

TOWN TO RUN PAPER

WEBSTER CITY, IOWA, TO PUBLISH A DAILY.

Fight Over Gas Franchise the Cause of the New Departure in Municipal Ownership—Alderman to...

Webster City's (lat) penchant for municipal ownership is to take a new form—that of a city-owned daily newspaper. This departure in municipal enterprise probably has not a counterpart in the United States.

Webster City began her career as a municipal ownership city many years ago. The first acquired possession of her waterworks. Next came the electric light and power plant. Then came the city heating plant, and now this latest venture.

The venture of the city into the field of journalism has been on the hottest kind of a red-hot gas campaign. M. K. Springer, representing the Practical Gas and Construction company, of Chicago, is asking that the people vote him a franchise to erect and maintain a gas plant in the city.

This year Mrs. Rasmussen has charge of the mission school, the pupils of which now number 37 boys and two girls. As the boys work on the farm in the mornings, school begins at one o'clock, continuing until 5:30 o'clock.

The natives in this section are said to be mentally and morally superior to those in other parts of Africa, but the old king was greatly opposed to new methods and the white man's ways.

The decision of the council to launch a daily came as a general surprise, as no one there dreamed that the city would enter the journalistic field.

BOY PLEADS OPHTHALMIA.

Nineteen-Year-Old Boy Seeks Divorce from His Bride—Over Three Times His Age.

Fred A. Brenner, of Cleveland, who was 19 when he married Marguerite Brenner, 62, has filed an amended divorce petition in her answer.

During the years of his infancy he was not accorded the privilege of a college of matrimony, and unfortunately his tutelage in that branch of speculation under the parental roof was sadly neglected.

MUST BE BUILT STRONGER

Naval Inspectors Declare Speed of Torpedo Boats Will Be Sacrificed for Heavier Construction.

The result of the recent thorough examination of the naval torpedo-boats in the factory, only one of the little craft having a record of escaping breakdowns.

The faults developed pertain mostly to the machinery and, while not serious, collectively they are understood to have influenced the naval inspectors' board to recommend a heavier inspection of machinery, even at the cost of a loss of speed.

The experts have decided that it is better to have a 25-knot boat which can be depended upon to make that speed at all times and in all weather than a 30-knot boat liable to breakdown at any time and so weak that she cannot keep the sea in bad weather.

Always Something Doing.

The naval ratings have succeeded the recent fleet victories in Manzanilla. The British ship Inquirer asks if such a country is worth fighting for.

AN AFRICAN HERMITAGE.

The Life and Surroundings of a Woman Missionary in Rhodesia.

From New Jersey in Rhodesia, east Africa is the leap that Mrs. Helma E. Rasmussen has made to find her life work. Old Umfali is her home now, and her beautiful home with on the mountain side, a quarter of a mile from the other buildings of her mission, is a choice situation for a hermitage.

At night the byena often comes around with his weird, plaintive cry to his mate Jackals, wildcats, wild dogs, wolves and deer are plentiful. Leopards and lions are in the country, though Mrs. Rasmussen has never seen them around the house. This does not mean that they have not been there, for they have visited places in the neighborhood and carried off animals.

But Mrs. Rasmussen's greatest troubles have been with rats and white ants. The former are being satisfactorily dealt with by a cat, but the latter are still unconquered. They have already destroyed nearly all the interior woodwork and have made their way to the rafters.

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SOME REMARKABLE VOYAGES

Cruises in Small Craft That Have in Some Instances Resulted Disastrously.

Unward of a hundred men have ventured on long cruises in boats from 12 to 40 feet in length. Capt. Joshua Slocum is perhaps the best known of these voyagers, says the New York Herald.

The feat which he has accomplished is certainly the most daring which has been brought to a successful finish. With a 40-foot yawl called the Spray, Capt. Slocum started from Boston in April, 1905, to circumnavigate the world.

Poison of the Cobra.

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No Benefit in Imitations.

It has been discovered that the marquis of Anglesey had \$200,000 worth of paste gems which were so well made that even experts had to examine them twice before they were able to detect the counterfeit.

GROWTH OF CHICAGO

POPULATION IS NOW ESTIMATED AT 2,241,000.

List of Names in New Directory, Minus Those of Unmarried Women, Is 3,000 Greater Than in the Majority

With the 2,000,000 mark far in the rear, Chicago is rapidly pushing her population up to the 2,250,000 post, according to the estimate made by the compilers of the Chicago directory for 1907.

There are 657,000 names in the new directory. Comparing this number with the census of 1890 the city's population is placed at 2,241,000.

There are only 3,000 more names in the directory this year than last. The directory company explains this slight proportionate increase by stating that greater care has been taken in securing names than ever before, and that especially were the names of unmarried women not in the business, heretofore used, excluded.

Comparing the number of names with the government census of 1900, the population of the city is only 1,910,700, but the directory compilers say the last federal census was erroneous, and cite the returns from the census enumerators in Evanston to prove their contention.

The census of 1890 is therefore taken as the more correct one, and the estimate is made from it.

Charles J. Aabel is the first name in the new directory, and Joseph Zywna is the last—There are 2,289 pages devoted wholly to names, and the Johnsons claim 20% of them. The Smiths get 15%, and the Browns and Joneses come next, with seven and six pages, respectively.

OHIO HAS CURIOUS FREAK.

Animal Discovered Near Columbus Has the Body of a Dog and the Head of a Hog.

"It's a freak," said the proprietor of a Columbus (O.) bird and dog store, who is in the business almost as much from his love for animals as in the hope of profit.

The animal is a well developed specimen of coach dog, save for the head, which is that of a hog. Some one discovered the animal somewhere north of Columbus. It is now about three months old.

SMUGGLERS USE AN AUTO.

Pseudo Count and Countess Discovered in Act of Carrying Dutiable Goods Across Swiss Frontier.

The latest thing in smuggling comes from the Swiss frontier, where the idea of bringing contraband goods to France by automobile has been developed into a fine art.

Black Snake Man's Ally.

"Rattlesnake John," of Lower Millford, Pa., has a souvenir of eight rattles, taken from a snake that had been killed by a blacksnake which had caught it at a great disadvantage.

John saw the big rattler lying at full length on one of the Colerain mountains, with a toad in its mouth. A big blacksnake saw the same spectacle at the same time and made a dash for the rattler.

Daily Fashion Hint.

We understand on undoubted authority, remarks the Chicago Journal, that ladies who are neutral on the war question are having their Japanese kimonos trimmed with Russian sable.

BROODED OVER DEFEAT.

Gen. Toral, Defender of Santiago, Loses His Mind as a Result and Dies in a Spanish Asylum.

Gen. Don Jose Toral y Valdesquez, who commanded the Spanish forces at Santiago when that place surrendered to the United States forces, died the other day in an asylum for the insane near Madrid.

Gen. Toral long was considered one of Spain's most dashing and experienced officers. He had all the fire and impetuosity that made the Spanish cavalier known throughout the world in the golden days.

From a gay and resourceful officer, the idol of his men, Gen. Toral became moody and avoided his companions in arms. He sought and received a leave of absence on his return to Spain.

Gen. Toral, by a peculiar irony of fate, was a relative of Gen. Toral of the same name who became infamous in history as the Spanish conqueror of Cuba.

Gen. Toral surrendered Santiago on July 14, 1898, to Gen. Shafter. He was then about 60 years old. His strong, rugged face and fine soldierly bearing inspired the American officers with respect.

In his farewell speech at Santiago and on other occasions before he left America Gen. Toral paid high tribute to the American soldiers to whom he had been forced to capitulate.

RED ROSE AS HER LEGACY.

Long Island Mother Heard That Her Daughter Had Slighted Her and Retaliated in Will.

Because her mother left her a large legacy the sum of five dollars for the purpose of buying a red rose to wear at her funeral, Mrs. Minnie Kaufman, of Woodhaven, L. I., joined with her brother, William Weithaus, and her sister, Mrs. Bertha Russell, in contesting the mother's will.

Mrs. Henrietta Weithaus, of Evergreen, L. I., died March 29, and her will was filed for probate April 1. Counselor Philip Frank appeared for the executors, Charles Weithaus, of Rosendale, Mass., and Henry Weithaus, of Jamaica, who, with her sister, Mrs. Henrietta Schaefer, were the residuary legatees, coming in for the bulk of the estate.

The other three children began a contest on the ground that the will of their mother had been made through undue influence.

Because of some misunderstanding between Mrs. Kaufmann and her sister, Mrs. Henrietta Schaefer, it is said, the relations between Mrs. Kaufmann and her mother became much strained.

WILL NOT SELL HIS SECRET

Ohio Counterfeiter Refuses to Tell How He Gave a Base Metal the True Ring of Gold.

A secret for which chemists would gladly give a fortune will be lost forever when death comes to the relief of old Bob Mason, now wasting away in the penitentiary hospital at Columbus, O.

Mason was a confederate soldier, but has followed counterfeiting for 4 years and has made and lost fortunes.

Dog Fires Gunpowder.

By the light of a tallow candle, William Wolf was engaged in unloading gun shells at his home in Philadelphia. Beside him a pointer dog lay watching the operation, occasionally thumping his tail against the chair on which rested the candle.

At Buschen, near Dusseldorf, Germany, a brood of chickens has been hatched by a cat. The animal drove off the hen each time the latter ventured to approach, and continued sitting on the eggs until the chickens were hatched.

RAILWAY REPORT IS MADE.

Interstate Commerce Commission Issues Table of Statistics for Past Fiscal Year.

The interstate commerce commission has announced its statistics of railways in the United States for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1907.

HEAVIEST OF LANDOWNERS

Purchase of Arizona Ranch Makes William C. Greene, Copper King, Holder of Millions of Acres.

William Cornell Greene, the multi-millionaire copper king, has bought the noted San Rafael de la Zanja ranch in southeastern Arizona, paying \$7,500,000 for its 300,000 acres and the cattle upon it.

This purchase establishes Greene as the greatest landowner of the North American continent, for hitherto, by purchase of land grants, he owned about 800,000 acres, as well as fully 1,000,000 acres in the northern part of the Mexican state of Sonora, secured in the shape of Spanish land grants or through direct deed from the Mexican government.

Within his Mexican domain is included the Guanajuato range of mountains, wherein lies the great copper mines that bear his name, and whence have come his riches.

The region round about is a hunter's paradise, with natural preserves of wild animals and game birds and with streams and artificial lakes abounding in fish, with rugged mountains and grassy savannas. And these in a climate of rare excellence.

At Lorbel is maintained one of the finest herds of thoroughbred Herefords known in the world.

RAIN INSURANCE FOR FAIRS

Canadian Has a New Plan to Protect Associations Against Storm Losses.

Mr. H. B. Cowan, superintendent of Canadian agricultural societies, is sending a circular to the secretaries of all the Ontario fair associations, asking for particulars regarding the losses sustained during the last six years by reason of rain on fair days.

"My idea," said Mr. Cowan, "is to ascertain the average loss to the different societies with a view to determining whether it is possible to work out a scheme of insuring fairs against rainy weather. Such a system has never been in operation to my knowledge, but a number of the societies in the province have established a fund, toward which they contribute a certain sum each year to meet deficits due to bad weather.

The total casualties were 86,793, of which 9,849 represented the number of persons killed and 76,943 those injured. The aggregate number of locomotives in service was 41,971, an increase of 2,645 cars in service, 1,752,349, an increase of over 113,000 during the year.

MANY OLD MEN IN HARNESS

Age of Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate No Barrier to Good Service.

Objecting that ex-Senator Henry C. Davis, the Democratic candidate for vice president, is too old to serve on the ticket cannot be made. It is true that he will be 81 years in November 19, but there are many men active in public, commercial and professional life as old, or nearly as old, as he.

FINDS WATCH IN A FISH.

Woman Who Had Been Robbed Recovers Part of Plunder in Remarkable Way.

A remarkable restoration of a watch to its rightful owner was made by Mrs. John Biddle, while fishing in Budd's lake near Morristown, N. J., recently. Mrs. Biddle, who lives at Mine Hill, caught a 12-pound pickerel and in the stomach of the fish the watch was found.

The Biddle house at Mine Hill was robbed three years ago and all the jewelry in the place carried off. Later, when the burglar was caught, he said he had rowed out into the middle of Budd's lake and dumped the stuff overboard. He was convicted and sentenced, but none of the jewelry ever was recovered, because Budd's lake is a deep body of water.

LAYS THREE EGGS IN ONE.

New Jersey Buff Cochins Hen's First and Only Effort Breaks All Records.

Frank H. Walsh, of Mountville, N. J., has an egg measuring nine inches in its shortest circumference and seven and a half in its longest circumference and which weighs seven and three-quarters ounces.

The egg was laid by a buff cochin of ordinary size but it was the first egg ever laid by the hen, and it will be the last one also, as she died shortly afterward.

More Dangerous Than War.

Seven thousand Thibetans fought for a whole day against about 200 English troops and killed 600 men. Going through Thibet seems to be less dangerous, says the Chicago Record-Herald, than penetrating the New Jersey mucko district.