#### WANT NEW NATIONAL HYMN Poets and Composers Think "Star Spangled Banner" Is In-

adequate.

Washington -Secretary Bonaparte bas begun to hear from the composers who feel sure that he will adopt the Suggestion of Julius I. Lyons of New York and offer a prize for a new national hymn. Mr. Bonavarte still be lieves that "The Star Spangled Banner is a good enough national hymn and evermore shall be so.

But that makes no difference to the writers of new national hymns. They want prine money, but, more than that. they are hungry for fame. Trusty agents of the navy department at the various poetry headquarters and songsources of America report that the spring poets have their coats off aud are working like beavers on the new frymn.

The most voluminous producer thus far reported is Bloodgood H. Cutter, the Long Island farmer poet. He is amall and very old but full of energy. When he mounts Pegasus the old hoss Just flaps his wings and trots two stanzas a minute for limitless minrtes. Mr. Cutter was thinking about the prize hymn while driving a load of pit kept cabbage to market when he suffered a mishan. Instead of repairing the damage he enthusiatiscally drew forth a large black-backed blank book and began to work on the hymn. Th product thus far is in narrative form only, but the hortstory and invoentory parts will come later. The first werse is

As forth I drove along the road My wheel come off; down went my load.

I sat and munched a big banana And eclipsed "The Star-Spangled Ban-

J. Gordon Kugleman, the poet of the Santee, has loaded a bateau with corn pone, fried chicken, fried hominy and a puncheon of juleus, and with this precious cargo and a fountain pen he has retired to the headwaters of Peachtree creek, where he can hear the nightingale sing and ruminate on the new national hymn.

Mr. Kugleman, has developed more thought thus far to the juleps than to the hymn, yet he has had time to dash of the following

Rise, crowned with fire. American eagle, rise! See what an empire lies before thine

Soar, shrick and scream in most imperial manner.

But don't, we beg you, shrick "The Star-Spangled Banner."

#### OFF FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

#### Party of Railway Men Fully Equipped Go to Build \$12,000,000 Road.

Kansas City, Mo.-The first corps of civil engineers sent to construct railroads for the United States government in the islands of Panay, Negros and Cebu, left Kansas City for Scattle a few days ago, whonce they will sail for the Philippines. The party ineluded doctors, stenographers, office men and in fact an entire railroad orcanization.

I hillippine native labor is to be used for the actual work of construction of the particular railroad that the party of men will build. The road is to be 400 miles in length. It will be built eross the Islands named and will be so located that the connecting steamboat lines may most easily connect with the railway termini of the different islands, thus making a continuous line of transportation from the main Island of Luzon to the farthermost island of Cebu.

The cost of this railroad will approximate \$12,000,000 and it is to be completed within about four years. All the supplies for the construction will come from the United States except the cement, which will be brought from China, and the ties, which will be cut by native labor. The road when completed will be modern in every respect.

The party, which includes 50 engineers, will travel to Billings over the Burlington, thence via the Northern Pacific via Seattle. This party is soon to be followed by another containing 100 men.

Bige of Army Officers. President Roosevelt has issued an order fixing the minimum height of army officers at five feet five inches. The order, of course, will apply only to future officers. It is pointed out that the enforcement of this order may exclude many West Point cadeta from the service. For a height of five feet three inches is enough to admit them to the academy. If they fail to gain an additional two inches they will, no matter what their other qualffications may be, fail to get their commissions. An officer ought undoubtedly be a man of sturdy physique, but there seems to be no reason why he should be five feet five inches tall. Napoleon was only five Meet two inches when he became first

consul. In the Dismal Swamp.

As a further proof of volcanic dispurbances through the Dismal swamn and along territory contiguous to Lake Drummond, it is reported that fericho canal, which has not been waterless for many years, had gone Ary Jericho canal is a feeder for the lake and its dryness will mean a subadding of the take

Woman Rural Mail Carrier. Matrie M. Marshall, a grandniece of former Chief Justice Marshall, of the United States supreme court, is one of the three women rural mail carriers in America. She is connected with the Granite City (Ill ) post office.

# IN MINING COMMUNITIES.

The Observance of Law and Order Is as Earnest as in Eastern Towns.

It is often difficult to persuade our

eastern cousins, says the Sun set Magazine that life and property among the miners of the far wes. is is safe as in any part of Massachusetts; nevertheless, statistics will show that is actually the case. The eastern idea. of lawlessness among our miners is the result of the reading of sensational fiction which describes the gold miner as ready on all occasions to "shoot at the drop of the hat," and that makes stage robbing an almost everyday occurrence. In truth, these novels are far less reliable, in their local color, than the so-called "historical novels" of the present day. There are still in California and some of the other states communities and towns of several thousand souls wholly dependent on mining, where the miner can be observed on his native heath, and all his peculiarities observed and chronicled. Several of these towns have excellent governments, with all the accessories of a highly civilized existence-high schools, churches, concreate sidewalks and electric lighting. In even the largest of these towns it will be found that the police courts have next to nothing to do. Take, as an example, the cities of Nevada and Grass Valley, in Nevada county, each having a population of several thousand. The records of the police court in both cities for the past year show less than one arrest a month, even including those for the most trivial misdemeanors. Can this be equalled anywhere else in the world?

## POISON FACTORY DANGERS

Where Workmen Are Inflamed with a Desire to Eat the Deadly Product.

"Slip on this glass mask," said the foreman. "You will need it.

The visitor donned the uncanny mask of glass, and the foreman led the way to the cyanide of potassium aepartment.

"We make 1,000 tons of cyanide a year," he san . "A dose of five grains is a fatal one. Thus our annual prodact is enough to kill 2,500,000 people." He opened a door and a room filled

with writhing flames, dense shadows. sparks, smoke and weird figures in glass masks was revealed. In the center of the room, in a great cauldron. 100 pounds of molten evanide of potasslum bubbled and seethed. The flames glinted strangely on the glass masks. The foreman coughed.

"These fumes." he said, "are wholesome. The men, you see, are all robust. I have known weakly chaps. working here among these strange tumes, to pick up health and strength." In another clean, cool room the finished cyanide was stored. It looked

like crystalized white sugar, good enough to eat. "Good enough to eat," said the foreman, gravely. "Well, we have had

men eat it. Four men committed suicide in that way. "The fumes seem to create in our men a desire to taste the drug. They light this desire, most of them, successfully, but they feel it, the same as workers in coffee plants want to chew

## PASSING OF ST. HELENA.

the coffee beans, and some feel it so

strongly as to succumb,"

island to Be Deprived of Garrison and Support by British Government.

The British war office has resolved to withdraw the entire garrison from the little island 1,400 miles off the coast of Guinea where Napoleon died and where, in recent years, the conquered Boer generals had their habitation. At first thought this may seem an insignificant matter, but, as it will be presently pointed out in the house of commons, it means ruln to the permanent inhabitants of St. Helena.

The total estimated value of the Island's wealth is only \$1,000,000, divided among about 10,000 inhabitants. To keep this wealth productive the garrison, which in normal times amounts to nearly 2,000 men, has been a most active factor. This will at once be seen when it is noted that the unports, including specie, are usually five times the value of the exports, and that the expenditure of the island is kimost double the revenue.

The presence of the garrison means the active annual circulation of over film sum just sufficient to keep up the equilibrium If this be annihilated the products sold to the ships entered and cleared at St. Helena, while possibly sufficient to keep the population from actual want, must curtail to a measurable degree public expenditures, and hence the civilization of the island, actwithstanding the paltry grant of \$2,500 annually from the home government for education, will inevitably suf-

· Wireless Bubberneck A New York inventor is said to have erected on top of his house a tall pole with 32 antennac that are kept in a state of activity gathering wireless messages of all descriptions. Good-by messages from mean steamships, reports from government stations and a lot of other information not addressed to him come to his net. The new development creates a puzzling legal problem. Highest judicial authority has affirmed that a man's title to his property reaches from the center of the giobe to the zonith. If people allow their wireless messages to go wandering or floating through the etherial regions on to a man's atmosphasic prop-A. man are his legal rights?

#### HAS NO PARALLEL.

'FRISCO DISASTER UNEQUALED IN MODERN TIMES.

Greater in Extent and Fatalities Than That Which Overwhelmed Chicago in 1871-Some Com-

San Francisco's disaster will probably prove to be without modern parallel in history. Heretofore the great Chicago fire has been generally regarded in that light, but a comparison of the facts available so far tend to show this recent catastrophe as the most awful visitation of recent times,

parisons.

says the Washington Star. When Chicago was burned in 1870 It had a population of about 300,000. San Francisco at this time must have 450,000 people in its gates, not counting the thousands affected in other towns near by. In the Chicago fire' 70,000 people were made homeless. In the California city, if the estimates are reliable, the number will reach! 300,000.

In addition to this, the location and environment of the two cities were such that Chicago's problem of what to do with her homeless was simple in comparison with that facing the far western city. Chicago was almost surrounded by open country to which the people turned for retuge. San Francisco is practically surrounded by water-the ocean on one side and the bay on two other sides. Railroads for the most part send their passengers into the city by ferries, and many of the docks were long ago made helpless by earthquake and fire.

So, for the most part, the thousands of people without shelter had to stay in the confines between sea and bay and were confronted with awful possibilities. The fire rushing along unchecked was pursuing them relentlessly. Fortunately, San Francisco is a city of hills, and on top of some of these many refugees found shelter. The beach, too, offered a spot of comparative safety.

In area covered by the disaster and in probable loss of life and property the San Francisco catastrophe is greater than that of Chicago, The loss of the latter was about \$190,000,000, and considering that in San Francisco larger and more costly buildings were ruined, the probable loss will exceed even that enormous figure. So far any estimate of the loss would be mere guess work. A half dozen hotels and buildings alone would make up several millions, and the wide sweep of the fire makes it altogether probable that all records for financial loss will be broken. The loss of life during the Chicago fire was 200. That of Sa Francisco is estimated at from 300

Truly it is a disaster without parallel in modern history.

## JUMPERS TAKE POSSESSION

Big Rush for Lots in Indian Territory Section Under Controversy.

Sapulpa, I. T .- Jumpers have taken possession of nearly every lot in the Noah Frank allotment, which joins this town, and over which there is controversy whether the government shall recognize"the land as an allotment or as a townsite. As soon as the word was received from Muskogee that the secretary of the interior had ordered action withheld as to putting intruders off, there was a big rush to get possession of the lots, as this was taken to mean that the land-60 acres -would be laid off as townsite property, and that the government would appraise it, and every person who had improvements on a lot would get the lot at one-half the government's appraised price, which is the rule in the government townsites.

That night there were many persons who, not being able to get anvthing substantial on the lots in the way of improvements, slept on the open ground to prevent some one else jumping the lot during the night. Next morning tents were put up and the jumpers commenced to build an opening of an Oklahoma town in the early days.

The case has not been finally decided upon yet, and the land may be finally awarded to Noah Frank, the Indian who allotted it and fought several contests to prove his prior right

## HENS IN LAYING CONTEST.

Winning Team of Four Leghorns Produce 251 Eggs in Four Months.

London .-- For sixten weeks 144 hens have been laying eggs against each other at the Lady Warwick agricultural college at Studley castle. The champion-a buff Orpington-laid 75 egs in that time.

The birds were divided into pens. each pen containing four birds of the same breed, in order that some test as to the best laying strain might be applied.

The winning "team" consisted of four white Leghorns, which laid between them 251 eggs. A buff Orpington "team" was second, with 236 eggs, and a "team" of the same breed, among them the champion bird -- was third, with 235 eggs. Some of the eggs weighed two and one-eighth ounces.

Long Distance Wireless. A wireless telegraph message which pravaled a distance of 2,080 miles was received at sea by the steamer Mo'tke, which arrived in New York the other toy. The message was sent Friday gram the Poldhu wireless station, on the English coast, and contained 83

## THE COAL TAR INDUSTRY.

Thought to Be One of the Most Amazing Attainments of the Last Century.

The development of the coal tar in-Justries, the New York Tribune thinks, is one of the most amazing fears of the century. It says:

"In the discovery of the proper processes for the manufacture of these substances many men, and several countries have had a share, but the pioneer was William Henry-Perkin, an Englishman. He created a profound sensation in 1856 when he produced the first of the aniline colors-mauve. Its beauty and cheapness excited great admiration, especially among those engaged in supplying the market with textile fabrics. The achievement was particularly brilliant from a scientific point of view also, because synthetic or constructive, chemistry is far more difficult than analytica, chemistry. The article which he made had been known to exist in indigo, and its constituents were known; but no one before him had ever put them together in a laboratory. With conspicuous propriety. it is proposed to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of this wonderful piece of work. A movement having that object in view was started in England a few weeks ago. Already there is an assurance of co-operation in Germany. Steps are now being taken to organize a sultable expression of American anpreciation of Perkin's service to man-

#### INVITATION TO MATRIMONY

#### Qualifications Mecessary to Ensure Alliance with Exacting Candidate.

A facetious individual extends an invitation to the fair sex to send in proposais, giving the following specifica-

"The undersigned, feeling the need of some one to find fault with and grumble at when business matters go wrong, and being lonely, with no one to hate him, and baving arrived at the proper age, has therefore now determined to 'come out.' sealed proposals

will be received until 12 p. m. on the 31st of May. "Applicants must possess beauty, or its equivalent in currency; must not frequent sewing circles, not go round begging for charitable purposes, nor sell off my clothes to wandering Italians for flower vases, nor borrow mon-

ey from my vest pocket while I sleep. "A lady possessing the toregoing qualifications, positive and negative, cars bear of something to her advantage by addressing the undersigned and inclosing a stamp. All proposals must be accompanied with satisfactory evidence of the abinty of the applicant to support a husband in the style to which he has been accustomed."

## LUNCHEONS OF FLOWERS.

Juds and Blossoms That Are Quite Commonly Eaten by Mankind.

"In this lovely April weather, with mowers growing everywhere, I occasionally make a floral meal," said a naturalist. "I find a luncheon of flowers less heating than one of strong

rich meat. "What flowers are edible? Well, there is the nasturtium see .. which tastes a little like cress, and is excellent in a pickle or a salad

"There is the clover blossom. Chonped up with oil and vinegar and sait. clover makes a salad of very delicate flavor-a salad popular in Normandy.

"There is the carysanthemum. This flower you chop fine, stew and serve with a cream dressing. What does it taste like? It tastes like caulififiower.

"There is the bud of the capparis, a wall-elimbing plant. Everybody eats these buds pickled. They come in a bottle. Capers they are called."

Curbing Butcher Sportsman, True sportsmen everywhere will be glad to know that in England an unwritten law to the effect that every beast and bird of game shall be given a fair chance for his life is slowly but surely coming to establishment. Recent decisions, not of courts but of high tribunals composed of fine consciences, have applied with such force to the killing of pigeons and to rabbit coursing that the two occupations are no longer known as sports. And the starting of stags in cages to places where they are set at liberty and then tormented and butchered is declared to be pastime fit for the stockyards and not for the pleasure of gentlemen. So widely is this sentiment spreading that it is believed it will not be long before there will be laws to force those who i hold less refined views into conforming with the attitude of their superiors .-

## Gotham's Debts.

The gross indebtedness of New York is greater than that of the Chinese empire. The cost of operating the city's government for one year almost equals the annual expenditure of both London and Paris combined. New York pays out in salaries alone the vas; sum of \$65,000,000 yearly, or as much as London spends for its entire administration. At the present time there are 45,-000 men and women on New York's pay roll. Of every \$100 that a New Yorker pays in rent, it is estimated that \$12.25 goes into the puckets of municipal "servants."

#### The Modern Idea. Small Boy-Bay, Chimmie, gimme a

bite uv dat apple, will yer? Big Boy-Serry, Chauncey; but if I should begin ter be charitable folks would say I wuz crooked. I've got ter look out fer me own repertation, yer know. - Judge.

#### OPEN TO AMERICANS.

#### WARSHIP PLANS INVITED BY NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Aim Is to Build a Ship That Will Equal or Excel England's Monster "Dreadnaught."

Washington .-- Perhaps the most radical and important departure from established practices in construction of the American navy since the introduction of the modern armored vessel was taken the other day when the house committee on naval affairs voted that plans for the proposed new battleship. which it is contemplated shall exceed anything affoat, may be drawn by persons outside of the navy department and that the department shall consider such plans in deciding by whom and how the new ship shall be built.

For some time the department has permitted prospective bidders to offer alternate plans when bidding upon the department's plans. In this case the department, may draw plans if it wishes, but it must notify outsiders that their plans will be considered before the type of ship is decided upon and the contract let.

If congress sustains the view of the house naval committee it will mean the infusion of new thought and young blood into the red tape and conservative mehods of the navy department.

No better illustration of these characteristics can be suggested than the admission by Admiral Capps, chief constructor of the navy, before the committee that it will be two years before the department can begin preparing plans for a battleship to equal or excel the British levis han Dreadnaught This statement indicates better than anything else could the absolute dependence of the navy department upon foreign warship builders for ideas. The theory of the naval committee was

that this attitude was unreasonable. "We believed," said one member of the committee, "that Americans can design just as powerful if not more powerful warships than any foreigner. The history of the American navy up to the close of the civil 'war period proved this. Then the United States led the world in naval construction. Every new and important improvement in naval architecure was the product of American ingenuity and inventive faculty: Foreigners eyed those improvements at first with suspicion. They predicted that they would cause the ships concerned to turn turtle and do other unexpected things. But events proved otherwise

"Since the civil war things have been reversed. We are now following the proposition in which every other nation of the world leads. Department bureau chiefs say, forsooth, that they cannot build a ship to equal the Dreadnaught, for instance, until they find out how England built it.

"Indeed, Admiral Capps even went so far as to say that it would be impossible for a vesset of her tonnage, 18,000 tons, to carry, the farmor and armament attributed to her. They insinuate that Great Britain is deceiving the world; that the Dreadnaught inreality is of 19,000 or 20,000 tons

"I predict that one of the outsiders will capture the prize in having his plans chosen over the department's I believe the committee has acted wisely in determining upon this course and that congress and the country will in-

"If logically followed out, this planwill surely lead to a return of American faurely to their own and it will not be long before the rest of the world is waiting for our naval ideas to develop before copying them, instead of our navy department depending upon the foreigners for new ideas in warship construction."

## 10 YEARS WITHOUT EATING

Englishman Who Had Taken Food Through a Tube in His Side That Long.

London.--For ten years before his death at Kingstown lately, a man named Jospeh Knight had not earen

Eleven years ago while on board the yacht Eliba at Gosport he accidentally drank some detergent in mistake for porter, with the result that his guilet and other internal organs were destroyed. He was removed from the yacht to a man-of-war in Gosport barbor, where first aid was given him and afterward was placed in the hands of an able surgeon, who not only saved his life but also enabled him to live for more than ten years in comparative comfort by means of feeding through a tube in his side leading directly tothe stomach.

Wheeling about the town in a bath chair, poor Knight was always an obfect of sympathy to residents and visitors. It is remarkable that though unable to eat he could always enjoy a smoke. He was about 49 years of age at his death.

A Fengtien correspondent states that a Japanese has imported about

Chinese Trade in Widows.

3,000 Japanese widows, whom he offers for sale either as domestic servants or as secondary wives. Photographs are first shown to intending purchasers, who then make their selection, and the woman is weighed and ber value calculated on a basis of 68 cents a cattle (Chinese pound).

## Alexioff's Pet.

Admirat Alexieff, the late Russian viceroy in the far east, owns a pet bear named Musks, to which he to immensely attached. It was always on his flagably wherever he went.

#### SOME ODD WATER WHEELS

They Are Employed in Various Countries to Utilize Power of Currents.

The people of Syria and Tiffin make their streams do things that Americars do not seem to have learned the secret of persuading the water courses of this country to perform, says the New York Tribune.

At Tiffis the natives have learned how to utilize the power of the descrent of the River Kur wythout building dams. What they have accomplished possibly might be done by are American farmer living on the banks of a rapid moving stream and desiring a small, cheap power. The Caucasians build floats on the surface of the river. Into them are set water wheels The whole affair is fastened to the bank in such a way that it will rise and fall with any change in the level of the surface of the river, so that the power is about constant all the time.

lu Hama the ancient "entering in of Hamath," the Syrians have accomplished a feat that makes one think of lifting one's self over a fance by tugging at one's bootstraps. They have harnessed the historic Orontes, or Nahr el Asi, as the Syrians call it, into the work of lifting itself many feet toward the zenith and trained it thus to water their fruitful gardens' and orchards.

As for size the water wheels which do this work are as to other water wheels what Niagara is to other waterfalls. As one stands by one of these great wooden frames revolving upon its wooden axte and looks up at its perimeter 40 feet above one thinks it large and is astonished when he turns his gaze upstream to see that relatively it is not a great wheel, for in the distance looms up one 60 feet in height. Even then he is not prepared for the spectacle of one 30 feet in diameter, grunting around on its cumbersome axle just outside the town

"Life in Hama for some people is like the liking of others for olives, an acquired taste, because of these very water wheels. According as one feels about it, it is a musical city or one filled with nerve-racking groans. Day and night without ceasing these massive, slow revolving structures unter speech. For those who have acquired a taste for their companionship the neverchasing tones are scothing, resembling the ocean roar or a slow fugue played. on some cyclopean organ. The diapason tones are deeper and louder than the deepest organ stop. Now they are in unison, now repeating the theme. one after another, now for a brief moment to a sublime harmony never to be forgotten, according to one traveler, then once more together in a tremendous chorus. The sounds are desurfled as a slow movement up the scale, followed with a heavy drop to the keypote as Do mi sol, do do do: do sol iz, do do do. This unreasing Staynhean music it is said has non going on for a century at least

## PUT HIS FOOT IN IT.

That Was What the Dude Did. Metaphorically to the Official's Hat.

Mr. a. Nota McGill was walking from the patent office to his own office when he came face to face with a nor wester, relates the Washington Post

Mr McGill is not of the excitable kind, but when that nor'wester struck him he lost his head or rather his

"Hey, there," oried the ex-register, "stop that brand new hat of mine! Won't some one stop it?"

There was something in the professor's voice that appealed to a dapper looking stranger who made a lunge at the headgear, but could do no better than put his foot through it. Consequently the brim was the only part recognizable after the fatality.

"Well, you certainly have put your foot in it, shouted Mr. McGill "Beg pardon, what did you say?"

asked the dude. "I say you've put your foor in it," "By Jove, say not so, old chap."

"Say not so, yourself," growled the professor, "you surely have fixed my hat up all right." "I am awfully sorry -wealty," confessed the dude. "Let me 'ave its

mended. "Oh, no," said the ex-register with. sarcasm, "the brim is not worth a. crown now."

"A crown? I should say it is! Why, the blomin' thing is worth a sovereign.

Prince or Sergeant.

The German papers are telling a story. of the German crown prince. The kaiser's heir had occasion recently to. speak to a street sweeper near the barracks of the riflemen of the guard. Good, morning, sergeant," said the sweeper, who did not recognize the prince. He said that his son was fighting in southwest Africa, but he hoped soourto have? him back safe and sound. The prince. miling, said: "Why, yes, I hope so, too!" and pressed a five mark piece inter the old man's hand. But the sweeper; looking wistfully at the cole and then at the giver, handed it back, saying: 'No, no, sergeant; I dougt you hame, none too much of that yourself!"

Standing Up for It.

The orchestra, consisting of a violinist and a pianist, stopped to rest and . " the chairman of the meeting took occa- ? don to step to the front of the platform to apologize for the poor ventilution of the hall.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I know how we have all been suffering for the last 15. minutes. This bad air-"

"De air is yount as good as de aggompaniment!" interrupted the indignant violinist, glaring at the plance player.--Chicago Tribuna

# L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS