

WANT NEW NATIONAL HYMN

Poets and Composers Think "Star Spangled Banner" Is Inadequate.

Washington—Secretary Bonaparte has 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.

But that makes no difference to the writers of new national hymns. They want prize money, but more than that they are hungry for fame.

The most voluminous producer thus far reported is Bloodgood H. Cutter, the Long Island farmer poet.

As forth I drove along the road My wheel came off, down went my load. I sat and munched a big banana And ellipsoid "The Star-Spangled Banner."

J. Gordon Kugleman, the poet of the Santee, has loaded a baton with corn pone, fried chickens, fried hominy and a pinchon of juleps, and with this precious cargo and a fountain pen he has retired to the headwaters of Praechtree 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 off the following:

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

Soar, shriek and scream in most imperial manner. But don't, we beg you, shriek "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 Seattle a few days ago, whence they will sail for the Philippines.

Philippine 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.

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

Size 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.

In the Dismal Swamp. As a further proof of volcanic disturbances through the Dismal swamp and along territory contiguous to Lake Drummond, it is reported that Jericho canal, which has not been waterless for many years, had gone dry.

Woman Rural Mail Carrier.

Mattie 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.

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 Sunset Magazine, that life and property among the miners of the far west is as safe as in any part of Massachusetts; nevertheless, statistics will show that it is actually the case.

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.

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."

"We make 1,000 tons of cyanide a year," he said. "A dose of five grains is a fatal one. Thus our annual product is enough to kill 2,500,000 people."

"These fumes," he said, "are wholesome. The men, you see, are all robust. I have known weakly chaps, working here among these strange fumes, to pick up health and strength."

"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 fight this desire, most of them, successfully, but they feel it, the same as workers in coffee plants want to chew the coffee beans, and some feel it so strongly as to succumb."

PASSING OF ST. HELENA.

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.

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.

The presence of the garrison means the active annual circulation of over \$50,000—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, notwithstanding the petty grant of \$2,500 annually from the home government for education, will inevitably suffer.

Wireless Rubberneck.

A New York inventor is said to have erected on top of his house a tall pole with 32 antennae that are kept in a state of activity gathering wireless messages of all descriptions.

Long Distance Wireless.

A wireless telegraph message which traveled a distance of 2,000 miles was received at sea by the steamer Moltke, which arrived in New York the other day.

HAS NO PARALLEL.

FRISCO DISASTER UNEQUALED IN MODERN TIMES.

Greater in Extent and Fatalities Than That Which Overwhelmed Chicago in 1871—Some Comparisons.

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.

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.

In area covered by the disaster and in probable loss of life and property the San Francisco catastrophe is greater than that of Chicago.

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.

That night there were many persons who, not being able to get anything 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.

HENS IN LAYING CONTEST.

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

London.—For sixteen weeks 144 hens have been laying eggs against each other at the Lady Warwick agricultural college at Studley castle.

The winning "team" consisted of four white Leghorns, which laid between them 251 eggs. A buff Orpington "team" was second, with 235 eggs, and a "team" of the same breed, among them the champion bird—was third with 235 eggs.

THE COAL TAR INDUSTRY.

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

The development of the coal tar industries, the New York Tribune thinks, is one of the most amazing feats of the century. It says:

Through 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.

INVITATION TO MATRIMONY

Qualifications Necessary to Ensure Alliance with Exacting Candidate.

A facetious individual extends an invitation to the fair sex to send in proposals, giving the following specifications:

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 having arrived at the proper age, has therefore now determined to "come out."

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 afloat, 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.

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 leviathan Dreadnaught.

LUNCHEONS OF FLOWERS.

Inds and Blossoms That Are Quite Commonly Eaten by Mankind.

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

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

"There is the clover blossom. Chopped up with oil and vinegar and salt, clover makes a salad of very delicate flavor—a salad popular in Normandy.

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

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 Kingsdown lately, a man named Joseph Knight had not eaten any food.

Eleven years ago while on board the yacht Elba at Gosport he accidentally drank some detergent in mistake for porter, with the result that his gullet and other internal organs were destroyed.

GOETHAM'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.

Chinese Trade in Widows.

A Peking correspondent states that a Japanese has imported about 5,000 Japanese widows, whom he offers for sale either as domestic servants or as secondary wives.

Small Boy—Say, Chimnie, gimme a bite out 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 reputation, yer know.—Judge.

SOME ODD WATER WHEELS

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

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

At Tiflis the natives have learned how to utilize the power of the current of the River Kur without building dams. What they have accomplished possibly might be done by an American farmer living on the banks of a rapid moving stream and desiring a small, cheap power.

In Hama the ancient "entering in of Hamath," the Syrians have accomplished a feat that makes one think of lifting one's self over a fence by tugging at one's bootstraps.

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 axle 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.

Life in Hama for some people is like the liking of others for olive, an acquired taste, because of these very water wheels. According as one feels about it, it is a musical cry or one filled with nerve-racking groans.

"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.

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

"PUT HIS FOOT IN IT. That Was What the Dude Did, Metaphorically to the Official's Hat.

Mr. Nora McGill was walking from the post office to his own office when he came face to face with a nor-wester, relates the Wash action Post.

"Hey, there," cried 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. "Be patient, what did you say?" asked the dude.

"I say you've put your foot 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, weally," confessed the dude. "Let me ave it 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 at least!"

Standing Up for It.

The orchestra, consisting of a violinist and a pianist, stopped to rest, and the chairman of the meeting took occasion to step to the front of the platform to apologize for the poor ventilation of the hall.

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