

FIGHT FOR RICH LAND

OVER HALF MILLION ACRES INVOLVED IN CONTEST.

Flaw in Patents Granted to Kentucky Farmers by Old State of Virginia Leave Their Titles Clouded.

Lexington, Ky.—A great legal battle between wealthy and powerful corporations is now being waged in the courts of Kentucky, over the "Old Virginia Land Grants," and incidentally Attorney General William J. Hendricks is evening up old scores with his one-time business partner and political opponent, John C. C. Mayon, now known as the "Land King" of the eastern Kentucky mountains.

The legal fight has gone against Attorney General Hendricks so far, and is now before the Kentucky court of appeals, but he has called to his assistance John G. Carlisle, and has taken a new grip on the situation, and as a consequence thousands of poor Kentuckians and a few coal and timber harvesting corporations do not know whether they are living in their own or some one else's homes.

Gen. Hendricks has taken up the fight of the heirs of the old Virginia land grantees, and with the aid of skilled attorneys is contesting the claims of the present holders of almost the entire property in the above named counties, on the ground that the present holders are merely squatters and have no legal titles to their lands.

Mayon, in partnership with Walter S. Harlan, J. W. M. Stewart, W. F. Hite, Ben F. Johnson and other eastern financiers and Kentucky politicians and capitalists, has formed several corporations, known as the Northern Coal and Coke company, the Big Sandy company, the Brusby Creek Timber company, the Heaver Creek Coal and Coke company and the Laclede Coal company, which have taken leases on thousands of acres of this valuable land.

Gen. Hendricks a few months ago formed what is known as the Eastern Kentucky Coal Lands corporation and proceeded at once to have a bill passed by the legislature requiring that the Virginia grants be listed for taxation by January, 1907. Gen. Hendricks then went to the county seats of the four counties and filed his claims for the lands.

When the first case came up for hearing in Prestonburg, Floyd county, last January, the people bitterly resented the action of the attorneys representing the Virginia grants. Feeling had run high for some time and in Letcher county the surveyors were run out, one of them being killed by infuriated farmers. The listing of the grants was refused in the respective county courts and appeal to the Circuit court was also refused there. Now appeals have been taken to the Court of Appeals. Now come Mayon and his side with suits filed in each of the four counties asking that the Eastern Kentucky Coal Lands corporation forfeit its title to the commonwealth of Kentucky. The Virginia land grants people have just filed their cross-petition asking that plaintiffs be made to prove their title to the property claimed.

The trouble arises out of the granting by the land office of the state of Kentucky patents on lands already given away by Virginia before Kentucky became a state.

The first constitution of the state and every succeeding constitution has recognized the Virginia grants, but the land office has failed to take cognizance of the land grants and the titles are therefore disputed, with the best legal claim in the power of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Lands corporation, but with numerous claimants holding the property.

The lands are quite valuable for the mineral and timber products and should the Virginia grants people win the legal contest thousands of people would be left homeless and scores of wealthy eastern capitalists would forfeit their large investments. There are several wealthy New Yorkers whose names the attorneys refuse to disclose back of the fight, they having purchased the titles of the land of the heirs of the men to whom Virginia made the concessions, which was usually for acts of heroism or services in the revolutionary war.

Navy Needs 200 Mechanics. Washington.—The navy department has received a report from Mare Island navy yard that 200 additional men are needed to complete important work. From other sections it is said that skilled men are needed. The arrival of the fleet of warships on the Pacific coast next year will make unusual demands on the station at Mare Island, and there will be work for 700 skilled mechanics.

Town Offers Lure to Cupid. Marysville, Kan.—The merchants of Emmett, a new town southwest of here, are offering presents of furniture to couples under 25 years of age who will marry before Jan. 1, 1908, and settle within the town limits. Emmett is prospering, has a bank, a newspaper, and a school house, but it needs more citizens.

BIG ELEPHANT SAVES CASH.

Then Buys Ice Cream When Out With His Keeper.

New York.—Gunda, the big Indian elephant in the Bronx zoo, the big Indian elephant and visitors the other day why he has been saving the pennies which visitors give him. Incidentally he came near wrecking the ice cream and soda water stand.

Gunda deposits every penny he gets in a bank and registers it by ringing a small bell at the top of his cage. Almost every visitor gives the elephant a coin to see him "ring it up." This money he guards jealously, and several times he has attacked keepers who got too near his cash box.

Keeper Thurman took Gunda out for his customary stroll recently. According to Thurman, Gunda had concealed in his trunk a number of coins from his reservoir. When they reached the ice cream and soda water stand kept by Joe Stanley Gunda dropped a dozen coins on the counter. Stanley picked up the coins and Gunda's keeper tried to get him away from the place, but Gunda refused to move and upset the cash register and many bottles and cans with his trunk.

It dawned on the attendants that the elephant expected ice cream for his money, so Stanley dished up enough ice cream for a troop of children. The elephant became quiet and began to eat the ice cream.

When he had finished Thurman tried to get Gunda to move on, but Gunda would not move so long as there was ice cream in sight. Three more elephant portions had to be served.

GIRL'S GARB SHOCKS VOYAGERS.

Pads, Corsets, Shoes, Stockings and Undergarments Tabooed by Her.

New York.—There arrived the other day on the steamship Lorraine a young woman who does not believe in nature fashions. She frowned upon pads, corsets and all the rest that go to make the female form divine. Even shoes and stockings she views with contempt. And as for a multiplicity of undergarments, she regards those things as altogether unnecessary.

The ideal costume, according to this remarkable young woman, Miss Eva Palmer, who, by the way, is a New Yorker, is a loose gown, nothing more. When she applied for passage aboard the Lorraine she gave a brief synopsis of her views on the clothing question to the ticket agent.

"Do you adhere strictly to your beliefs?" he falteringly inquired. "Certainly," she replied. The ticket agent was stumped. The young woman, however, came to his rescue. "My attire aboard ship will be perfectly proper," she said. "Only I shall wear sandals instead of shoes." The compromise satisfied the agent, but Miss Palmer had neglected to tell the agent that stockings were not included in her costume. As a result, persons who had heard of the Kneipp cure watched Miss Palmer with a great deal of interest when she appeared on the promenade deck.

SUBURB REFUSES CARRIERS.

Lake Forest Prefers Rural Fashion of Going to the Post Office.

Waukegan, Ill.—There will be no free delivery of mail for the city of Lake Forest if the residents can prevent the post office department giving them such a system. The innovation is entirely too entitled for Lake Forest, which is striving to maintain at any cost a truly rural atmosphere.

Then, too, say the suburbanites, the institution of a free delivery system will deprive them of the pleasure of "going for the mail." And no country crossroads grocery ever boasted a cracker box clientele as sincere in its attachment for the common meeting place as is the Lake Forest contingent in its affection for the post office as a place for the exchange of social small talk and the clearing house of harmless gossip of the suburb.

"Leave us our old-fashioned post office," cries Lake Forest, "and give the mail carriers to some one who wishes them. We are satisfied to be as contented as possible."

RUNS SALOON BY INJUNCTION.

West Virginia Has One Which Does Not Need a License Now.

Wheeling, W. Va.—Raleigh county, West Virginia, has a saloon running by injunction. The courts have enjoined the officials of the county from any interference with this one. The saloon is at Hotchkiss, a small station on the new Deepwater railroad, right on the county line between Raleigh and Wyoming counties. The county of Wyoming licensed the saloon, but Raleigh county claims it is not in Wyoming county. A survey was made a few days ago, and it was discovered that the building the saloon is in is just inside the county of Raleigh. Official notice was served on the proprietor to discontinue the sale of liquors, but he appealed to the Circuit court for an injunction, and it was granted, and now he boasts of the only "saloon by injunction" in the country.

Roosevelt Favors Old Home.

Hempstead, L. I.—That President Roosevelt does not forget his home county when personal requirements are to be made good is manifested in the purchase of two finely bred carriage horses, which he has recently bought from William Post & Son of East Williston. The horses are deep bays, with long manes and tails, are full brothers, and are capable of pulling a brougham at good speed. The horses have been sent to Washington.

SUES FOR LOST BEARD

FARMER, DEPRIVED WHILE HE SLEEPS, ASKS DAMAGES.

Enjoys Breezes No More—With Nothing for Them to Blow Through. He Vows He Will Have His Revenge.

New York.—Deprived unwittingly of his luxuriant whiskers while he slept under the ministrations of a barber, George Palmer, a Sullivan county farmer, has brought suit for \$20,000 damages in the supreme court against John R. Reisler, proprietor of a barber shop near Herald square.

Now, these were no ordinary whiskers. For two decades they grew, fanned by the breeze and wet by the early dew as Palmer attended to his morning chores. They covered his bosom, hid his collar of celluloid from view, and made a necktie an extravagance. The owner of these hirsute adornments has passed the meridian of life and he had before him the vision of living in his old age beneath a shelter of his own raising, even as one would rejoice in plenty under his own fig tree.

Palmer was in New York recently and he decided to have a shave and his whiskers trimmed. He went to Reisler's shop, and being in a playful mood, he chaffed the journeyman who attended him.

He had seen the "Great White Way" and the large hotels and the theaters, and his tone was blithe as he compared them all with the "operly store" Hadjinge was handed about in quantities. By and by, under the stroke of the lather brush, Palmer was lulled to sleep. He awoke and the barber said something bright, which the farmer thought was over the top.

"Cut it out," he says he said. "Cut it off," the barber says the farmer said, and at the same time made a pass with his hand in the direction of his beard.

Anyway, Palmer went to sleep again and was awakened by the swish of a hot towel and the blowing of a stiff breeze. The breeze came from a compressed air atomizer plant in the cellar. Here was movement in the air, a high wind and no vibrant response from the agricultural chin. With a start Palmer awoke. He ran his hands over his cheeks and stared wildly at himself in the glass. His face was as smooth as a brook-worm boulder, and the barber was spraying upon it the perfume of new-mown hay.

"Ruined!" cried the astonished farmer. "What will folks say? What will my wife say? Who told you to cut off my beard? I tell you I didn't. Why, man, I aren't go back home." Mr. Reisler came in at this moment and the place grew lively. Palmer said that he would be the talk of the country, that he would be upbraided for coming to Broadway and returning clean shaven and skittish, and that he had been disgraced forevermore and that dogs would bark at him.

"It took me 20 years to grow that beard," said he, "and, by ginner, barber, I'll have the law on you. You see all these valuable oil paintings here on your wall? Sure as taxes, Mr. Reiser, I'll get a judgement and I'll strip 'em out of this place." Jacob Strahl, an attorney who represents the plaintiff, says that his client is not suing for the value of the beard but for the "humiliation" occasioned by its loss.

IOWA TOWN MADE BEAUTIFUL.

Independence Transformed by Work of Civic Improvement League.

Independence, Ia.—As the result of the organization of the Civic Improvement league this city is now enjoying a flower show of considerable importance. The league is something unique in municipal life, its object being the beautification of the city and the cultivation of a love of the beautiful on the part of every citizen. One of the originators and the present president is Mrs. P. G. Freeman. After an existence of only three years a wonderful transformation has been wrought in the appearance of the city. Even the banks of the Wapsipinicon river, which flows through the place, have been improved and made beautiful by shrubbery and flowering plants. The parks and the premises of citizens have been ornamented and the whole town has been transformed into a beauty spot.

Old Books Yield Wealth.

Hammonton, N. J.—Harry Woodley bought an old book case, filled with old books, at a sale on the William Trost estate, on Pine road, for less than two dollars yesterday. To-day he found snugly tucked away between the leaves of some of the books bank notes that have paid him handsomely for his investment, besides a collection of confederate notes, and old state bank notes of many years ago. Other finds of gold coins in boxes and cans from the place have been reported. The furniture and utensils had been in continuous use in the house between 45 and 50 years.

Getting Rich Killing Crows.

Bloomington, Ill.—Joseph Tutja, of La Salle county was paid the bounty on 174 crows one week recently, the largest sum paid to a single hunter in that county since the new law went into effect. Tutja brought the birds to town in a wagon, the vehicle being filled to the limit. As the bounty is ten cents per crow, he was paid \$17.40 for his day's work.

HOSPITAL BARN IS TO GO.

Famous Landmark on Field of Gettysburg Will Be Torn Down.

Gettysburg, Pa.—The famous Sheeler barn, once a wartime hospital, near the Gettysburg battle-ground, is to be torn down. It is still, as it was in the days when it was a wartime hospital, a thatched barn, never having been roofed except with straw.

One of the last of its kind, this thatched barn was already old when the famous battle of Gettysburg was fought. It has withstood the storms of nearly 150 years, and at the time it was built was one of the many barns of the same pattern. It is located on the Sheeler farm, a short distance from the borough line. It is owned by George W. Sheeler, who has decided to tear it down, owing to its weakened condition. Much of the interior timber has been sold to persons historically inclined, who wished the splinters for mementos of the battle-ground.

During the battle and for four weeks after the conflict the building was occupied by the confederates as a hospital, the mows, stables and upper floor being filled with the wounded. In the logs of the old structure are imbedded many bullets, which lodged there during the first day of the bloody conflict.

Forty-four confederate soldiers, members of Johnston's brigade, died in this building, and their bodies were buried within 100 feet of the structure. A few years later they were taken to Hollywood cemetery, Richmond, Va.

While this building was used as a hospital by the confederates, Martin Sheeler, who then owned the place, returned home, after being honorably discharged from nine months' enlistment in company F, One Hundred and Sixty-fifth Pennsylvania regiment. Though he found his home occupied with men who fought against the union, he immediately joined his wife in nursing the sick, binding up wounds and making the dying comfortable. Later he reenlisted for three years.

INDIAN LANGUAGES UNCHANGED.

No Improvement Made in the Tongues of the Five Tribes.

Muskogee, I. T.—The Indian has made no progress in the adaptability of his language. An interpreter in any of the five civilized tribes will use twice or three times as many words in repeating in his own language what he will say in English. This has become very apparent in Indian territory in the last six months when it has become necessary on account of political and various other events to try to disseminate information to the full-bloods who cannot understand any language except their own.

The Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole, Cherokee and Chickasaw have had a language of their own ever since they have been individual tribes. Yet none of them has ever shown any improvement in language. They seem to lack constructive powers. They have a word for everything and synonyms are practically unknown to them. Even the Choctaw, who created and for a half a century used an alphabet of their own, made little progress in improving their language. A Cherokee who speaks English will not hesitate for words to express his meaning, even giving it precise expression, but when he turns back to his Cherokee tongue there is a lack of phrases which it appears impossible to overcome.

NEW WRINKLE IN DOG CLOTHES.

Animal at Newport Wears Collar and Necktie and Struts in Public.

Newport, R. I.—Something new in dog dress has been introduced here by Mrs. Aurel Batonyi, and naturally attracted much attention. It was a linen collar of the white wing order, just like men wear, with a blue necktie encircling it. A dainty bow where the collar joined set it all off to perfection, and the Cap Elm Court kennel pet, strutting up and down in the Casino, seemed to feel that he was truly showing the world something new and incidentally gaining a little more preference for his kind.

It is Mrs. Batonyi's credit that the new wrinkle is not at all unbecoming, and since some Newport dogs actually have pantaloons, it is not inappropriate.

Mrs. Batonyi was formerly Mrs. James Burke Roach, the daughter of Frank Work of New York.

Not Yet Dead in Law.

Vienna.—German courts appear to take no chances in dealing with applications to presume the death of persons who have long disappeared. The principal Vienna papers publish a long official advertisement from the court at Oberdorf, calling upon one Fidelis Rohr, born on April 24, 1770, to appear before the said court some time before March 12, 1908, otherwise he will be declared dead. As Herr Fidelis Rohr would now be 137 years old, were he alive, it is hardly likely that the court will have the pleasure of seeing him.

Bar Families from U. S. Cars. Washington.—Announcement is made at the war department that disciplinary measures will be used, if necessary, to put an end to the use by families of army officers of cars chartered by the government for the transportation of troops. It is stated that persons of a nonmilitary character should not be permitted to occupy the cars without authority, as it is considered detrimental to the best interests of the service and a misuse of government transportation.

PRIZES FOR CHILDREN

TOWN ENCOURAGES INDUSTRY IN YOUNG ONES.

Unique and Interesting Custom Followed at Ashfield, Mass.—Awards Given for Sewing, Washing and Other Work.

Boston.—The town of Ashfield, Mass., has one custom which is unique as well as interesting to its citizens and to the outside world, so far as it has come to notice. This is the children's labor and prize day.

For the last nine years, on Labor day, there have been distributed to the children of the town under 18 years of age prizes to an amount in aggregate of nearly \$100 for the best evidences of their industry, ingenuity and special intelligence and capacity. These prizes, which are nearly all in money, are given by citizens and summer residents and are awarded by a committee chosen for the purpose.

This year, following the usual custom, there will be an exhibit in the town hall on the day appointed, at which time the names of the winners will be publicly announced. All through the year the children of the various schools throughout the town have been preparing for this event, for besides individual exhibits, collections are made and work done in common by the children of the different schools with the aid of the teacher.

This work consists of the adornment of the schoolhouses or school yards, the making of school gardens, collections of wild flowers and of minerals, lists of birds seen in Ashfield, with dates of arrival and notes on habits, drawings and paintings, models, compositions, number work, etc. Each school in town has its school garden, and these are visited once or more during the summer by some member of the committee, either in person or by proxy, and such garden products as may be in season will be exhibited on Labor day.

The exhibits for individual prizes are divided into the following classes:

- 1. Plain needlework and darning.
- 2. Prize for the best dishcloth or towel with plain hem and three initials in cross-stitch, by a child under 12 years of age.
- 3. For the best apron or undergarment with hemstitched hem at the bottom, by a child under 14 years.
- 4. For the best shirtwaist or skirt, by a child under 18 years.
- 5. Embroidery and fancy work.
- 6. Knitting and crocheting.
- 7. Plain washing and ironing.
- 8. The best arranged bouquet of garden or wild flowers.
- 9. Collections: (a) of pressed wild flowers; (b) of pressed leaves of forest trees native to Ashfield; (c) of woods of forest trees, of sections not less than two inches in diameter; (d) of grasses; (e) of ferns; (f) of fungi; (g) of seeds of native plants; (h) of insects found in Ashfield; (i) of relics or other curiosities.

7. List of plants observed during the year on any single half acre.

- 8. List of forest trees native to Ashfield, with a statement of the special locality in the town where rare or remarkably fine trees are to be found, with the measurements of the largest trees and with an account of the uses to which the different kinds are put.
- 9. Wild animal, squirrel, woodchuck, or any other, tamed.
- 10. Chickens, rabbits or other tame animals.
- 11. Work with jackknife or other tools.
- 12. Miscellaneous, any work showing ingenuity, such as basket making, frame making, etc., or anything not specially enumerated in the list which may seem deserving of a prize.

GREAT-GRANDFATHER AT 57.

Pennsylvania Man Has Achieved Unique Distinction for His Age.

Reading, Pa.—At 57, Peter F. Nagle of this place boasts of being the most youthful great-grandfather in the state, while his son, William A. Nagle of 2543 Berks street, Philadelphia, is equally positive that few grandfathers can put down their ages at 34.

Besides having the most youthful great-grandfather in the state, Baby Carroll can boast of the distinction of having great-grandmothers living. They are Mrs. Peter F. Nagle, Mrs. Thomas F. Beckley, who lives with her husband at the home of William Nagle; Mrs. Leonard Lewis, of Alba, Pa.; and Mrs. Anna Greenlaw, of Williamsport. The husbands of the two latter are dead.

The latter is the father of Earl Nagle, also of Philadelphia, who is 21 years of age, and he has a son, Carroll Nagle, who was born two years ago.

William A. Nagle was a grandfather at 37, which is considered very young. At a family reunion held here some time ago Peter F. Nagle, his son, William A., grandson, Earl, and great-grandson, Carroll, had their pictures taken in a group.

Forgets Letter; Cost is \$212.

Atlantic City, N. J.—Failure to mail a letter to his wife, who is in Vienna, cost Charles Patton, a western mining man, \$212 in cable tolls when he filed the letter over the deep sea lines to make up for his forgetfulness.

"I've got a letter here that I forgot to mail on the last steamer," he said, "and I want it sent direct as quickly as possible."

The operators gaped when they saw the closely written sheets, but the dutiful husband never even winced when he received the bill.

"BEAUTY" BROWN WINS OUT.

Hero of Equestrian Wedding, Twice a Bankrupt, Is Again Rich.

Sloux City, Ia.—Twice reduced to poverty by the "slings and bags of outrageous fortune," and as often having riches dumped upon him, Samuel A. Brown, formerly of Sloux City and known as "Beauty" Brown, has again received a large cargo of money, this time from a wealthy uncle, and has purchased a country home 12 miles from Philadelphia, where he and his wife, formerly Mrs. Louise Miller of Sloux City, are now living in luxury.

Wedded when a mere boy to a wealthy widow in Philadelphia, who lavished her riches on him, admired by his wife's younger friends, mistaken for a Vanderbilt because of his superb horsemanship; divorced because he refused to be an old woman's darling, left without a cent in the world, Brown gained a considerable fortune, and it was swept away when the Union Savings bank of Philadelphia failed a year ago. These are but a few of the incidents in the life of Samuel Brown.

When Brown came to Sloux City he attracted attention by his peculiar dress, insisting on wearing corset-shaped coats, and now and then a riding habit with a wauwau back. He carried a riding whip and wore leather leggings, though he did not always have a horse. Then he had a romantic marriage, driving up to the door of a church at Sloux City during the service and calling the minister outside, gave the world one of the only equestrian weddings on record.

Following his marriage to Mrs. Louise Miller, of Sloux City, the former Mrs. Brown, of Philadelphia, threatened to make business pick up for her divorced youthful husband, but the trouble was settled out of court, and Mr. and Mrs. Brown departed for Baltimore, where he had secured a position in a store.

RUSSIAN LANDS IN BARREL.

Faared He Would Be Deported Because He Lost an Eye.

New York.—Hylan Masowitch, a Russian who fled from outrages in his country, has had the unusual experience of being landed on America in a tightly headed barrel. When on his way to America Masowitch met an accident in which he lost an eye. In former days he would be deported because of this defect he called on friends, and they made up a purse and offered it to one of the petty officers of the ship to land him. The officer, knowing the circumstances, prepared a barrel and as the steamship was going up New York bay a boat was lowered containing the barrel which contained Masowitch. The boat's crew pulled ashore at Hoboken, rolled the barrel on land, and returned to their vessel. A few days afterward the Russian appeared in Waterbury, where friends were wondering about his safety.

LATEST FOR NATURE FAKERS.

Write-Crow Has Been Discovered in CornBeds of Maine.

Rumford Falls, Me.—A white black bird is a common expression used in Maine, but Oxford county is just now haunted by something fully as strange as white crow.

This form of nature is reported from the town of Oxford, where the crow is seen daily in the fields below the Town House hill. The bird is full grown, and while the head and breast are black the back and wings are snowy white.

The peculiarly marked crow is always in a flock of glossy black ordinary crows, among whose feathers prominently acting as a concealer. This strange marking is all that distinguishes the bird from its fellows, as it is of the same size and its wings have the same swiftness and characteristics of the crow family. Its note has not been heard.

OLD DESERTER GETS PENSION.

Was Brave in Navy After Running Away from Army.

York, Pa.—Notice has been received by William Clapper of this city, a deserter from the United States army, that his claim for a pension of \$12 per month as a civil war veteran has been granted by the government. The case is probably without precedent in the pension department, and it took Clapper 18 years to have his claims recognized.

His records show that he enlisted with the first volunteers in 1861, at the outbreak of the war, and served in the infantry until June 23, 1862, when he deserted because of his dislike for this branch of the service.

After several months he reenlisted in the navy under Admiral Dahlgren. He displayed bravery on a number of engagements, and at the end of the war was honorably discharged.

News Paper Statistics.

Washington.—In the year 1905 alone there was manufactured in the United States over \$35,000,000 worth of news paper, according to an announcement made by the census bureau. In the five-year period, 1900-'05, the production of news paper increased in value 78 per cent. The total value of paper and wood pulp manufactured in 1905 was over \$188,000,000. Of this, \$37,000,000 was of book paper, \$30,000,000 wrapping paper and \$22,000,000 newspapers. New York leads in this industry, while Massachusetts comes next, followed by Maine, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Ohio.