

Gen. Horace Porter.



Former ambassador to France who will go to the Hague peace tribunal as one of America's representatives. Gen. Porter is a noted diplomat, military officer and public speaker.

INCREASING LENGTH OF LIFE.

What Medical Science Has Done for the Human Race.

Reviewing the progress of medicine during the nineteenth century. Dr. John S. Billings, United States army, has shown that deaths of women from childbirth decreased during that period from 10 to 20 in 1,000 to 5 in 1,000, and that from all causes the deaths in New York city fell from between 35 and 40 in 1,000 to less than 20 in 1,000.

No one disputes these facts or attributes them to any cause other than medical science—the measures employed partly in curing disease, but more especially in preventing its introduction or its spread when once introduced.

JOKE THAT TWO COULD PLAY.

Farmer Evened Up Accounts with Young Would-Be Wit.

Young Stevenson was on his way north to spend the week end with his parents, and felt in a particularly jovial mood. The train in which he was traveling had stopped at a small village. As a farmer who was sauntering up and down the platform came opposite Stevens' compartment he was asked by the youth if he knew that the Duke of Devonshire was on the train.

THE DIFFERENCE.

"Yes, I have heard of him. Owes everybody, gets drunk and goes whooping around the streets. Keeps a worthless cur and has a fondness for telling stories beginning, 'Say, have you heard this one? If you have, call me off. Once there was a young married couple—a worthless loafer, a dead bear and—' Oh, no! You are thinking of John E. This is his cousin, John G. Drives his creditors into bankruptcy, runs over people with his imported 60-horse power automobile, owns a \$3,000 fighting dog, talks so loudly in his box at the opera that he infuriates those who think music was made to be listened to, reads novels in French, and—' Ah, I see—strange! I should make such a mistake—a well-known man-about-town."—Puck.

THE CAMERA FIEND'S WANDERLUST.

As the sun day by day ascends the heavens and the actinic value of his light increases, rhapsodizes the editor of the American Amateur Photographer, there seizes us once more the fervor of the enthusiast. From the high shelf down comes the camera, the plate holders are loaded, and we tramp across the green fields looking for pictures—or pretending to. For half the cause of our wandering has naught to do with the black box we carry with us. The primitive instinct for change, the ancestral wanderlust, it is, that has seized us and driven us forth to nature.

Costs to Keep Umbrellas.

"That old umbrella joke about one's inability to keep one for any length of time came back to me with unusual force this morning," remarked the careful man. "I received my umbrella back from the repair man with a bill for \$2.85 for recovering it and putting in a new ferrule. The umbrella originally cost me \$4.50. I've had it four years now and in that time it has been recovered twice so that it stands me in nearly double its original cost. But then I suppose that is the price I have to pay for my vanity in being able to keep one umbrella for so long."

Mind.

Alfred Woodruff, a six-year-old boy in the El Reno public schools, was asked by "teacher" to write an essay on mind, and here is what his mind produced: "You must mind your mother or you will get a lickin. Then you will cry. Some mothers are cross. Some mothers lick you for running off. Some mothers lick you for going up town. Some mothers lick you for going swimming. If you will mind you will never get lickin."—Kansas City Journal.

A High Regard.

"I suppose you have a certain admiration and esteem for our government," said the sarcastic citizen. "Undoubtedly," answered Mr. Dustin Stax. "Our government has trained some of the most efficient men that our capitalists have in our employ."—Washington Star.

FIRST STEAMER ON SUPERIOR.

Independence Made Initial Trip Sixty-Two Years Ago.

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.—In these days of 600-footers it is interesting to note that it will be 62 years ago this coming season that the waters of Lake Superior were first navigated by a steam vessel. This ship was the screw propeller Independence, a craft of small burden, but at the time a veritable queen of the lakes.

The Independence was built at Chicago and steamed up to St. Mary's falls, where it was carried overland for seven-eighths of a mile, across the portage at that point. The vessel was capable of making five miles an hour with her steam and was supplied with a foresail and mastsail, which added to her speed in accordance with the wind.

The second steam vessel to sail on Lake Superior was the Julia Palmer, which made her initial voyage in these waters in August, 1846.

CARRIAGE 125 YEARS OLD.

Belonged to General Henry Knox. Is Still in Good Repair.

Boston.—Doubtless the oldest private carriage in existence in the United States to-day is that which belonged to Major Gen. Henry Knox of Thomaston, Me. The vehicle is about 125 years old, and in it Gen. Knox used to drive over his vast estate. It is now owned by Frank B. Hills, first selectman of Thomaston, who purchased it of the Alden Gay estate in 1895. After the death of Gen. Knox, which occurred Oct. 25, 1806, Alden Gay's father bought the carriage of the Knox estate, and it remained with the Gays until Mr. Hill made his purchase. The carriage, coming as it does from so famous a man as was Gen. Knox, first secretary of war under Washington, makes it a decidedly more valuable relic.

KILLS WIFE WITH FUNNY STORY.

New Jersey Man Makes His Spouse Laugh Herself to Death.

Trenton, N. J.—A hearty laugh over a funny story related to Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Bennett a few days ago by her husband, Frederick H. Bennett, resulted directly in the woman's death. She continued to laugh several minutes so violently that she burst a blood vessel. The husband's mirth was cut short by his wife's sudden illness.

A physician was summoned, but he could do nothing for Mrs. Bennett. She suffered excruciatingly for three days before she died. The fatal joke, which was told while the Bennetts were at dinner, was as follows:

"A young fellow came into the office this morning and asked if he could have the telephone. I said he could if he didn't take it away with him. So, calling up his home, he telephoned to his wife: 'Say, Mame, Uncle Bill, Aunt Scille and grandma and Cousin Em, Cousin Liz, Cousin Tom and Uncle Joshua and the Brown family are all coming over for dinner.'"

"The young fellow paused long enough to get his breath, and then concluded: 'Go out and get a slice of ham, and we'll have a big dinner for 'em.'"

CONVICT HONORS MAN HE SHOT.

Borrowed \$5 to Buy Wreath to Put on Coffin of Policeman.

Baltimore, Md.—William Howard, a convict who is serving a 20-year term in the Maryland penitentiary, borrowed \$5 from Warden Weyer, with which he bought a wreath to be placed upon the coffin of ex-Policeman Doyle of Cantonville. It was for putting seven bullets into Doyle 17 years ago that Howard is now in the penitentiary.

Howard and a companion escaped from Westminster jail. Doyle came upon them in a hayrick, and they crawled underneath, the policeman after them. When the officer got to the other side Howard was ready for him and fired seven times. One shot was nearly fatal, but the policeman recovered. Howard was captured after a desperate fight in Harrisburg, brought back and convicted.

He said he wanted to pay tribute to the pluckiest man he ever had met.

Sulphur Yellow in Vogue. London.—According to the Drapers' Record sulphur yellow, which already has a vogue in Paris, will be the popular shade this year both for women's frocks and for household decorations.

LEADS AS A PAPER MAKER.

This Country the Greatest Producer, with Germany Following.

Washington.—Consul William C. Telchman of Ebonstock recently discussed the consumption of paper by the principal nations of the world as reflecting modern progress of civilization because of its extensive use for printing purposes. It places the United States in the front rank as the greatest paper-producing country of the world, with an annual output of 639,734 tons (avoirdupois).

One American corporation is declared to be the greatest paper manufacturing enterprise in the world, possessing 31 factories, with 96 continuously running machines, the company using almost as many machines as are operated in Italy and the Netherlands together, and its annual production exceeds that of all the paper factories in Austria-Hungary and almost equals that of the British ones. Its capital amounts to more than \$13,000,000.

Germany has become the largest exporter of this article, with 51,000 tons annually, England following with 49,210, the United States 16,880 and France 13,000. The United States' export goes principally to South America, but also to Canada and Australia. Notwithstanding its large production, England remains a good buyer, having imported 147,706 tons last year.

Regarding the direct consumption of paper, it is an interesting fact that the United States leads with an annual figure of 38.8 pounds per capita, England coming next with 34.3, Germany 29.58, France 20.5, Austria 19, Italy 15.4, Serbia showing the lowest European figure, 1.1; India shows only 0.22 and China 1.1 per capita. Nearly half of the paper manufactured in the world is used for printing purposes. Twenty per cent is absorbed in the trades and industries. Almost an equal proportion is applied for official and school purposes. The remaining ten per cent serves the demand for private use.

40,000 HORSES EATEN IN A YEAR.

Consumption Increases Fast in Paris and is Aided by Doctors.

Paris.—According to official statistics, 40,000 horses were eaten in Paris last year. This represents about 11,000,000 kilograms of horse-flesh, as compared with the earlier figures of 1890, when a total of only 5,000,000 was eaten. This branch of the butcher business in Paris seems to be growing rapidly in favor, so that the horse butcher is assuming the position of quite a respectable competitor with the beef butcher.

Horse butchers' signs, with a gilded horseshoe above the door, are numerous in certain quarters of the city, and horse butchers are rapidly preempting spaces in the market halls. This is particularly the case in well-to-do sections, and the fact almost prompts the suggestion that the doctors are in league with the horse butchers.

Doctors are more and more recommending for certain patients who are in need of building up their shattered systems a bit of horse-flesh, and for persons whose constitutions are thoroughly run down with weakened stomachs they prescribe the juice of horse-flesh prepared under certain simple conditions, instead of the fresh meat itself.

At the markets during the early morning hours each day men and women stand in line waiting their turn to be served by the horse butcher. They call for a nice steak of file; and, being well versed on the matter of quality, are very particular in their selections. Some butchers make a specialty of male meat, which contains more fatty matter than horse meat.

GROWS RICH AND AIDS WAIFS.

Man, Once a Foundling, Devotes Fortune to Assist Others.

St. Joseph, Mo.—Eugene Purdy, who was sent west in 1886 by the Children's Aid society of New York, one of a carload of waifs, and was adopted when eight or ten years old by Henry Herping, a farmer of Chillicothe, Mo., returned from the Klondike last October with \$150,000, which he made in six years in gold mining.

He has now learned from the Children's Aid society that he had two brothers older than himself who were sent out for adoption by the society before he left the institution. He has also heard of a sister who once lived at Binghamton, N. Y., but he has been unable to get any trace of her. "The first thing I want to do," Purdy says, "is to find my brothers and sister. After that I intend to devote some time to an investigation of what becomes of thousands of foundlings sent from New York to western cities. The society tries to keep in communication with them or with the people who take them, but communication ceases after a few years and nobody knows what becomes of them. I know from investigation I have already made that many of these unfortunate children go to the bad."

Whipping Post Again in Use.

Baltimore.—The whipping post is to be revived in Maryland after having been in disuse for 20 years. Sadler Brooks, colored, was sentenced to receive nine lashes in addition to a jail sentence of two months for brutally beating his wife.

DESIDERES WARSHIP OF FUTURE.

English Naval Expert Says Steam Boiler and Funnel Must Go.

London.—The battleship of the future is to be a strangely weird looking craft, if the designs which have been worked out prove practicable. The substitution of naval architects recently held a conference in London, and one of the most important papers was one which dealt with "The Influence of Machinery on the Gun Power of the Modern Warship."

This showed that if a large number of guns are to be effectively mounted they must all be placed so as to fire on either broadside. In the Dreadnought, out of ten 12-inch guns only eight fire on either broadside. To enable all ten to fire with the utmost effect it was shown the funnels must be abolished and also all deck erections. But if funnels are to be eliminated steam can no longer be used and the boiler must go.

The great firm of Vickers has faced this fact, and after three years of almost continuous research work has perfected a system of gas machinery for propelling a ship.

An explosive engine, in a word, is to displace the steam engine. The design for such a vessel has been worked out. She has no funnels and is thus an extraordinary looking craft.

Her speed will be higher than that of any existing battle ship. Her dimensions are moderate, but she carries batteries more powerful than even the Dreadnought, since all of its ten guns can fire on either beam, and six ahead or astern. This is to be the ship of the future.

GIRLS WORK BIG LAND DEAL.

Raise \$750,000 to Finance Purchase of 1,600,000 Acres in Mexico.

St. Joseph, Mo.—The biggest land deal ever made by two Missourians has just been completed by two very busy and ambitious young women, Misses Helen Kimber and Nellie Howard, who have become sole owners of 1,600,000 acres of grazing, mineral and agricultural land in north-western Mexico. The sum paid for this land is \$750,000, or a little more than 50 cents an acre. The money was raised from Missouri banks and trust companies and personal friends of the young women, who have implicit confidence in their ability, judgment and ultimate success in converting the vast tracts into profitable gains.

Attention was first called to their extensive operations in western Kansas and Colorado lands three years ago. They came to St. Joseph from Cottonwood Falls poor in purse, but exceedingly ambitious and active, as agents for a western railway in disposing of tracts secured direct from the government a generation or more ago in grants.

Ports Labas and Libertad on the Gulf of California, and a strip 97 miles long touching Arizona, are included in the purchase.

PROPHET PREDICTS OWN DEATH.

Was Father of Seer, Who Improves on Parent in Forecasting Business.

Wellsville, O.—W. S. Griffin died here three weeks ago at a gathering in celebration of his seventy-fifth birthday. He announced that he had not long to live and that he would not complete his seventy-sixth year. He was then in apparently good health. A few days later he was taken ill and the decline was rapid.

Mr. Griffin was not only a prophet, but the father of a prophet. His son, John L. Griffin, has achieved much local notoriety as a seer. He claims to have predicted the Japanese-Russian war, the Martinique and the San Francisco disasters and other memorable events long before they occurred. He is the author of a book entitled, "A Journey Through Heaven and Hell," dealing with miraculous visions he had in his boyhood of great events, some of which are now past and some to come.

He is a versatile genius. Besides being an author he is an expert contortionist and has worked as a coal miner, a steeplejack, painter and paper hanger.

HOLE IN HEAD RESTORES SPEECH.

Blow Causes Man to Lose Tongue; Trephining Cures Him.

New York.—After suffering from a strange affliction for three months, which prevented him from speaking, Frank Bieriin, 37 years old, left Bellevue hospital the other night completely cured.

Bieriin was struck on the head last winter with a blackjack by a negro who tried to rob him. A few days later Bieriin began to lose the power of speech. At Bellevue hospital the X-ray showed that Bieriin's skull had been fractured, causing pressure on the portion of the brain which controlled the vocal organs. An operation was performed and a small piece of the skull removed. When Bieriin recovered from the effects of the anesthetic it was found that he could speak.

Wireless Phone a Success.

Berlin.—Count Arco in his wireless telephone experiments has succeeded in obtaining distinct exchanges of words in a tolerably natural voice at a distance of two miles by using poles 20 feet high. Count Arco does not regard his discoveries as commercially practicable at present, though he hopes eventually to construct an apparatus that will take the place of wires in cities and perhaps in suburban districts.