sword crop falls as civilization rises."

"My steel comes from western Pennsylvania in 14-foot lengths, each length an inch and a half wide. Each sword takes nine days to make, and goes through 70 different processes."

"Our testing room is our most important one. There the finished blade is proved—first as to surface; second, as to back and edge; third, as to bending."

"For the surface test the blade is screwed into a vise, and brought down flat with great force on a steel table, a wire cage covering all to prevent accident, if the sword falls, from flying splinters. In the second test the back and edge are struck by a skilled swordsman against an oak block. In the third test, the sword must bend into an arc of a certain number of degrees, according to its fineness. The best swords must bend into a perfect circle."

"The best swords, further, are put through the Spanish or Toledo test. They are thrust against plates of solid iron."

"Good swords cost from \$15 up, and of course presentation blades run into a lot of money. The last we made cost \$500. The pattern of the blade was especially designed and inscribed, and the scabbard was of fishskin, mounted with 22-carat gold. The handle was of gold and ivory."

The czar of Russia, the sultan of Turkey, and the shah of Persia all have swords ranging in value from \$5,000 to \$50,000, but even these are outdone by the massive scimitars worn by many native Indian princes who simply utilize the golden hilts of their swords as settings for whole fortunes of precious stones.

ACTORS ARE GOOD PARTISANS OF THE SWORDSMAN. Sir Henry Irving had a fine collection of swords, while Francis Wilson and Richard Mansfield's collections are not to be despised.

PANDEMONIUM PRODUCED.

Comical Spectacle on Mississippi Steamboat Resulting from Coin Shower.

A young fellow, a fellow passenger, was leaning upon the rail beside me looking upon the scene below. He is a writer in Harper's Magazine. He told me to watch and he would show me some sport.

By this time others of the passenger had heard the noise and the scuffling, and soon quite a crowd was gathered along the rail.

DETROIT'S FAMOUS STATUE OF SATAN DRAGG'D AWAY INTO CAPTIVITY TO SATISFY CREDITOR.

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