

SEEKING HOME RULE.

Egypt is passing through acute political crisis.

Old Idea of Native Parliament, Once Advocated by Lord Dufferin, Revived—Khedive Not Popular.

At the present moment Egypt is passing through an acute political crisis owing to an organized agitation in favor of an Egyptian parliament, an old idea once vaguely supported by Lord Dufferin.

Sheik Ali Yusuf, editor and proprietor of the Mouayad, the most widely read and influential paper in the east, an intimate friend and counselor of the khedive, and a man of keen intelligence, with unbounded influence on the Egyptian people, recently proposed at a meeting of the general assembly that the government be requested to form an Egyptian parliament on the main lines of the French chamber of deputies.

After he had explained his scheme at length the majority of the members adopted his views and voted in favor of approaching the government on the subject.

The assembly, it may be stated, is a deliberative body which meets every two years. The government is not bound by its views.

Two other public men have joined the movement, the editor of the Lewa newspaper and another friend of the khedive, a past master in the art of intrigue.

These three men are bitterly hostile to each other, and the fact that the only bond of sentiment between them is their friendship with the khedive gives enlightened Egyptians cause for reflection.

Every Egyptian wishes for the creation of a parliament, but no one desires it under such auspices. The khedive is not particularly popular, and as public opinion identifies him with the agitation the matter is treated as a personal one and inspires coldness and distrust.

SAYS RADIUM WILL VANISH.

British Scientist Declares Wonderful Substance Is But a Temporary Find.

Radium, instead of being a primeval substance, is declared to be a temporary phase of the matter by Prof. Sir William Ramsay, of London.

In an interview Prof. Ramsay says that radium is an unstable resting point in a series of transmutations of which nobody knows the beginning or end or meaning. From experiments which he has made with Prof. Eddy, he believes that it will all disintegrate and vanish, 1,150 years hence. He holds, therefore, that radium now is in the course of production, and that if it had been an original deposit it would have disappeared long ago.

Radium production in the United States is a probability of the near future, according to Dr. Robert A. Milliken, professor of physics in the University of Chicago. After experimenting for over two months with samples of pitch blende furnished him from mines in Colorado and North Carolina, with a view to determining whether or not they possessed any properties of radium, Dr. Milliken recently announced his discovery to the University of Chicago scientific faculty.

PLUCKY GIRL WINS CLAIM.

Miss Grace Page, of Tacoma, Wash., Crosses Mountains on Snowshoes.

The pluck of a Tacoma (Wash.) girl won her a valuable timber claim which she has secured in advance of others who intended to file on the land when open weather makes the roads passable.

Miss Grace Page, stenographer in the county clerk's office, is the young lady in question. She has just returned home from a trip to Siskiyou county, northern California, where she took up her claim. The timber was about 40 miles from the railroad, up in the mountains, and while on the trip up on the claim a great storm caught her on the way. Miss Page managed to get a snowshoe outfit, with which she made the trip of 12 miles over snow from three to five feet deep.

HAS OLD RELICS OF WAR.

Indiana Man Owns Seward's Spectacles and Hardtack Manufactured in 1847.

James H. Arnett, of Kokomo, Ind., has the glasses worn by W. H. Seward when he was a member of President Lincoln's cabinet. They were presented by Mr. Seward to Samuel Stratton, an intimate friend. The glasses are put to practical use and are of fine quality and workmanship.

Mr. Arnett has also a bit of hardtack which he carried the entire distance of Sherman's march to the sea. The cracker was issued to him at Marietta, Ga., in 1864, and bore the stamp of having been manufactured in 1847. Mr. Arnett was within a few feet of Gen. Sherman when he sent his last message north just before the wires were cut.

The Hurry-Up Sickness. London doctors think they have discovered a disease due to vibration of the speeding automobile. By a little more research, says the New York World, they might find one caused by effort to get out of the way of that same machine.

Not Indiscreet. Fashionable women have your sweethearts' photographs on your finger ring. If anything goes wrong with the New York Telegram, you can get it.

NEW CAISSON SICKNESS.

Effects of Compressed Air Upon Workers Underground Like Those from Excessive Use of Liquor.

The successful plea of a workman at a London police court that his intoxication was due to the absorption of compressed air and not alcohol was regarded by the uninitiated as more ingenious than truthful. But the veracity of the workman was unimpeachable.

The construction of "tube" railways in London has introduced to the men who make them a disease of which they knew nothing before. It is called "caisson sickness," and is brought about by compressed air, which is driven into the tunnels to enable the men to breathe.

In some aspects the outward symptoms are not unlike those of alcoholic intoxication. The pain suffered is acute. The pressure of the unnatural air, which is frequently three times as dense as the ordinary atmosphere, or approximately 45 pounds to the square inch, occasionally breaks the drums of the workmen's ears. Paralysis, according to an authority, supervenes in severe cases, and several deaths have occurred.

Maddening earache and toothache afflict the majority of the workmen, but the sickness almost invariably announces itself in the knee joints. So severe is the pain that strong men cry and groan. One sufferer has likened it to the sensation of "having the joints twisted off."

While compressed air is responsible for many ills underground, it is used as a curative agency in the sickroom, notably for asthma.

ACTOR BLOWS OUT BRAINS.

Comedian Commits Suicide in Full View of Audience While Responding to Encores.

Emil Hasda, the leading comedian in a German company playing at Nimptsch, Silesia, committed suicide recently in full view of the audience.

The company was on a tour from Berlin and was making a great success. Of all the players Hasda was the public favorite.

All through the first act the interpretation he gave of the extremely funny part he played had kept the audience in roars of laughter, and a storm of applause caused the curtain to be raised several times at its close.

When it rose for the sixth time, Hasda, who had been bowing his acknowledgments in the usual way, suddenly drew a revolver from his pocket and blew out his brains in full view of the spectators.

Hasda fell dead in front of the footlights, and the other actresses on the stage fled panic stricken. The curtain came down with a crash, hiding the blood-stained stage from the public gaze, and the performance immediately came to an end.

It was stated that Hasda committed suicide because one of the actresses of the company rejected his suit.

MAN LEARNING TO TALK.

Skull Was Fractured and Doctors and Nurses Now Aiding Him to Regain Speech.

Thirty-year-old Morris Thorne, a patient in a Newark (N. J.) hospital, is learning to talk. The attending physicians and nurses are his teachers and sometimes other patients try to help him regain the faculty which he lost when, one night, he was attacked in his home.

His assailants fractured his skull. Surgical skill restored his physical strength, but his mental faculties, struggling from complete darkness, had remained stationary after reaching such light as illumines the brain of a little child. To such simple questions as "How do you feel?" he can, at times, give such answer as "I am pretty well," but at other times his countenance darkens and he sighs, shakes his head and turns away.

Special effort is made to have Thorne reveal the names of his assailants. He tries hard, but cannot do so. By signs he indicates that they were two in number and that one was taller than the other. The doctors believe that some day he will suddenly regain his faculty of speech and reveal the names of his would-be murderers.

TWO NEW ELEMENTS FOUND.

Prof. Baskerville of University of North Carolina Makes Discovery in Chemistry.

Dr. Charles Baskerville, professor of chemistry and director of the laboratory in the University of North Carolina, announced before the Chemists' club in New York city the other night his discovery that thorium, hitherto known as one of the 90 primary elements, is complex in its nature.

Dr. Baskerville has resolved them into two new elements. He has named one of these Carolinum, in honor of the other Herzium, in honor of the great Swedish chemist who discovered thorium nearly a hundred years ago.

It never before has been the good fortune of an American chemist to discover a chemical element. Dr. Baskerville's discovery of two new elements is the result of ten years of persistent labor.

Revival of Tight Lacing. Tight lacing has been revived in England, and smart women of London are becoming distinguished by that long abandoned deformity, the wasp waist. All the reformers are up in arms, but though the attempt to revive the Grecian bend failed, the present craze seems likely to endure with all the attendant ills that will make large harvests for the doctors.

CURE FOR THE CRAZY.

Moving Pictures Are Tried at Insane Asylum.

Superintendent of Cook County, Ill., Institution Makes the Experiment and Finds Patients Are Benefited.

Moving pictures as an aid to the cure of insane patients were tried recently for the first time at the Dunning asylum, Dr. Podstata, superintendent of the big Cook county, Ill., institution, declared after the test that the effect produced was beneficial.

The performance on the canvas drew the attention and interest of every one of the 100 patients gathered in the entertainment hall. The seemingly realistic manner in which figures appeared and disappeared within the rim of light opened a new channel for their thoughts and led them away from the particular hallucination or delusion which affected their minds.

Excitable patients seemed to be quieted and calmed by the pictures. Those suffering from chronic melancholia appeared to be stimulated and aroused from their constant brooding over imaginary wrongs, and showed an unusual interest in what was going on. The effect was specially noted by attending physicians in certain cases where patients had been particularly restless or flighty or had been noticeably despondent and a report made to Superintendent Podstata. In every instance the report was that an excellent showing had been made.

As a result of the experiment a moving picture machine will be purchased for the asylum and entertainments will be given once or twice each week for the benefit of all patients who are not so violent as to need constant restraint. Dr. Podstata said that a performance by the moving picture machine will be of more lasting benefit than to hold the attention of the patient by other means for a single evening. It will give them all an opportunity to talk of the same thing, and the interest will be kept up for days by the discussions which will follow an entertainment, thus diverting the minds.

From the exhibition given it was evident that the effect on the patient differs in accordance with the kind of picture thrown on the canvas. In this experiment various kinds were tried, and it was found that war pictures were as apt to arouse the martial spirit in an insane patient as in an ordinary citizen.

After a series of 25 views of the Russian-Japanese war, which was the closing feature of the entertainment, one patient rose to his feet and was so in front of his endeavors to go to the front that it required four attendants to hold him back and assist him from the hall. With this single exception all were orderly. The Japanese received most of the applause.

Five illustrated songs were given, the views being thrown on the canvas as the graphophone sang the song. Six moving pictures of varied subjects followed. The picture which created the most enthusiasm and applause was "The Pillow Fight." Next to this "The Sign of the Cross, or the Devil in the Convent" was received with the most favor. Some magic and disappearing figures were introduced in this which took the fancy of the patients, and they clapped their approval as the devil was chased about and finally worsted.

PALATIAL HOME AFLOAT.

F. W. Vanderbilt's New English-Built Yacht Will Cost Half a Million Dollars.

Frederick W. Vanderbilt's twin screw yacht Warrior is nearly completed at the Ailsa shipbuilding yards at Troon. She is a fine specimen of a boat.

She is schooner rigged, with a massive funnel and graceful clipper bow, surmounted by the figure of an ancient warrior carrying on his shoulder a gleaming double edged sword. The boat has a fine sheer and a great overhang aft. She has all the latest appliances for safety, good work and comfort.

Magnificent apartments are being fitted up for Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt and the guests' quarters will be palatial. An army of workmen, including some specially engaged French cabinet-makers, is arranging the cabin and up-holding the yacht.

The Warrior's draught is about 15 feet aft. She will have a crew of 40. The cost of the boat on delivery will be about \$500,000. The annual cost, including repairs, renewals, docking, etc., will be over \$150,000.

She will go to Norway when delivered. She may then make a trip through European waters before sailing for the United States.

Fortune for Somebody. A reward of \$25,000 is offered by the Queensland government to the inventor who can devise a sure means of completely eradicating the vicious weed known as prickly pear. Prickly pear is a variety of cactus which was naturalized in Queensland from America. It is a rather attractive looking plant, but the sharp hairs with which its leaves are covered pierce the hands of any one rash enough to touch it.

Barely Possible. A woman writer wants to know the reason for the decay of politeness in American men and boys. Mr. Nap, remarks the New York Telegram, the American strong-minded woman has something to do with it.

Relaxing the Intellect. A Boston dog was sold the other day for \$700. This says the Chicago Tribune, is the Boston method of relaxing one in awhile from the severe strain of its culture.

UNEARTH WAR ENGINES.

Ancient Catapults, Dating Back to Julius Caesar's Time, Discovered at Metz, Germany.

Several catapults—ancient engines of war, such as were used at the siege of Troy and in the campaigns of Julius Caesar—have been dug up at Metz, German Lorraine, from ground where Roman legions, German warriors, Gallic tribes, vandal hordes and invading Huns in turn fought great battles. Though much has been written about catapults, few have ever been found to give an accurate notion of that primitive artillery.

These examples are rude and ridiculous in modern eyes, though they were formidable, indeed, in their day. They consist of wooden frames or scaffolds in the fashion of a monster crossbow, with a sort of trigger to hold the leather "string" until the proper moment to let it loose to drive at the enemy an arrow, a spear, or a piece of rock.

These catapults are a striking object lesson in the progress made in the art of war, especially in ordnance. Projectile used in the experiments made by the Lorraine society of Metz were hurled 990 feet.

One of these pieces of artillery of the great Caesar period would cut an insignificant figure beside the 139-ton gun on Sandy Hook, which throws a 2,400-pound 16-inch projectile 21 miles—more than a hundred times as far as the catapult sends a bit of wood or stone.

"FINGER TALK" WINS BRIDE.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Saitor Asks Girl to Marry Him While Talking Politics to Parent.

John Comstock, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., has a daughter Mary, and she was so young he determined she should not marry for several years. When the young men came to woo, Comstock always remained in the room. The closing hour was nine o'clock. Mary was never allowed to go anywhere. Irving Wells, Mary's first sweetheart three years ago, returned home last week and called. Her father did not say much, but his presence was depressing. On the second call Wells started talking politics to Mr. Comstock, and at the same time began to snap his fingers. Apparently he was nervous. Mr. Comstock became interested in his own views, and did not notice what the daughter was doing. He learned when she said Wells had asked her to marry him.

"How did he do that?" asked the doubtful father. "I was there all the time."

"I know that, papa," was the answer, "but you see you never learned finger talk, and Irving asked me that way—that was his nervousness."

Mr. Comstock later accompanied the prospective son-in-law to the marriage license bureau.

A DEPARTMENT OF CRAFT.

University of Michigan Plans to Train Graduates to Withstand Booding Spirit.

A craft department has been organized at the University of Michigan under the name "nonathletic board of control." The aim of this new educational movement is to turn out graduates trained to withstand the booding spirit of American cities. The department is working on a bill, creating legal corporations for its boys to handle, and buying a newspaper to serve practically as a classroom model.

The name, "nonathletic board," explains the origin of Michigan's work in political-business honor. The "nonathletic board" was created to supervise everything else. It looked at the student get rich schemes and found it remarkable mission.

Out of college honor office students were found to be earning from \$10 to \$500 each. The most reprehensible of these schemes was the two-price class rate, by which a class emblem, the pin committee, at one dollar and retailed to the class at \$125. Manufacturers secretly offered the rate to secure bids, and the student committeeman pocketed the extra quarter as pay for his work.

A PUZZLING QUESTION.

President Tells Seven-Year-Old Girl That He Cannot Tell Her How to Salute the Flag.

Helen, the seven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Beach, of Bayonne, N. J., would like to know if there is anyone who can tell her something she is anxious to know. President Roosevelt is unable to tell her.

Mr. and Mrs. Beach and their daughter recently returned from Washington. While there they were presented to the president. Helen caught the president's fancy and he patted her on the head.

"Mr. President," said the child, "will you tell me the way for a girl to salute the American flag?"

The president's smile disappeared. After a moment or so of thinking he replied:

"My little girl, if you only had asked me how a boy should salute the flag I would say by raising his hat and drawing his arm to his left side, but really I do not know just how a girl should salute."

The little girl was greatly disappointed.

Merely Air Castles. The men who go so far as to predict that air ships will be moored at "rich men's windows in a few years are poets and rhetoricians, remarks the Washington Star, who do not know as much about the practical difficulties of the case as Prof. Langley does.

BANDITS OF FAR EAST.

ELEMENT THAT MAY AFFECT PENDING CONFLICT.

Robbers Who Have Overrun Large Portion of Manchuria May Play Important Part in Determining Result.

One of the factors in the pending war between Russia and Japan which may have an important part in determining the result, but which is but little considered as yet, is the bandit of Manchuria. "Some call this person 'the red-whiskered gentleman,'" he is more generally and properly spoken of as "the bandit." Some of those in the far east have not forgotten him, however, and the reason, doubtless, why the Chinese have sent Yuanshi-Kai and his army corps to the great wall at Shan-hai-Kwan is to keep these very robbers in Manchuria, seeing that their trade—well-carried out and lucrative one—will disappear with the arrival of large bodies of Japanese and Russian troops in the country. These bandits are reported to be 200,000 strong. They have plenty of small-arm ammunition, but no artillery or large guns of any description. They are mostly composed of disbanded soldiers of the Chinese army who have been drilled by foreigners. They are much better shots than the Siberian Cossack, for their shooting is their living. There is a probability of the Chinese militia joining them if they have not already done so. They are modernly armed, in fact, they use the weapons captured from the various bands of Manchurian robbers from time to time.

The bandits are in a way honest, for they give passes to the villagers who bring their produce to Newchwang both by water and roadways. Cart drivers both holding passes from these robbers carry the flag of the band that issued the passes, and, strange to relate, these flags are always respected by the men of other bands. So that once having paid his toll to the robber the villager goes on his way rejoicing well knowing that he has nothing more to fear.

Now what happened when the Japanese took possession of the country following the Sino-Japanese war? The Japanese, seeing that they could not cope with the bandit, allowed him to carry on a trade which kept the country settled to the satisfaction of both villager and bandit, and did not interfere with this, as it was legitimate trade. On the other hand, when the Russians took possession of Manchuria, and particularly Newchwang, in 1900, during the "boxer" trouble, the Russian authorities endeavored to put down the bandit by force of arms, but those having authority in a lesser degree did not do so, they only tried to put him down when he would or could not meet their demands, which often led to trouble.

It was the bandits who destroyed the Trans-Siberian railway between Mukden and Port Arthur in the "boxer" trouble, carrying away rails and sleepers for miles, cutting into small pieces the iron bridges—a feat one would think was impossible, but they got the villagers to help them, and work like ants. If the railway is to be protected with any success it will require not only pickets along the line, but strong bodies of troops at close intervals, as these bandits are daring to a degree and have past grievances with the Russians to wipe out.

The bandits are in no way subservient to China, and their action cannot be taken as having in any way the approval of the Chinese government. In fact, the strong force of Chinese troops sent to the great wall points shows how the Chinese government fears these men and shows their intention to keep them out of China proper and the neutral part thereof.

QUEER COACH ROAD.

Travelers in the Pyrenees Mountains Requested to Walk Although Paying for Bids.

In the old days of canal voyaging captains of boats were not infrequently asked to give a wayfarer a lift. The man was asked if he was willing to work his passage. If he said "Yes" he was put to work driving the horses. In Europe, it seems, a similar custom is practiced on paying coach passengers.

In the Pyrenees there is a coach road between two villages, one on each side of a mountain 18,000 feet high. After the coach has proceeded a little distance and reached the steep part of the ascent, the conductor asks the passengers to get out, so as to assist the horses. They are even requested to push behind and help the team animals to drag the huge vehicle uphill.

When at last the summit is reached, each traveler, wiping from his forehead drops of sweat as big as kidney beans, congratulates himself on the breezy ride down the steep slopes of the descent which awaits him.

There is where he makes a mistake, for the conductor, with a sweet smile, begs the gentlemen to be kind enough to bank on to the coach behind, and act the part of a brake, or else the horses may be injured.

In this manner the terminus of the line is reached, the passengers having pushed the coach all the way up one side of the mountain, and held it back all the way down the other.

In spite of this there is a rush for places on the coach daily, as there has been for half a century.

A Safe Prediction.

The evangelist who has predicted that the world will come to an end in 1894, remarks the Chicago Record-Herald, needn't be afraid that many of the people to whom he said it will give him the langy when the time comes.

IS WARNED BY A DREAM.

Detroit Woman Has Strange Vision and Husband is Fatally Injured, Shortly After.

A horrible dream foretold to Mrs. William Sprevin, wife of William Sprevin, of Detroit, Mich., a passenger brakeman, shocking news.

A few hours after Mrs. Sprevin arose next morning a messenger knocked at the door and banded her a telegram. With trembling hands she tore open the yellow envelope, and read: "William Sprevin seriously injured. Removed to St. Vincent hospital in Toledo."

"Oh! I knew it!" she cried, and sank sobbing on a sofa. This sudden outburst awoke a little two-year-old baby boy, and he started to cry. Mrs. Sprevin carried the baby into the home of his grandparents, who live in the front part of the cottage, and took the next train to Toledo. Sprevin had passed away a few minutes before his wife arrived.

"I feared something was going to happen," said Mrs. Sprevin. "I had such a strange dream. I could not sleep, and I spent the long hours crying. First I was in a church and all the people were looking at me, then again I was working in a factory. This all seemed so queer to me, and all of a sudden I woke up."

The couple had been married a little over three years. About five months ago Sprevin was in a railroad accident and was seriously injured, but recovered.

PROPHECY COMES TRUE.

Wandering Fortune Teller Foretells Death of Youth in His Twenty-First Year.

The gruesome prophecy of a wandering fortune teller made several years ago was recalled recently when Mr. and Mrs. Charles Meyer, of Janataca, L. I., received a telegram from Harrisburg, Pa., telling them that their son, Henry Meyer, 21 years old, was dead in a hospital in that city. His death is said to have been the result of an accident, but no further particulars were given. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer, however, believe that he was killed in a railroad accident, as they had a letter from him on Wednesday in which he stated that he had secured employment as a brakeman on a railroad running out of Harrisburg.

Young Meyer left home about two weeks before, with his parents' knowledge and consent. Two or three years since a fortune teller who passed through this section told the young man's fortune, and predicted, among other things, that he would meet his death during his twenty-first year. The gloomy prediction weighed upon Meyer's mind, and he could not altogether rid himself of the idea that it would be verified. His parents had almost forgotten the fortune teller's prophecy until the evening word that their son had entered the empty of a railroad, when it was brought back to them, and they had since been haunted by the fear that he would meet a violent death.

WISCONSIN WINS TROPHY.

Flagship of Asiatic Fleet Receives Honors for Best Work at Target Practice.

The battleship Wisconsin, flagship of the Asiatic fleet, has won the battleship target practice trophy for this year. Until news of her triumph was received by mail at the navy department the other day it was supposed that the battleship Albatross, of the Asiatic fleet, had won the trophy, a telegram sent by Rear Admiral Evans six weeks ago, it is said, to the Wisconsin's record having been misinterpreted.

The battleship Illinois, which has done some rattling good target work, will not have her target practice until her present repairs are completed, but the navy department has virtually determined that her score shall not be considered in the competition, so that the Wisconsin, even if the Illinois makes a better record, will receive the trophy for this year. The Wisconsin, will in addition have the right to fly a special pennant showing that she is the leading ship in target work. Her best score with 13-inch guns was nine hits out of ten shots.

This is the first competition in the navy under the new system of awarding trophies to vessels and cash prizes and increased pay to the best gun pointers.

WOMEN TO RIDE ASTRIDE.

London Tailors Say New Garments Are Proving Popular—Papers Discuss Effect Upon Health.

London women riding astride in Rotterdam is a spectacle promised those who frequent Hyde Park the coming season. Many responsible west end tailors say orders for divided skirts are arriving from a large and ever increasing number of horsewomen. New riding attire garments have been invented and are extensively advertised in fashion journals and current fashion papers are full of the subject. The Ladies' Tailor is almost exclusively devoted to it, and discusses among other aspects of the question the effect of riding astride upon the health.

"Some doctors," declares this journal, "say that women of mature age have benefited anatomically in a way that would render a change from the side saddle to the cross saddle uncomfortable and unless they took fresh lessons in riding it would be dangerous."

Ambition of Policeman. The Chicago Daily News remarks that a New York policeman who has not arrested some member of the Gould or Vanderbilt family for fast driving probably feels that he is not much more than an ornament to the force.