

HORSE PREVENTS SUICIDE.

Pennsylvania Man's "Old Bill" Kicks Desire for Death Out of Him.

Pittsburg, Pa.—John Deviney was thoroughly disgusted with life, and would be dead if it hadn't been for Old Bill, John Deviney is a farmer in Butter-

By getting up at three o'clock in the morning and working until ten, at night Deviney managed to save a few thousand dollars, but when the oil excitement broke out near Duquesne a short time ago he lost it all.

Utterly discouraged and with old age and starvation staring him in the face, Deviney got a good stout piece of clothline and started for the stable.

One end of the clothline he knotted tightly about his neck. Then he mounted the soap box. The other end of the rope he started to throw across a raft that helped to form the stall. In a few seconds it would all be over.

Old Bill had been taking only a mild interest in the proceedings. But when he saw the rope around his master's neck and the other end around the raft it all seemed to dawn upon him in an instant.

His master was within reach. Out shot his right hind hoof, and it landed squarely on the seat of Deviney's trousers. The force of the blow was so great that Deviney was knocked clear through the weatherboarding of the stable and into the lane outside.

Deviney declares that he does not want to die, and is the happiest mortal in the world in the thought that his old horse saved his life. Deviney is going to take a new start, and believes that he will win out.

WILL SAVE NATION BILLIONS

Philadelphia Veterinarian Discovers Precursors of Tuberculosis in Cattle.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Cattle valued at \$2,000,000 will be saved in Pennsylvania every year as the result of vaccination to prevent tuberculosis, which has been commenced by especially trapped experts in all parts of the state.

Application of the work to the United States will bring the total saving to the country well over \$1,000,000,000. This has been accomplished at a cost to the state of only \$25,000 for two years' experiments.

Dr. Leonard Pearson, dean of the veterinary department of the University of Pennsylvania, belongs the honor of this tremendous discovery. Back of it is the work of far greater importance. This is the application of the successful cattle experiments to the immunization of human beings and the arrest of tuberculosis in persons who already are affected.

FORGOT HE WAS MARRIED.

Oklahoma Fireman from Force of Habit Spent Night at Headquarters.

Guthrie, Okla.—With "Jack" Scribbins, a Guthrie contractor and a substitute member of the local fire department, it is a question of resigning from the fire department or facing the chances for a divorce suit, according to Chief William Gruber, and his resignation is expected at any time.

Scribbins became very much interested in what was going on at the engine house, and in some discussions which were going on among the firemen. When the rest of the company went upstairs to turn in for the night, Scribbins accompanied them, as he had always done before when on duty there, went to bed and to sleep, entirely forgetting his bride, who was anxiously awaiting his return.

PASTOR TO AID BASEBALL.

Will Make Service Hour Earlier for the Convenience of "Fans."

Dyersville, Ia.—Realizing that Sunday baseball has come to stay in this parish, Rev. Father Theodore Waring announced a change in the hour of his church service, so that the fans can attend divine worship and then take in the game after the benediction. In this arrangement the baseball managers have met Father Waring half way. When he agreed to begin Sunday afternoon services half an hour earlier, they said they would start the game half an hour later, and the innovation is received with satisfaction by all concerned.

FRONTIER POSTMISTRESS.

Says She Will Deliver Mail from Her Apron if Necessary.

Watertown, S. D.—Miss Hattie Burnstad, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, is at this moment probably the most talked about young woman in South Dakota.

As postmistress of a frontier town in which not a single house is built, she is the heroine of the tent living population of the new town of Florence, one of the first to be opened on the new railroad extension. A board sign indicates where the post office is to be, but of the building itself there is not a vestige.

At the daughter of Representative A. C. Burnstad, of Codington county, Miss Burnstad knew something about politics as an inheritance. At any rate, while the prospective politicians of Florence were wrangling among themselves as to who should have the postmastership of the potential city, Miss Burnstad quietly walked off with the commission. When she was informed of her success by railroad company's townsite agent at Watertown there was no more pleased girl in the northwest.

"All right," she said, "I will undertake the job, even if I have to carry the mail in an auto and deliver it out of my apron."

And this is just what she is going to do. The railroad will not be built into Florence until some time in the summer, but in the meantime the residents will get their mail, for Miss Burnstad will make her word good.

LOOKS LIKE A MOODOO.

Unhappy Portent in Startling Incidents at Time of Norway and Sweden's Separation.

Stockholm.—Those who take an interest in occult phenomena will find much to their taste in the "Annales des Sciences Psychologiques," just published, in which are reported several strange occurrences which took place when Norway was separated from Sweden.

On November 18 last, we are told, a number of officers were assembled in the hall of the Casino of Akershus, waiting for King Haakon to make his entry. Suddenly a cracking noise was heard, and before anyone could turn round a rattling portrait of King Oscar fell from the wall to the floor. The picture was picked up unharmed, but the crown on the top of the frame was smashed to atoms.

A few days afterward a reception was being held at the house of Mr. Hagorom, a former prime minister, and the guests were talking of the accident at Akershus. Some one said that evidently the Casino walls needed repairing, when suddenly a life-sized marble bust of King Oscar, which stood between the windows of the room, fell to the floor and was broken to pieces. Several other occurrences of a like nature are reported, and there can be no reason to doubt the good faith of the "Annales."

MAN SWIMS THIRTY MILES.

Wonderful Feat Performed by Honolulu Half-Breed to Save Himself.

Honolulu.—Through the capsizing of a boat occupied by Edward Devauchelle, a half-white, and three native companions, off Maui-islands one morning lately three natives were drowned. Devauchelle saved his life by extraordinary efforts. After swimming for 17 hours, Devauchelle secured temporary footing on a rock, on which he slept all day Wednesday. On Thursday he took a further swim of two miles and landed at Moloai.

One of the natives accompanied Devauchelle for the first 16 hours following the capsizing of the boat and then sank exhausted. It is estimated that the former swam 30 miles, including the distance he was carried by the currents.

BALLAST WILL BE GOLD ORE

Railroad in Mexico Will Be Anchored with Block of Great Value.

Mexico.—The Eastern railway of Mexico will be ballasted with gold ore between Texico and Rio Puerto, a distance of 170 miles. This ballast rock is obtained from the gravel bed adjacent to the new line of the road.

Repeated assays have shown that the ballast runs upwards of two dollars in gold to the ton. About 4,500 tons of rock are used to the mile, making the value of the gold \$9,000 to each mile of road, or \$2,430,000 for the 270 miles. The gold values in the rock are not sufficient to make it a mining proposition, but passengers will ride over the most valuable piece of ballasting in the world.

Women Dispute Hotel Superstition.

The advent of women cashiers in the hotels has done away with the old superstition regarding the closing of the registers. In the olden days a hotel clerk believed he was sure to be pursued by ill luck if by chance the book was closed. He guarded it closely. The women cashiers take the registers to their desks, copy the names and then close them with no fears or misgivings.

Mats Hoard Coins.

When John Shiffer tore down the 110-year-old Robeson building in Main street, Stroudsburg, Pa., the other day he found in rats' nests underneath three big copper cents, 40 and 50 years old, and a Spanish coin of 1777, all worn quite smooth.

RIGHT COMPASSES

NAVY DEPARTMENT TO HELP NAVIGATORS OF LAKES.

Marks to Be Set Up at Points Where Beds of Iron Under Water Disarrange the Needle.

Washington, D. C.—The navy department has sent Commander Reginald F. Nicholson, assistant chief of the equipment bureau, to Cleveland to take steps to help the captains of lake vessels to rectify their troubles with refractory compasses. For many years past these skippers have been bothered by the erratic behavior of their compasses in different localities on the lakes. At first it was thought that the cargoes of iron or other ores they were carrying in their vessels were responsible for this deviation in the needles; but nowadays it is recognized that the real source of the trouble lies in the nature of the bottom of the lakes, and not in the cargoes. Great beds of iron underlie the lakes in various places, and these affect the compasses.

It is to correct this evil that Commander Nicholson is going to Cleveland with instruments that will enable him to set up, at certain conspicuous places, "marks" fixed at the true north, so that the captains of passing ships may note any errors in their compasses and make the necessary adjustments. At present it is his intention to set up these "marks" in St. Clair river and in the straits of Mackinaw, which will cover the greater part of the lake traffic.

How strongly the underlake influences affect the compasses of lake vessels was revealed to a traveler last summer while crossing Lake Ontario on a lumber steamer. From the time the ship cleared the mouth of the St. Lawrence river on its westerly passage until it was across the middle ground in the center of the lake, the captain of mate stood upon the flying bridge conning the ship from the compass on that lofty height. Experiences had taught the skipper that natural conditions under the bed of the lake affected his compass in the whelhouse so materially that the compass was practically useless in that particular portion of the voyage, and consequently the vessel's course was kept by the compass upon the bridge, which was so far above the disturbing mineral elements as not to be affected by them. For the greater part of the run across the lake the compass in the whelhouse was a pointer of two "off" from the true direction of the one on the bridge. The skipper to be set up by the government's hydrographers will enable this particular captain, as well as others, to correct such deviations every trip if they care to.

FISH IN SUNKEN BOAT.

Hold of Vessel Contains Food Stuffs Upon Which They Fatten.

Portland, Ore.—When the steamer George W. Elder is finally floated her hold will be found alive with fish. This was brought to light the other day by one of the divers when he smothered from hatch No. 2 after having made a final examination of the patches put over the large break that sent the steamer to the bottom.

The water in the hull is black, and the diver was completely in the fork, but in groping his way over the bottom came in contact with a veritable school of fish, which he believes are carp. He says they were so thick that he had to push his way through, and he could feel the commotion in the water.

The fish have been feeding and growing fat on the flour and other foodstuffs allowed to remain in the after part of the vessel to keep her on as even a keel as possible, and besides they have been sheltered from the strong current and have had things their own way for more than a year.

HAVE MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

Motorists at Lake Como Land with Their Machine in a Tree.

London.—An extraordinary automobile escape is reported from Lake Como, Italy. It is something beyond the usual when motorists find safety machine and all, in a tree. A French artist had been staying at Lake Como, and was driving a automobile with three friends near Brunate, when descending a steep hill the car struck a large stone, swerved violently against the parapet protecting the mountain road from a precipice and, breaking through the masonry, went clear over the edge. Luckily, the branches of a tree growing from the side of the rock, and reaching nearly to the road level, caught the car as it fell, thereby saving the four men from certain death. After being "freed" for some hours, the party were rescued from their unpleasant position.

Horse Rescued from Well.

A horse backed into a cistern on Missouri point, opposite Alton, a few days ago, while trying to disengage itself from the rails of a fence it was trying to leap. Neighbors planned for several hours to rescue the animal, when one of them conceived the idea of filling the cistern with loose straw, gradually raising the horse's footing until the animal could step out. Four big loads of straw were used in the rescue, which was successful.

ROOFING A POTATO PATCH

Montana Man Evolves Method of Growing Tubers in Sixty Days.

Great Falls, Mont.—A half-bushel of sawdust, a dash of chemical solution and 15 potatoes carefully enveloped with the sawdust will enable the average householder to grow a bushel of tubers on his doorstep or in his cellar within 60 days. This process has been discovered and elaborated by W. D. Darst, of this place. Moreover, the grower will have no contest with grubs.

The product of Mr. Darst's process is termed "vineless potato," from the fact that, grown under these apparently unnatural conditions, there is no surface vegetation. Because of this each potato buried in the sawdust is enabled to produce at least 12 normal-sized tubers.

The other day at the Oakland plaza, in the rear of the Oakland hotel, Mr. Darst disclosed the methods of growing potatoes by his system. Operating on the theory that the presence of surface vegetation was only a method of securing nourishment and in reality sapped the vitality of the tuber, Mr. Darst experimented more than six years, and found he could overcome this seemingly natural course on the part of the plant by supplying it artificially with its needs.

By employing sawdust, straw or any other earth product that would permit of the circulation of air, moisture and heat, and the application of solutions of various salts, he discovered a single potato would multiply itself by attaching to itself from 12 to 16 other potatoes of approximately the same size as the original one without throwing off any of its energy above ground.

Packed in loosely arranged bins permitting the free access of air and arranged in rows six inches above each other with an allowance of one cubic foot of sawdust to the seedling, Mr. Darst has demonstrated the rapidity of growth and the proportions that the potatoes may attain by showing that within 60 days 15 potatoes will produce a bushel. In the character of his experiment and the success that has attended them Mr. Darst has the endorsement of Luther Burbank, the eminent horticulturist and biologist.

TALLEST THERMOMETER.

Twenty-Foot Heat Indicator Attracts Hundreds of People to Store in Boston.

Boston.—There are thermometers and thermometers, but the largest one in the world attracts hundreds of people to James & Co.'s store at Summer and South streets. It is not wholly a show thermometer, however, for it works perfectly and marks the variations in temperature just about as accurately as one of the pretty all-glass indicators. From top to bottom this gigantic thermometer measures 20 feet. The mercury tube is a little more than 16 feet in length and 1 1/4 inches in diameter.

Ten tubes were broken by the makers, a Rochester, N. Y., concern, before they succeeded in producing this one and the task involved great difficulties. It was packed with care and every precaution to guard against breakage was taken when it was unpacked and set up. When it was finally in place on the building the men in charge breathed a sigh of relief. The graduated scale over which the tube is conducted is the work of some of the experts sent here from Rochester, the home of thermometers of all styles and classes.

The manufacturers of the big thermometer say they know of no other anywhere that approaches it in size with the single exception of one at the World building, New York, and that is much smaller, in fact is only about half the size of the Summer street temperature recorder.

FERTILIZE WITH SKIM MILK

Good Results from Unsalable Product Obtained by New York Farmers.

Middletown, N. Y.—Skim milk as a fertilizer for crops is interesting the farmers in the vicinity of Halsey, N. J., and several declare that astonishing results have come from its use. Several weeks ago a creamery of that place had a lot of skim milk that could not be used. W. Clark Mains and John A. Segler, farmers, took the milk and poured it on their lands as an experiment. Mains emptied 75 cans on a timothy sod lot. Segler emptied 150 cans on a piece of meadow land. Remarkable results have been obtained.

Their grass is now seven times as vigorous as on adjoining fields where the milk was not used, but which were covered with commercial fertilizers. The farmers predict that milk will be used henceforth.

Bloodhounds for Petty Thieves.

City Marshal Charles Kimsey, of Muskogee, Ind. T., has purchased a pair of bloodhounds from state officials in Texas and will bring them to Muskogee, where he will keep them in training to run down criminals in the city. They will also be used by the federal officers of the district whenever they are called for. Officer Kimsey thinks the bloodhounds will be especially useful in running down petty thieves among the colored population of the city.

Tramp Dog Steals Ride.

Clinging to the top of a box car, a tramp dog rode 117 miles from Pittsburg to Alton on a fast-freight train recently. It was discovered by the brakeman on top of a beef car silvering with cold and badly soiled.

INCUBATOR FOXES

NEW YORK WOODSMAN TRIES UNIQUE SCHEME.

Has Pair of Valuable Puppies Which Give Promise of Coming to Maturity Under His Care.

McKiever, N. Y.—What is probably the first attempt to bring up a pair of fox puppies in an incubator is being made by Andrew Clark, the woodsman living 14 miles northwest of here, and the experiment has gone so far that Clark feels assured of success.

The incubator isn't of the regulation hospital order, and neither are the foxes of the usual variety. The incubator is home-made and the tenants are silver grays, which by fall will, if they thrive, be worth at least \$100 each. Of all the fur-bearing animals in America they are by far the most valuable, and it is because of this that Clark is sitting up nights with hot-water bottles and cans of warm milk.

Clark dug the youngsters out of a hole under some rocks. He came upon the mother while looking after his traps, and in the hope of taking her he watched the hole for 48 hours. At the end of that time he saw that she was too weary to return even to feed her babes, and he set about digging them out. It was a tough job, but Clark persisted, and eventually heard the little fellows barking and growling in a nest stowed away many feet from the surface. A little later he had them carefully wrapped in his fur-lined reefer.

When he got home and laid the little fellows in a basket he was in a quandary for they were scarcely a week old, and being a homesick bachelor his knowledge of the ways and habits of infants was extremely limited. They wouldn't take milk from a spoon and even in front of the store they shrieked, hiccuped and coughed. So Clark set to work to get them on their feet, and he has a wife and three boys. The wife came with her husband and brought a bottle with her. Then she took charge of the job.

The bottle was filled with moistened milk, and while the tiny foxes were fighting for the nipple the foster-father, assisted by the neighbor and helped by the members of the family, was so about constructing a reefer, but serviceable incubator. It wasn't much to look at, but it answered the purpose, and when the foxes had been deposited in it they promptly went to sleep.

The neighbor's wife said that this was the first time she had seen a fox, and she was past and Clark refused. Then the wife instructed the foster-father in his duties. He was told to keep the youngsters warm with hot water bottles and to feed his charges a certain number of times daily. It looked like a good deal of a job, but Clark is an quitter, and hiring a neighbor-repplier to look after his charges, he devoted his whole attention to the youngsters.

Now and then the neighbor's wife dropped in to see how matters were progressing, and she always found Clark performing his duties faithfully. He was so content, in fact, and the silver grays did so well, that more than once she declared he should never have remained a bachelor. The little fellows took on weight daily, appeared happy now, and when the foxes are about out and contented and Clark is satisfied.

DECLINE OF HUMAN VOICE.

Benefit of Composer Sousa That It Will Follow Use of Phonograph.

Washington.—John Philip Sousa, the composer and band conductor, believes that talking machines will drive the vocal chords into a state of uselessness due to disuse. He prophesied as much at a joint session of the senate and house committees on patents, which was called to hear the new copyright bill discussed.

Mr. Sousa testified that in every one of the catalogues of the manufacturers of talking machines was a list of some 20 to 30 of his compositions, but he had yet to receive the first cent for what he regarded as this "piracy." Mr. Sousa condemned the machines roundly.

"Let me tell you the human voice is not heard as it used to be," he said, "and I prophesy that the vocal chords may by this disuse become useless."

Another evidence that these machines are taking the musical initiative from our people is that the sale of the lute, the mandolin and the guitar are greatly decreasing, and the dealers tell me this is on account of the increased use of the talking machine."

Snake Hunters' Union.

For some years past vipers have been so abundant in the neighborhood of Geneva, Switzerland, that the authorities have paid one franc for every viper delivered to them. The result was that a number of peasants have killed a comfortable livelihood by killing snakes. The authorities have, however, recently diminished the "bounty money" to the great disgust of the snake hunters, who have formed a trade union and threaten to strike.

Postage to Cuba.

Postage rates to Cuba from the United States are the same as domestic, Consul Baehr, of Cienfuegos, reminds the American people. Many people mailing letters to Cuba forget this, and place a five-cent stamp on a letter of one ounce or under, when a two-cent stamp would suffice.

FACE SPRUCE-GUM FAMINE.

Open Winter Prevents Vermont Gummiers from Gathering Usual Supply.

Bennington, Vt.—Vermont is facing a spruce-gum famine, and consequently the Vermonters, who take his gum after meals with as much regularity as the New York clubman takes his cocktail before dinner, is sad. Already the retail price is two dollars a pound for the best grade of crystal lump and molded sticks (made from bottled pitch) has taken its place in many of the poorer families.

The supply of gum has been falling off steadily ever since paper makers began using spruce wood for pulp, and it is only a matter of time when there will be none at all. This year the exceptional decrease is due to the inability of the gatherers to get about readily in the woods.

The gum is crystallized pitch which exudes from the seams of the trees during the hot summer months. As the weather cools the pitch forms in crystals, and this is picked by the gatherers or gummiers after the snow comes. As the best gum trees grow on exposed cliffs and rocky, uneven ground, the gummiers take advantage of deep snows and snowshoes to gather the supply. When there is little snow it is impossible to get about in the best reaches of forest timber and the supply dwindles.

Last winter there was little snow until March, and by that time the season had passed. Lon Bishop, of Glastonbury, who has spent 50 of his 64 years in the woods, shooting, trapping, fishing and gumming, recently brought his winter gum haul here to be marketed. He bears out the other gummiers in saying that the season is the worst in his experience.

CAT MOTHERS SQUIRREL

Little Stranger Is Taken by Tabby Into Her Little Family of Four.

Worcester, Pa.—An American cat playing the role of a mother to four kittens and a frisky, bushy-tailed squirrel, is the sight that has interested visitors at the home of Mrs. Addie A. Lewis, No. 124 East Wrentham street, Davenport, the past few days.

It was about two months ago that Tabby presented the Lewis household with four furry little kittens, which for a fortnight congenitally enjoyed life in the comfortable basket prepared for them. Then one day a red squirrel, about as old as the kittens, and too young to take care of itself, fell out of a tall oak tree on Mrs. Lewis' lawn.

With no means of getting it back into its nest, it was taken into the house and fed on milk for a day or two, when it occurred to Mrs. Lewis to see if the mamma cat would not adopt the stranger. So a little milk was rubbed on the baby squirrel and it was gently laid down beside the tabby. She looked at it appreciatively for a moment or two, and then began licking the milk off, as graciously as she licked her own kittens in giving them their first bath.

Bunny was soon snuggling with the kittens and nursing with them, and she has had no other mother than Tabby.

INVITATIONS WERE MIXED.

Result Was Confusion Among Ministers and Bartenders Who Received Them.

New York.—Somebody mixed up the dinner letters prepared by the German-American association, relating to the coming saengerfest. This is what the pastors of the German churches and the representatives of Sunday schools in Newark received.

"Dear Sir: The committee of the German-American association having the matter in its care, desires to secure your services as a bartender during the meeting of the Northeastern Saengerfest of American in Newark the first week of July next."

On the other hand, a large number of distinguished Newark bartenders received this:

"Rev. Sir: The committee of the German-American Central association, to which the pleasing task is given, invites you to meet it and your brethren of all the German churches. The committee desires to organize a great religious demonstration on one of the days of the coming saengerfest, a parade by the united congregations, hymns sung by a great chorus of Sunday school children, etc., etc."

Woodpecker Strikes Match.

When a woodpecker's bill struck a match head that had evidently been left by mischievous boys, it was caught fire and the fireman saved it in St. Louis recently. The bird screamed as the blaze flared up and persons passing Twentieth street and Prospect avenue looked up to see the fire. An alarm was sounded, and in a few minutes a stream of water was put into play. The woodpecker jumped about in neighboring trees watching the work of the firemen, and when the nest was dried out by the sun later in the day, took up its old abode.

Old Nurse's Grave Green.

The grave of the oldest person interred in the vicinity of West Chester, Pa., that of the late Mary Preston, who was 106 years of age at the time of her death, is a mass of flowers at Goshen Baptist cemetery. The aged woman was at one time a nurse in the family of J. Hoopes Matlack, and for 20 years she has decorated her grave lavishly every Memorial day, or at this season.