

POSTAL AUTOMOBILES

The Horseless Wagons to Carry Mails Through Chicago Streets.

Post Office Department at Washington Invites Proposals for This Innovation—Postmaster at Chicago Pleas.

Automobiles carrying Uncle Sam's mail will be the novel spectacle soon to be seen in Chicago's streets...

Bids for the same service in screen wagons are also asked and one of the two methods will be accepted later on...

"But Chicago's street pavements are not all up to the standard of smoothness attained in the boulevards of the metropolis of France, or even Buffalo...

NEW PLAGUE SERUM

Remarkable Success Which Has Attended the Use of the New Anti-Toxin in Bombay and India.

An anti-toxin, or serum, first prepared by Prof. Haffkine as a plague inoculation called Haffkine's prophylactic...

From these dead germs and their poisonous excrements is produced a fluid believed to have the required power, when injected into the human system...

In vaccination for smallpox a living germ is dealt with, whereas in plague inoculation dead germs only are inoculated.

FIRE ENGINE SEARCHLIGHT

Will Aid the Firemen in Finding Inmates of Burning Buildings Who Are Unconscious.

Fire Chief Croker completed the plans for the fire engine searchlight which he expects will increase the efficiency of the New York fire force 50 per cent.

"The new engine will be one of our regular fire engines, but in place of the pumping machinery it will be equipped with a dynamo connected to a high speed engine on the platform...

Size of Funston's Audiences. The Wichita Eagle is authority for the statement that Gen. Fred Funston looked out of the car window at a small town in western Kansas and saw a seething mass of humanity at the depot to do him honor.

A Pretty Old Boy. The prince of Wales was 53 years old the other day, but the Chicago Times-Herald says they hear that he continues to be "one of the boys."

DATA OF WAR WITH SPAIN.

Official Records Are Being Carefully Copied and Preserved with Elaborate Index and Catalogue.

The war department is systematically gathering data pertaining to the war with Spain. Not only are the official records being carefully copied and preserved with elaborate index and catalogue, but all the literature upon the war has been accumulated.

Special letters have been sent out in every direction asking for reports and books which deal with the subject, and one of the most interesting records is an elaborate collection of newspaper clippings, the most gigantic ever brought together upon one subject.

The collection of data is now confined to books and documents bearing on the military operations. Special consideration is also given to works pertaining to the resources and political conditions of countries which are engaged in warfare or where such contests are anticipated.

GERMAN FACTORIES COMING.

Working of the War Tariff Necessitates Their Placing Branch Establishments in This Country.

German papers discuss and copiously comment on the late news that the firm of Bruhms Soelne, of Gera, one of the largest textile manufacturing concerns in Germany, is about to establish a factory and branch house in the United States.

News also comes from Rhenish Prussia that manufacturers of silk and woolen textiles there purpose to erect branch factories in the United States. The straits in which this German industry has been placed by the partial shutting off of the American market, owing to the working of the tariff, has necessitated this new departure.

CLAIMS WIFE AFTER YEARS.

Twenty-Six Years Separated, a Former Sailor Marries the Woman of His Choice.

With the marriage in Cincinnati of James Gilmer, a business man of Kansas City, and Mrs. K. A. Ferron, of St. Louis, ended a story that recalls an old fiction. They were married in Kansas 26 years ago and Gilmer, who had been a sailor, secured his bride's consent to one more voyage and started from San Francisco. His ship was wrecked off Africa and his wife hearing that he was dead, after three years, married K. A. Ferron. A divorce on the ground of desertion, was secured as a precaution. After a year Ferron died, and the widow moved to St. Louis. Recently, through correspondence with the war department it was learned that Gilmer was still alive and a reunion was effected. Gilmer, who was shipwrecked on an island for three years, had returned to Kansas to find that his wife was living happily with her new husband. He left her undisturbed.

INGENIOUS EXCUSE.

Army Chaplain Assigned to Duty in Philippines Finds He is Too Old to Serve.

Rev. J. S. Seibold, an army chaplain stationed at Fort Canby, Washington, and under orders for duty in the Philippines, has made a curiously timely discovery. He has advised the war department that he is three years older than he supposed and was recorded on the official files. He says he was born in 1835, instead of in 1838, and this announcement makes him old enough to be retired for age. He is the third chaplain of the ten recently assigned to duty in the Philippines who has asked for one reason or another to have such orders revoked. The war department officials marveled at the belated discovery by Rev. Mr. Seibold, but his representation is likely to be accepted and he will be transferred to the retired list with three-quarters pay.

Awakening in the South. Many Mississippi newspapers are advocating the establishment of a school of technology in the state. They say, reports the New York Times, that while under the present system of education there are plenty of physicians and lawyers who often are without call for their services, whenever a new cotton mill is established one of the first needs is to send to the northern states for a young man to superintend it.

What Dewey Did Not Say. It is not inopportune to remark right here, says the Chicago Inland Ocean in referring to the marriage of Admiral Dewey to Mrs. Hazen, that he did not say to the officiating clergyman: "You may fire when ready," although he was as cool as he was on the bridge that bright May morning in '98.

PAYING HER DEBTS.

Rubber Industry Enables Liberia to Meet Overdue Interest.

After Twenty-Five Years of Bankruptcy the Little African Republic Takes on New Life and Prosperity.

After 25 years of bankruptcy America's first colony, Liberia, is to be rehabilitated, the interest on her public debt being paid. In 1871 Liberia floated a loan of \$500,000, chiefly in England, Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines. He failed to meet the interest, and this condition of affairs has prevailed ever since, until now Liberia's fiscal agents in London have announced that the government is once more able to meet its obligations. This step was rendered feasible by a new source of revenue derived from rubber, and the interest which the bondholders despaired of getting is now being paid from the royalties turned into the government of the republic by the Liberian rubber syndicate, an essentially English concern. The press learns that the arrears of interest are practically swept away, as the bondholders agree to accept the comparatively small sum of \$75,000 in settlement of the full amount of the arrears, though this appropriation will not be applied until the extinction of the debt. In the meanwhile, the current interest has been reduced from seven to three per cent, rising one-half per cent every three years until it reaches five per cent, which rate will be maintained until the extinction of the loan. The development of the rubber industry in Liberia has attracted considerable attention, which has not confined itself to the commercial aspect, for the press understands there is likely to be in the near future diplomatic activity in relation to the status of Liberia. The encroachments of the French upon its territory have caused no little disquietude at the foreign office, while it is the general belief that the United States would gladly secure a coaling station on the Liberian coast. In these and other respects the renewed prosperity has brought the territory to the notice of the European powers, and, though the London press has failed to observe this particular sign of the times, it can be said authoritatively that the future status of Liberia was recently much deliberated on by several cabinets. Having this attention, it is quite probable that the American negroes who still retain the reins of government in this slice of the west coast of Africa may soon be threatened with the possibility of exercising their privileges under the tutelage of one of the great powers, though in such an arrangement the United States, by virtue of its original settlement, would doubtless have some share.

WED AFTER TWENTY YEARS.

Couple Long Separated Brought Together by Assistant Chief Lewis of Chicago.

Lyman Lewis, assistant chief of police of Chicago, received a letter the other day from a newly wedded pair now in Wilkesbarre, Pa., which says: "We wish to thank you for our happiness. You have certainly proved a veritable cupid." The assistant chief laughed softly and bit off the end of a 25-cent cigar. "Between whiffs of the fragrant weed he told the story. "Twenty years ago George Smale and Margaret Tucker lived in Lowell, Mass.," he said. "They loved and were engaged to be married, but as he was 19 and she two years younger stern parents counseled a delay till the young persons were old enough to know. They parted and Margaret's parents moved from Lowell and the couple lost track of each other. Then George married another and Miss Tucker came west. Mrs. Smale died three years since, and George thought of his old love. He traced her to Chicago, but she had left here five years before. I located her in Milwaukee and gave her George's address. Last week she arrived in Wilkesbarre and became Mrs. Smale. That's all there is to the romance, which began nearly a quarter of a century ago. I guess it's a pretty good romance at that," and the assistant chief knocked the ash off his cigar.

JULIA ARTHUR STOPS PLAY.

Curtain Drawn While Offensive Persons Are Asked to Leave New York Theater.

Julia Arthur, exasperated by the talk and laughter of two persons in the auditorium at New York the other night, interrupted her performance of "More Than a Queen" and ordered that the curtain be drawn. The spectators who had disturbed her were a man and woman who occupied an upper box. When the curtain fell Miss Arthur appeared in front of it and said: "Ladies and Gentlemen: I don't wish to seem impatient. Persons in an upper box, whom you have noticed, I am sure, have disturbed me so much that I am afraid to play again while they talk and laugh. I wish they would go." They made no sign of going, but a man who went to them from the auditorium persuaded them to leave the playhouse. The curtain was raised and the third act of the play was continued.

ROMANTIC ILLINOIS WEDDING.

Note Set Afloat in a Bottle in the Mississippi River Brings a Rich Husband.

Miss Nettie Clark, living at New Liberty, in the southern part of Illinois, some months ago placed a note in a bottle, which she set afloat in the Mississippi river, requesting the finder to answer. It journeyed nearly to New Orleans before being discovered, when T. C. Anderson, a wealthy tobacco planter, found it and at once answered the missive. A correspondence ensued and the other day a happy marriage resulted. They never saw each other until they met to be married.

THE SICK MAN'S GRIEVANCE.

Just as soon as things begin to taste right to a sick person, the Atchison (Kan.) Globe pointedly says, the neighbors stop sending things in.

DIES AS HE EXPECTS SUCCESS.

John Rourke, an Impetuous Inventor, Expires While Telling That Good Luck Is at Hand.

While telling his companions of the money he expected in a few days from one of his inventions, John Rourke died the other night in his chair in the Model lodging house, Chicago. For the last week Rourke, who was 60 years old, had been without money, and while allowed to sleep in the lodging house he had been unable to purchase sufficient food, and had grown weak and emaciated as a result.

For years he had been at work on a gas engine which he had invented, and a patent had been applied for. He was without means to perfect his model, but recently through friends in Ontario he had succeeded in interesting Frank P. McGrath, a retired wealthy manufacturer in Grand Rapids, Mich., in his scheme, and from letters found in his possession it was learned that McGrath had agreed to advance all the money necessary to perfect the machine and place it on the market.

Sitting in the office of the lodging house the old man was telling his companions, less fortunate than himself, of the turn the tide was about to take in his favor, and how, in a few days after he had received his first installment, he would treat them all to a good dinner, when his hands suddenly dropped to his sides, his head fell forward on his breast and he was dead.

Little is known of the old man by any of his companions in the lodging house. He had spent nearly all his time working on drawings for his invention.

He was a Canadian and had confided to Clerk Seymour, of the lodging house, that he formerly had held excellent positions in the dominion, but as to the reason for his leaving there or concerning his life in Chicago he had little to say.

His body was removed to Rolston's undertaking rooms, 22 Adams street, where an inquest was held.

WANTS NAVAL STATION.

Why Britain is So Anxious to Obtain Control of a Harbor on the Northern Pacific Coast.

Congressman James Hamilton Lewis, of the state of Washington, who was in London during the consideration of the Alaskan boundary question, representing the owners of property in the disputed territory, has arrived in New York. "I was informed by no less a person than Sir Louis Davies," said Mr. Lewis, "that he had assured Mr. Choate that Canada would cede Skaguay and Taiya absolutely without any claim, although they are within the disputed territory, in return for Pyramid harbor, the remainder of the dispute to be decided upon the basis of the Venezuelan arbitration.

"This proposition was pending when the temporary modus was agreed upon at Washington.

"What Canada really wants is not a commercial depot, but a naval station like Esquimaux.

"Great Britain foresees possible trouble with Russia over the division of China and knows that she will have to fight it out in the northern Pacific. She realizes that trouble may arise over the Canada boundary at any time that she might have a misunderstanding with us. She wants a mustering station on the Alaskan coast. Were she to have war with us, now that we have islands in the Pacific, she could come out and attack us. That, I believe, is the reason Canada would give up so much to obtain a port there."

KISSED BY KAISER.

German Baroness and Actress Tries to Tell in English of an Occasional Experience.

"Yes, I was by Kaiser Wilhelm kissed, in Dusseldorf once; yes, he was to me nice—you speak German? No? Is that not too bad? I could in German good explain how the kaiser did." So spoke Baroness von Straats, known to the German stage as Ann Fuehring, who arrived on the steamer Trave, and is now staying at the Hotel Belvidere, New York city. She was asked to tell the much-heralded story of the imperial osculation at Dusseldorf.

The baroness is a fine type of Teutonic classic beauty. She is more than six feet tall, and no better figure can be conceived for the role of "Germania," with which she enchanted the ruler of the fatherland.

The baroness exhibited with great pride a diamond studded bracelet which the kaiser gave her on that occasion. Also a fine silver shield which the kaiser's grandfather, two weeks before his death, presented to her when she played the "Maid of Orleans" in German for the first time.

NOT OBLIGED TO BURY THEM.

Controller Tracewell, at Washington, has rendered an opinion in which he holds that if a civilian employe of the army should die at a military post the government would defray the expenses of his burial if no funds were left which could be utilized for that purpose.

There is no such legal obligation, and the action would be for sanitary reasons or on account of moral sentiments.

THIS WAS A NEW JERSEY GIRL.

After entertaining one fellow until 11 o'clock the other evening a New Jersey girl eloped with another in time to catch the midnight train. The Chicago Times-Herald says that some girls seem to get their greatest enjoyment out of the practice of making people feel cheap.

IT IS NO EASY TASK.

Running Railroads in Island of Luzon Attended with Difficulties.

An Officer of the Signal Corps in the Philippines Describes the Numerous Trials That Beset His Path.

Running railroads in the island of Luzon is a lively job, owing to the constant interference of the insurgents, coupled with the original wretched condition of the road and rolling stock. An officer of the signal corps, writing to Senator Cullom, describes the situation as follows: "Trains are liable to turn up in the most unexpected places, and as for orders, when you have to find out where they came from, how they got there and where they started for, engineers cannot be persuaded to run after dark, unless they have about a regiment of infantry with them, and in this they are sensible, as the Guggus have all their fun at night and waste most of their ammunition after dark.

"The train dispatcher is supposed to be 'bell boy' for the local telephone line. He has to handle about 150 messages per item via the dash and dot system, and he is his own delivery boy. Every officer who comes in has his own particular grievance which he wishes you to adjust, and they bring in messages it would take a board of inquiry two whole months to decipher, and then they would have to refer them to the man who wrote them.

"Officers will send in a message with no address except a man's name, often with no signatures attached. If you don't happen to know the man personally to whom it is directed and fail to send it, in about two days here comes an insignificant second lieutenant, who doesn't know when his face is clean, and who prances up and down the office threatening to have the whole signal corps arrested and court-martialed.

"He never has the manhood to offer us a cigar when he finds us smiling at him and trying our best to do as he desires and to show him wherein he has erred."

MAKES A CHANGE.

Secretary Root Moves His Office So That He Can Have Much Greater Privacy.

Secretary Root has given up the office which has been used by his predecessors since the construction of the war department and removed to the room of his private secretary. This was done to give the secretary a private office where he could work without interruption when he has special business on hand.

There are only three rooms in the secretary's immediate suite—a large reception-room, his private secretary's room, and that of the secretary himself. Heretofore the reception-room and the office of Secretary Root's private secretary have been open to the public and members of the press. This practically confined the secretary to one room, and it was impossible for him to have a conference without interruption. Secretary Root will now do the bulk of his work in the room of his private secretary. There is a large double desk in the center of this office, which will be used by Secretary Root and Victor Mason, his private secretary.

The room which was formerly occupied by Mr. Root will be reserved for the purpose of private consultation and special work, and when the secretary enters it he will not be disturbed under any circumstances. The public will be excluded from the joint office of Secretary Root and Mr. Mason, and in the future the reception-room will be used exclusively for the purpose for which it was constructed.

AN AUTOMOBILE ENTHUSIAST.

Richard Croker Buys an Up-to-Date Vehicle and Takes Delight in Its Use.

Richard Croker has purchased an up-to-date automobile and devotes an hour's time every morning in acquiring proficiency in handling it. Mr. Croker's automobile is of the style of a small station wagon or runabout. It is arranged for two persons. "I am learning fast how to handle it," he said. "It's fire sport, and I prefer it to driving. There will always be carriage driving in New York, I believe, but the introduction of automobiles is going to lessen the number of horses, sure."

Mr. Croker has owned his automobile less than a fortnight, but in that time he has accomplished a result that a score of members of the Automobile club have striven for months to bring about. That is the conversion of Park Commissioner Clauser, whose antipathy to the automobile caused him to issue an edict against the machines entering Central park.

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EXCELS MARCONI SYSTEM.

W. A. Eddy Able to Transmit Wireless Messages Between Two Kites Without a Battery.

Marconi's is not the only telegraphy that will send messages without wires. According to W. A. Eddy, the kite expert of Bayonne, N. J., it is equally easy to accomplish the same result with wires fastened to two ordinary kites.

Mr. Eddy believes that if the two poles of sending and reception extended high enough into the air enough electricity will be generated from the atmosphere to do away with the storage batteries and complicated telegraph instruments used by Marconi. A kite was raised to a height of 1,000 feet. Four hundred feet away another wire of the same length was attached to two kites, fastened to the main wire in a sort of a V-shaped branch. No battery or electrical apparatus of any kind was connected with the kites.

Mr. Eddy took his place at the single wire kite. He made the connection between it and the ground, and instantly a shock was felt by his assistant on the other wire 400 feet away.

Mr. Eddy brought the shifting hook against the wire with short, irregular blows, something like a telegrapher's clicks. They were all felt by his associate at the other wire. It took ten seconds for each blow on the single kite wire to pass up to the kite, shoot off through space and come down on the double kite wire.

With telegrapher's instruments of only ordinary delicacy Mr. Eddy is confident a message could be made to travel in a much less time.

ATHLETIC SPORTS AT PARIS.

Great Meeting Planned for 1900 with a View to an International Organization.

The greatest possible interest is being shown in athletic affairs in connection with the Paris exposition of 1900. A meeting of the committee of official sports at the exposition was held and a long programme was decided on, with a view to the continuance of the organization in France after the exposition. All prominent persons interested in athletics in France have been asked to cooperate. It may be remembered that the next session of the "Olympian games" is to be held in Paris during the exposition.

M. Merillon, chairman of the official committee and also president of the French National Rifle society, says: "The session of the 'Olympian games' in Paris will probably put this organization on its feet, so to speak. The most famous athletes in the world will meet here to decide on a basis for future operations. The idea has struck sportsmen and athletes here as practical and at the same time romantic. We are heartily in favor of continuing the games. The success of next year's meeting is assured, since the most prominent young athletes of the English and American universities have signified their intention of being present. The meeting probably will be held at Longchamps, the Paris race course."

ADMIRAL DEWEY'S DOG DEAD.

Bob, Official Mascot of the Cruiser Olympia, Passes Away on Staten Island.

Admiral Dewey's dog is dead. His dog was the Chinese Chow Chow which the Caucasian name of Bob, which held the position of official mascot on the cruiser Olympia. When the Olympia reached Tompkinsville Bob fell ill. It was not the rich diet, the admiral said, although candy and cake were given to him by most of the visitors to the war ship, but a nervous disease from which he suffered. Bob was taken to the horse and dog hospital of Dr. Bath at New Brighton, S. I.

When Admiral Dewey came to see him the Chow Chow dog was failing fast, but he recognized his master and tried to bark. He died during the night of paralysis. Word was sent to the admiral and he wrote to a proper funeral the dog must have a proper funeral. Bob was carried to his grave by J. J. John Clark, of Tompkinsville, and Dr. Bath. The boys and girls of Staten Island talk of putting up a little head stone over his grave.

A NEW DEPARTMENT.

New York Board of Trade Urges Congress to Create a Department of Commerce and Manufacturers.

At the meeting of the New York board of trade and transportation the following resolutions were adopted: "Resolved, That we ask the congress of the United States to enact a law establishing the gold dollar as a standard and measure of value, and provide that bonds and notes of the United States and all paper money, including national bank notes, shall be redeemable in gold.

"Resolved by the New York board of trade and transportation, That the business interests of the United States demand the creation of a separate government department, whose head shall be a cabinet officer, to be known as the department of commerce and manufactures, and the president of the United States is respectfully urged to recommend to congress early action to this end."

Democrat Dewey. O Dewey was the morning and dew were the—but after all the greatest thing about living in a free country that the law-abiding citizen can always go about his own affairs, says the Chicago Times-Herald, without caring who the crowd is going to think or do about it.

AMERICAN SHOES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

American shoe manufacturers can not develop the local producer in South Africa.