

FEWER U.S. CONVICTS

British System for Reforming Army Deserters to Be Tried.

Criminals to Be Sent to Alcatraz While Men Guilty of Purely Military Offenses Are to Go to Fort Leavenworth Prison.

Washington.—A sweeping change in military prison methods was instituted by orders of the War Department. All of the short term prisoners of Alcatraz Island, San Francisco, have been ordered transferred to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

All of the long term prisoners in the latter institution, about 270, to be transferred to Alcatraz, which will thus be made the place of confinement for the criminal element, while Leavenworth will be the place of detention of soldiers guilty of purely military offenses. To save transportation expenses, a second criminal jail is created at Fort Jay, Governor's Island, N. Y.

The effects of these changes is to carry out the recently developed British system of treating deserters and other soldiers guilty of breaches of discipline as subject to reformatory influences and of segregating them from the absolutely criminal and vicious class.

In a report, giving the result of a recent inspection by him of the "detention barracks" of the British army, the inspector general of the United States army, Gen. E. A. Garlington, said:

"It took five or six years for the detention system in England to establish itself, but it apparently has saved many men from trouble and from degenerating into hardened cases. They evidently endeavor in this system to apply humane common sense in the treatment of men in trouble. This gives an opportunity for the men to recover their self-respect and respond to any patriotic instinct which, under the stigma of prison life and its demoralizing environment, cannot be expected to survive."

In his recent report General Wood, chief of staff, recommended that the British system be given a trial in the United States. Under the present system in the United States, a soldier convicted of desertion becomes a "convict" and loses not only opportunity again to serve in the army but his citizenship as well.

Under the British system the deserter when apprehended, or men found guilty of other purely military offenses, are sent to the detention barracks. When they are believed to have reformed they are restored to duty with their regiments. If they are found to be undesirable for further service they are discharged.

FINDS AN ALMANAC OF 1777

Wallace Williams, a Retired Newspaper Man of Missouri, Discovers Relic of Colonial Days.

Fulton, Mo.—A Father Abraham's almanac of the year 1777 is in possession of Wallace Williams, a retired Fulton newspaper man. He discovered the relic among his collection of old-time books.

The periodical was printed and sold by John Dunlop in The News printing office at Philadelphia. The book is bound in leather and its yellow pages indicate its old age.

The almanac mentions the fact that it was the first year after leap year. Philadelphia in those days was the hub of the eastern territory and the book gives all the distances by highway to the principal cities in all directions from Philadelphia. Vehicles and omnibuses were the principal mode of travel.

The old-style "a" and many terms now obsolete are used in the book. The periodical was given to Mr. Williams by a friend many years ago and long since dead.

BELL BUZZARD BACK AGAIN

Establishes a Winter Home on Roof of "Haunted House"—Also Visited Flocks of Chickens.

Dover, Del.—The "bell buzzard," which has been seen and heard in different localities in Kent county for the past eight or ten years, is now in Dover, making its resting place on the roof and chimney of the old Cowgill house, or "Haunted House." It can be seen every day, and the jingling of the bell on its neck attracts the attention of passers-by.

Evidently driven to town by the extreme cold weather and snow, buzzards are frequently seen in the back yards of the residences.

But a few days ago a buzzard landed among a flock of chickens at the home of L. Schabinger here, and remained with the chickens day and night until forced to fly away by one of the family.

Board Walk Bars the "Trot"

Atlantic City.—The "turkey trot," "bunny hug," "grizzly bear" and other extremes in dancing have been put under the ban here by managers of the board walk dance halls. Special officers have been placed on the job to halt such exhibitions.

Bureau Kept Busy

Springfield, Ill.—Through its six officers, the Illinois free employment bureau found jobs for 59,827 men and women during 1911.

FADS IN JEWELRY FOR 1912

This to Be a Diamond Year—The Lady and the Golden Snake Create Sensation in England.

London.—Jewelers are prophesying that this is to be a diamond year. Last year the pearl was favorite ornament, and it graced tiaras, hunk in ropes on white necks and was twisted through curls.

Now the diamond has come back into favor, sometimes with an accompaniment of rubies and emeralds, sometimes alone in its white glory. Open-work medallions blazing with diamonds, rings set with single or double square slab diamonds, crowns, tiaras and diadems of these gems replace the softer pearl ornaments, and at the first court there is to be a blaze of diamonds as has not been seen for some time.

One reason for the exit of the pearl is that with the glittering, sequined dresses now worn the diamond is a more fitting and brilliant jewel.

Mrs. Paris Singer has been a frequent visitor at the London opera house recently, and she has always attracted attention because of a somewhat unusual ornament which unfailingly forms part of her toilette. It is a jeweled serpent of heavy dull gold, with great glittering emeralds for eyes, and a ridge of diamonds and rubies down its scaly back.

It can be worn as a necklace or an armlet. Sometimes Mrs. Singer appears with the golden snake coiled round her throat and lets its flat head hang down over her shoulder. Again she twists it about her arm so that the head is on the back of her hand, and the thin diamond studded tail is up above her elbow.

English women who are jewel mad at the present time have been quick to notice this novelty, and several jewelers have had orders for the manufacture of various kinds of gem studded snakes.

ROBERT KNIGHT REACHES 85

Owner of Vast Textile Interests Entered Factory When a Lad of Eight Years.

Natick, R. I.—Robert Knight, the largest individual cotton mill owner in the world, who owns cotton mills here and others in this state and Massachusetts, employing in all 7,600 hands, celebrated the eighty-fifth anniversary of his birth. He started to work in a cotton mill 77 years ago, when a boy of eight years, for 75 cents a week and never attended school until he was seventeen; then only for a year and a half. So fast did he learn, however, that at the age of nineteen he was a teacher in the district school of Exeter, Mass., his native town.

During the Civil war the Robert Knight mills were among the very few that continually kept going, and his profits were large. The Knight company now owns \$20,000,000 worth of cotton mills in this town, Pontiac, Providence, Arctic, Centerville, Jackson, White Rock and Phoenix, all in Rhode Island; Reidsville, Dodgeville, Hebronville and Marchaus in Massachusetts; Augusta and other points in Maine, and some in Connecticut.

SAYS YOUTH SHOULD DANCE

Author in Minneapolis Asserts There is Much Good in Bringing Young Together.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Dancing was called a natural and proper outlet for the play impulse by Dr. Woods Hutchinson of New York, physician and author, in an address here before the members of the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce association.

"If the opportunity for young people to dance is not properly afforded under proper management," he said, "the city should concern itself with such provision. The dance hall program may be helped greatly by using the public school houses for dances, under proper supervision. Young men and women should have greater opportunity to mingle among wholesome surroundings and there is much good in any plan that will bring them together more frequently. Much of the evil that besets the young in the cities could be avoided in this way."

WIFE SPANKED HER RIVAL

Mrs. Jennie Russ of Wilkesbarre, Pa., Says She Chastised Miss Sue Phillips.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—Mrs. Jennie Russ of this city, who lost her suit to have her husband found guilty of non-support, charged that the husband, Christian Russ of this city, spent much time and money in entertaining Miss Sue Phillips, and that in consequence he deserted her.

She admitted that recently she had deceived Miss Phillips into the private room of a hotel and had spanked her soundly. The husband said that after a quarrel with his wife she had gone to his bank and drawn out all his money, so that he could not give her any. Judge Strauss on hearing this dismissed the case.

Laborer Finds \$30,000

New York.—While digging in the ruins of the Equitable building, an Italian laborer picked up a roll of bills containing \$30,000. It was taken from him, and returned to its owner.

Actress Cares for Father

New York.—Mrs. Oscar Lewisohn (Edna Mae) has furnished an elaborate apartment here for her father, who has carried the mails in Syracuse, N. Y., for a score of years.

LEAP YEAR LAWS

Customs Originated in an Ancient European Superstition.

Man Who Refused to Marry When He Was Proposed To Fined Under Scotch Act of 1288—Privileges Granted Women.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—History gives the "ladies' leap year privilege" as a well accepted fact. It is an old one, becoming a part of the common law of social life in Great Britain as early as 1206. "Courtship, Love and Matrimony," published in that year, says: "Albeit it is now become a part of the common law, in regard to the social relations of life, that as often as every bissextile year doth return, the ladies have the sole privilege, during the time it continueth, of making love unto the men, which they do either by words or looks, as to them it seemeth proper, and moreover no man will be entitled to the benefit of clergy who doth in any wise treat her proposal with slight or contumely."

One legend by which it is attempted to account for the origin of the privilege relates that an appeal was made to St. Patrick to accord the women the same right of proposing at any time as the men have. This he refused, but was willing to concede the right every seventh year. Finally, as a compromise, he agreed that women should enjoy the right every four years, and that this year should be the longest of the four.

In 1288 it is said that a law was enacted in Scotland that:

"It is stat and ordinet that during the rein of hir maist Disait meggest, for like years known as lepe year, ilk maiden ladre of both hiege and lowe estate shall hae liberte to bespeke ye man she likes; albeit he refuse to talk hir to be his lawful wif, he shall not be muled in yesumane pund, or less, as his estate may be; except and awis gif he can make it appear that he is betroith an ithr woman he shall then be free."

A like law is said to have been passed in France about the same time. In the fifteenth century the custom was legalized in Genoa and Florence. In Scotland, in later years, and perhaps at present, the women have the privilege at many private dances of choosing their own partners in a leap year. Men stand about the walls of the room, like veritable wall flowers, waiting "to be asked." They look pictures of sheepish anxiety until they are courtseyed to and led forth to the dance by the fair one. Frequent "asking" is supposed to accentuate the "hint" that a proposal trembles on the lips of the fair one.

WOMAN TO BE AN ENGINEER

Has Had Much Experience With Her Father in Ore Districts—He Will Coach Her.

Spokane, Wash.—Randie Jeldness of this city, who was graduated recently from an eastern college for women, has decided to become a mining engineer under the tutelage of her father, Olaus Jeldness, known as a successful operator in the foremost camps of Colorado, Nevada, Washington and British Columbia.

Miss Jeldness was initiated in the dry ore district, north of Bear Lake, in the Canadian province, where, with her father, she ascended a mountain rising 8,500 feet above sea level, making the trip with a pack over a trail through the heavy timber. Afterward they attended several sessions of the western branch of the Canadian Mining Institute at New Denver, B. C., where some of the most prominent mining engineers and managers in the Canadian northwest encouraged the girl's undertaking, saying it offers exceptional opportunities and advantages for those who are not afraid of hard work and pays the highest remuneration of any of the professions in America for intelligent and persistent effort.

BOASTS TITLE OF THE AIR

Each of the Eighty-Seven Departments of France Expected to Give Aeroplane to the Nation.

Paris.—It is probable that each of the eighty-seven departments composing France will donate an aeroplane to the army, the machines to bear the names of the departments presenting them.

The scheme is the outcome of a too-small appropriation for the air division made by the chamber of deputies. There is a growing feeling here that France's destiny will probably be fought out in the clouds, and the fear is general that Germany might forge ahead in the matter of air craft.

The man in the street says England has the most powerful water force, Germany the biggest standing army, so France ought to keep her lead as mistress of the air.

Kindness to Pig Pays

Woodbury, N. J.—Two years ago a pig was given to George Beckett, at Ewan, and his wife took a fancy to the little fellow, which was of the scrubbiest kind of a breed. After a good scrubbing the pig began to take nourishment from a bottle and it grew into a remarkable size last year, but Mrs. Beckett would not consent to have it killed. Now the hog will weigh close to 700 pounds, and it is considered the largest porker in South Jersey.

NEW DIAMOND FIELD FOUND

Stones Worth \$150,000 Taken Monthly From the Farm of an Old Boer in Western Transvaal.

London.—According to information received in London a new diamond field has been discovered in the Western Transvaal. The site is the farm of an old Boer at Moolfontein, in the district of Bloemhof. Moolfontein now has a population of more than 6,000 drawn there by the diamond fields. The development of the diamond field was the outcome of the rush of miners to Bloemhof, a village on the Vaal river, 220 miles from Johannesburg.

A little more than a year ago a Dutch farmer discovered diamonds near Bloemhof and some diggers from mining camps went there. Among the prospectors were the sons of the old Boer at Moolfontein. They found that the gravel in which the diamonds were found was identical with gravel on their father's farm and went home to investigate it.

They struck pay dirt immediately. Last September the government issued a proclamation declaring a portion of the farm to be an alluvial dig-ging and the rush to stake claims was begun. Moolfontein was the name of the old Boer's farm. It is now a small city.

In November the owner, who was receiving \$3,000 a month in house fees from the claim holders, protested against the proposal to open more of his farm to diamond seekers. He said that many of those who came had brought cattle and sheep which were devastating his fields. The field is now yielding about \$150,000 a month in diamonds which are of a quality commanding \$20 a carat. Owing to shortage of labor the amount of digging is comparatively small. Diamonds have been found on other farms in the vicinity of Moolfontein and it is believed that the field covers a wide area.

VERSE NO STAY TO SUICIDE

Brooklyn Man Crumples Poem Holding Out Hope as He Fires Fatal Shot.

Los Angeles.—Rejecting a poem "Opportunity" which held out hope of another chance, Joseph Vincent, a Columbia graduate, formerly of 359 St. John's place, Brooklyn, shot himself on the summit of Silverwood hill here. At his feet was found crumpled up a poem, written in the East side of New York by William E. Malone, who lived among the submerged tenth while studying them. The final two verses read:

Though deep in the mire, wring not your hands and weep.
I lend my arm to all who say "I can't do it."
No shame-faced outcast ever sank so deep.
But yet might rise and be again a man.

Art thou a mourner? Rouse thee from thy spell.
Art thou a sinner? Sins may be forgiven.
Each morning gives the wings to thee from hell.
Each night a star to guide thy feet to heaven.

The verses had been copied by Mrs. Adelaide Lafetra, an old time friend, who knew of his despondency. Mrs. Lafetra said he had made many failures, and she had tried to arouse him to better things.

NINE PROPOSE TO COL. GREEN

Hetty's Son Arrives in San Francisco and Talks of Reception There—Refuses to Tell Names.

San Francisco.—His first day in San Francisco brought Col. Edward H. R. Green, son of Mrs. Hetty Green, accredited as the world's richest woman, nine proposals of marriage.

"They must have seen my ad" in the papers," the colonel told reporters who called on him to learn what their matrimony stories printed in the morning had developed. He laughingly pointed to one of the "ads": "Col. Green, heir to \$100,000,000; retired president, cowpuncher, bachelor, and 43."

"My!" he exclaimed. "That must look awfully good to a lot of aspiring young women."

Colonel Green refused to make public the names of any of the ambitious housekeepers.

CONDUCTOR TWICE HIT HARD

Once by Current and Then for Fares He Rung Up in Attempting to Release Hand.

Vancouver, B. C.—Grasping the register bar on a trolley car in this city to record a fare, Neil Holland, a conductor, was badly shocked and before he could be pulled from his perilous position by passengers, had rung up 108 cash fares, for which he will have to account to the company. The register had been working all right until Holland grabbed it on this occasion.

The electricity in some way had gone astray through the wiring in the car and the current was flowing through the metal. When he was pulled from the register, Holland dropped to the floor exhausted and still jerking his arm as though he were ringing up fares.

Aged Priest Now a Lawyer

Sacramento, Cal.—The Rev. Father Francis Gleason, a Catholic priest, passed a successful examination and has been admitted to the practice of law. Father Gleason, who is more than sixty years old, passed a good examination, and was the first on the list of the class of 18.

LESS GOLD MINED

\$96,233,528 Was the Total Output in 1911.

Silver Production for Year is 57,796,117 Ounces. It is Announced in Preliminary Estimate by Director Roberts of the Mint.

Washington.—The gold production of the United States during 1911 was \$96,233,528 and the silver production 57,796,117 ounces, according to a preliminary estimate issued by George E. Roberts, director of the mint. This is a reduction in gold of about \$45,000 and in silver of about 680,000 ounces as compared with the returns for 1910.

Among the states and territories the principal gold producers were: California, with \$30,310,987; Colorado, with \$19,152,890; Nevada, with \$18,968,578; Alaska, with \$16,002,978; South Dakota, with \$7,430,367; Utah, with \$4,769,747; Montana, with \$2,169,840; Arizona, with \$2,954,799; and Idaho with \$1,165,261.

In the order named, Utah, Montana, Nevada, Colorado and Idaho led as silver producers. At the average price for the year the total silver product was worth \$30,854,509.

The net amount of gold and silver used in the industrial arts was approximately \$34,000,000 gold and 34,000,000 ounces of silver. The coinage of the mints was: Gold, \$55,176,822; silver, \$6,457,301; nickel and copper, \$3,156,726. Total, \$65,790,850. The net gain in the country's stock of gold coin, including bullion in the treasury during the year was close to \$100,000,000.

The director's report gives the final figures for the production of gold in the world in 1910 at \$154,703,900.

The director also makes a preliminary estimate upon the world's production in 1911 of \$166,700,000, or a gain of about \$12,000,000. The Transvaal increased its output by about \$14,000,000 and other African fields gained \$2,000,000.

On the other hand, Australia showed a continuance of the decline which has been persistent since 1903, the loss in 1911 being about \$1,000,000. The production of North America was about the same as in 1910.

These three grand geographic divisions produced nearly \$400,000,000 and the gains and losses in other producing countries probably about offset each other. Australasia has fallen from \$59,210,100 in 1903 to \$52,000,000.

Although gold production continues to increase, the increase was at a diminishing rate and the director expresses the opinion that there is nothing in the present outlook to indicate a repetition of the phenomenal gains that were made between 1890 and 1899 and between 1901 and 1908. They were the result of the discovery of the cyanide process and of the development of the wonderful Transvaal field. The only country in the world that is showing notable gains at this time is Africa, and the Transvaal field is nearing its maximum.

EYE CURE BY LAMP LIGHT

Surgeon Picks Glass Out of Man's Optic—Was Victim of Thugs.

New York.—In the dim light cast by the lamps of his ambulance, Dr. Greenward of the Williamsburg hospital picked several fragments from the eyes of Stanley Roberts of Williamsburg.

Roberts was attacked by two men. A blow from a blackjack smashed his glasses, and tiny particles became embedded in his eyeballs. When Ambulance Surgeon Greenward arrived the man was unconscious. With tiny forceps and the aid of a powerful magnifying glass he removed many pieces of glass from Roberts' eyes before removing him to the hospital.

A man, who said he is Joseph Williams of 150 Grand street, Williamsburg, was arrested later and held in court as an assailant of Roberts.

SAY BACON WROTE THE BIBLE

English Baconians Declare He Did Work for King James—Was Completed in 1610.

New York.—The latest sensation in literary circles here and in London is the claim which has been suddenly brought forward by English Baconians that Bacon rewrote the Bible as it was translated for King James and that the King James version, as that that the King understood, is really the work of Bacon. According to T. W. Smedley of the Bacon society the final revision of the authorized version was handed to King James in 1609 and returned by him completed in 1610.

House Bill a Poor Bank

Hanover, Mass.—Antony Geribo thought he had found a safe place to keep his savings when he tucked \$13 in bills under the sill of his house. But when he went for the money he found the winter winds had rocked the house so that the bills were ground to bits.

Hogs Peeved, Eat Jocko

Marysville, O.—Mrs. George Lincoln of Woodstock mourns the death of her pet monkey, Jocko. Jocko spent much of his time teasing and annoying the hogs on the Lincoln farm. The porkers, becoming tired of the monkey's antics, just ate him up.

INSANITY ON THE INCREASE

Population of County Has Enlarged 11 Per Cent, and Cases of Insanity Is 25 Per Cent.

Washington.—Insanity in the United States is increasing twice as fast as the population, according to figures gathered by the federal government in a special inquiry through the census bureau.

The figures show that while the population of the country grew 11 per cent, in the five years from 1904 to 1910, the population in asylums for the insane rose about 25 per cent. As to the number of cases of insanity not resulting in commitments to hospitals, the census bureau has no data.

"Our figures," says Director Durand, "afford a striking indication of the prevalence of insanity, if not an exact measure. It is somewhat startling to reflect that the 187,454 patients confined in hospitals for the insane make up a population larger than Columbus, O."

The state which, in proportion to its population, had the largest number of insane reported in institutions on January 1, 1910, was Massachusetts with 344.5 per 100,000 population. New York, however, had almost the same proportion, namely 343.1 per 100,000 population.

The number of insane in institutions in Missouri is 6,170.

More than 8,500 persons were committed to asylums in New York state last year, 4,617 in Pennsylvania, 4,236 in Massachusetts, 4,085 in Illinois and 3,327 in Ohio.

Arkansas had fewer insane committed last year than any state in proportion, 16 per 100,000, according to Mr. Durand's figures. New Mexico comes next with 25.7 per 100,000, and Utah with 27.6 per 100,000, is third. After them, in order, come Wyoming, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama.

MAN THOUGHT DEAD IS ALIVE

National Guard Officer Let Wife Collect Insurance—Engaged to Marry Under Assumed Name.

New York.—Miss Catherine Robert, the daughter of Mrs. Adeima Robert of Center Moriches, Long Island, who has just moved to Flatbush, was engaged to marry Capt. Barton Cruikshank, the National Guard officer of Potsdam, N. Y., supposed to have been drowned in the St. Lawrence river, from a canoe, in June, 1910. Cruikshank was found alive and well in this city.

His wife, supposing that he was dead, collected \$20,000 life insurance, besides probating his will and settling his estate. A genuine sensation has been caused by the discovery that Cruikshank has been conducting an engineering and contracting business in this city under the name of Donald Douglas & Co.

Upon the discovery of his duplicity Cruikshank disappeared again, going, it is believed, to Puerto Rico. In the days before he left he made a full confession, revealing that he had sent money to Mrs. Cruikshank for months under a name neither Cruikshank nor Douglas. Through his wife's sister and his brother-in-law, he arranged by correspondence a complete reconciliation with her and took a promise from her that she would never bring him either in Puerto Rico or in this country, as he should choose. He completely convinced Mrs. Cruikshank's relatives and lawyers there was no other woman in his life.

BIRDS CAUSE HORSES' DEATH

Veterinarian Explains a Trypanosomiasis Epidemic in Kentucky—Is Like Pellagra.

Louisville, Ky.—Blackbirds carrying infection from the south are responsible for the death of great numbers of Kentucky horses from a disease akin to pellagra, in the opinion of Assistant State Veterinarian M. A. Purdy, who is analyzing the brains of dead horses in an effort to find traces of the germs. The disease is trypanosomiasis, and Dr. Purdy's theory is that the birds, infected with it, bite the horses, thus conveying the infection, or lay their eggs in the damp feed eaten by the horses. Muddy Toddler was at first held responsible for the epidemic, which has been prevalent since last spring, but that theory has been discarded.

"JOKE" BRINGS A WEDDING

Man Advertises in Matrimonial Paper "Just for Fun" and New York Girl Gets Him.

Mandan, N. D.—Curiosity over results which may be gained through the medium of the "want ad" has brought a bride to William F. Anderson of this city. Miss Clarabelle Brown of New York city is the young woman who became his wife. Mr. Anderson inserted an "ad" in a matrimonial paper last summer as a joke, he said. Among his first replies was one from Miss Brown, who declared her enthusiasm for the west and expressed a hope that some day she might live there. Correspondence and the wedding followed.

Red Hot Porker as Alarm Clock

Kansas City, Mo.—Rode Sumwig, forty-five years old, of No. 207 North First street, this city, did not feel that it was necessary to arise on a cold morning. The other lodgers felt it was, and branded him with a red hot poker. He was taken to a hospital, and the others that celebrated were placed in jail.