

Will Make Another Dash for Pole.



COMMANDER R. E. PEARY

Leave of absence for three years has been granted Commander R. E. Peary, U. S. N., by the Navy department in order to resume his attempt to find the North pole. The dash will be made in the summer of 1908.

MANY JOBS FOR GIRL

IS STATION AGENT THOUGH ONLY 19 YEARS OLD.

New England Young Woman Looks After Tickets and Freight, Carries the Mail and Acts as Baggage Master.

Rutland, Vt. — Nineteen and a girl, yet station agent, mail carrier, express agent, baggage master and freight agent for the Central Vermont railroad—that is Miss Bessie Elizabeth Henley of East Granville, in the Green Mountain range. And she has held all these jobs since she was 17 years old.

Admiring friends claim that Miss Henley is the only young woman in New England holding such a position, or such a multitude of positions that are so distinctively in the sphere of the male. Although just emerged from childhood when appointed, she has done the work of her office for two years without a black mark against her record. Failure to be on hand at train time is unknown not only to Miss Henley, but to most of the residents of the hamlet.

East Granville is near the uppermost portion of the pass in the Green Mountain range through which the Central Vermont railway makes its way from one side of the state of Vermont to the other. A lumbering community, extending for eight miles back into the mountains to the west, finds a point of connection by the road with the world and its market places.

The amount of business transacted probably makes no appreciable difference in the dividends which stockholders of the system receive, but it is of considerable moment in the operation of traffic through the great ravine and to the safety and convenience of thousands of passengers on the through trains between Boston and Montreal, as well as to the hundreds of cars of freight which daily pass the point. For on the care and watchfulness of the girl in charge of the company's depot, under the sheer cliff of the mountain, depend their safety.

No difficulty is experienced by Miss Henley in handling everything that comes East Granville way. She finds the railroad men all anxious to assist her. Although not many trunks are taken on at the little depot of which she has charge, when one does show up it has as much in it as the railroad will carry without excess rates; and the station agent's hand sank when she saw the first old-fashioned Saratogas intended for transportation.

There are no baggage trucks for the use of the agent, and she did not feel equal to the task of carrying the heavy boxes from the station platform three car lengths up the track to the express car. Willing brakemen saw her dilemma and came to her aid, and four powerful arms made short work of it. So also with much of the express matter billed to the town. One man would have difficulty in handling it, but Miss Henley's volunteers solve the problem in no time. All the articles on the freight shed platform, where they are left to be called for by the consignees.

Not many difficulties have been encountered by the young woman in the discharge of her duties. East Granville is not regarded as a particularly healthy location for tramps under any circumstance, and in the winter time it is too cold for them.

HOLD FLOATING EXHIBITION.

France to Make Bold Bid for Trade in Mediterranean.

Washington, — France, the land of surprises, is about to make an enterprising innovation, through her merchants, to secure more trade with Mediterranean ports. The plan is to hold a floating exhibition of French products.

"According to Levantine newspapers," writes Consul General Gabriel B. Ravndal from Beirut, "Mediterranean ports are shortly to be visited by an exhibition ship which is to be fitted out with a view to gaining new outlets for French commerce. The vessel is to be arranged as a floating exhibition of products suitable for export and French manufacturers and merchants will be enabled to exhibit their goods and samples on payment of moderate charges. A number of salesmen, partly drawn from pupils of the commercial schools, speaking at least two languages, will be carried, these being under the superintendence of experienced commercial travelers. In order to stimulate their zeal all these employes will be paid on commission and the widest possible publicity is to be given to the expected arrival at the ports at which the vessel is intended to call. At each place the salesmen will present their samples to the various buyers and transmit the orders they may obtain to the head office, which will see them carried out. A series of receptions and fetes are to be held on board with a view of attracting customers."

THIRD CENTURY RELIGION.

Professor Burnett Cross on Forehead to Attest His Sincerity.

Des Moines.—As a mark of sincerity in his belief Dr. Paul Bittix, until recently professor of Greek in Central Hollins university at Okaloosa, has burned a cross an inch and one-half long and three quarters of an inch wide on his forehead.

The tortures which the flagellantes of the middle ages inflicted on themselves, the sufferings of the old crusaders, whom Bittix would imitate in a large degree, can have been no worse than the agony endured without a sign of suffering by the ousted professor as the acid ate into the living flesh. Moreover, this, says Bittix, is but the beginning. All his followers in the new crusade must mark themselves as he has done, "with the sign of the cross."

Bittix was discharged as a result of his self-mutilation.

WAX REPLACES THE BONE.

Remarkable Operation Performed on Six-Year-Old Boy to Save Arm.

New York.—Surgeons at St. Gregory's hospital performed an operation on a six-year-old Italian boy, Peter Lepart, of Brooklyn, by which they replaced a portion of a necrotic bone of the left forearm with a substance known as "bone wax," which the surgeons say will turn into bone.

When the boy was brought to the hospital it was found that he was suffering from a tubercular bone in the forearm. Decomposition had set in, and to prevent loss of the use of the arm and the complete removal of the bone it was decided to bring in "bone wax" into use. An X-ray view will be taken daily to watch the progress of health.

"Bone wax" was discovered by a German chemist ten years ago and has been used in Vienna.

FEWER HONORARY DEGREES.

Just Making a Speech Won't Win Honors at Yale Hereafter.

New Haven, Conn.—Hereafter persons who come to Yale to deliver commencement addresses must not expect honorary degrees to go with the invitations. The new rules, which have been two years in building and which have been made public this week, state that after 1907 no honorary degree can be given to a person in the same year in which he makes one of the regular graduation addresses.

In former years when a public man received an invitation to deliver a commencement address in the law or medical school or in one of the other departments he was quite likely to receive with it a notification that an honorary degree had been conferred on him.

There has also been a curtailment in the selection of candidates for the honorary degree of doctor of laws, and in the future the title will not be given promiscuously, but only in recognition of distinguished public service. It has been the custom at Yale to confer honorary degrees only at commencement and then only to those who would attend the exercises at which the honors were given.

By the new rules, with the approval of a majority of the faculty members of the committee on honorary degrees, foreigners of marked distinction visiting the university can receive a degree from the corporation between commencements. The limitation in number of honorary degrees each year will in general include not more than two doctors of divinity, one doctor of science and four doctors of laws, of whom at least one doctor of science and two doctors of laws are required to be Yale men.

Honorary degrees will be conferred by advice of a committee made up of the president, six members of the corporation and five representatives of the faculties, the latter nominated by the university council under rules of its own.

MONEY BURIED WITH MINER.

Refuses to Have Grave Marked So People May Forget Him.

Deadwood, S. D.—Nelson A. Brucker, an old miner who has been a resident of these hills for a quarter of a century or more and who at one time possessed a considerable fortune, died a few days ago in his little cabin north of Lead and every cent of money he had, several hundred dollars in all, was buried with him.

The eccentric old man made arrangements before he died that not only his money should be put in the coffin and buried with him but that his grave should be dug in a secluded spot in the hills near his cabin and that it should not be marked in any way.

"I have no friends who have done anything for me to justify my giving them what little money I have contrived by stinting myself and working hard to scrape together," he said when he knew that he was going to die within a few days. "I have no children nor wife to leave it to. I have relatives scattered over the country, however, and they have been so neglectful and unkind that I have no warrant for leaving the money to them. It had best be buried with me and then I shall die knowing that it will never do anybody else more harm than it has done me. I want to be buried up here in the hills, because I have lived here for so many years and I desire that my grave shall not be marked in order that folks may soon forget that I ever lived."

WOMAN ACTS AS ENGINEER.

Takes Place of Husband When He is Called Away on Urgent Business.

Lincoln, Neb.—The little town of Harrison, Neb., was dependent for its water and fire protection one night recently entirely upon a woman. Nobody in town was aware of the fact until several days afterward. The woman was pretty little Mrs. Izer, the wife of the water commissioner.

One of Mr. Izer's most important duties is to operate the gasoline engine which works the town pump. Mrs. Izer is often with him in the pumping station and has watched him at his work. Last week Mr. Izer was called out of town on important business which could not be delayed. There was not another man in town who knew how to handle the engine and run the pump. The water commissioner was distracted, for his summons away was imperative and he dared not leave the town without water and fire protection.

"I'll run the engine," suddenly announced Mrs. Izer. Her husband stared at her in amazement, but she hurried him over to the pumping station and promptly demonstrated that she had learned all about the work from observation. The engine worked steadily all night.

No Razor, No Tip in New Shave.

London.—There is consternation among the barbers of England over the invention of a Londoner named Witherington, who has made a paste which removes the beard in ten minutes without the use of a razor. The paste makes the hair so brittle that it can be rubbed off clean with a wet sponge. No skin trouble follows, and the performance is simply a part of washing the face on arising in the morning. This does away with the barber and second man to brush one's hair and ask with his manner for a tip. The cost is about one cent per shave.

LANDMARK BURNED

BUILDING WHERE DOLLIVER STARTED CAREER GONE.

Will Be Replaced By Modern Business Block—Story of Junior Iowa Senator's Early Experience at Fort Dodge.

Fort Dodge.—The First National bank of this city is making preparations for the erection of a six-story modern business block in the place of the Fort Dodge landmark recently destroyed by fire, which in pioneer days harbored several men who in after years attained national distinction and won titles of honor.

Chief of those who formerly inhabited the humble quarters is Iowa's junior senator, J. P. Dolliver, whose first law office was in a room in the rear of the building. The senator recently told this story of his experience there:

"The first night was one of quiet and peaceful repose. My brother shared the room with me and we congratulated ourselves on being so nicely quartered. On retiring the second night we were doomed to be disturbed. The tin roof which covered the rafters of the room had during the day accumulated a large amount of heat, which it shed in generous quantities into the room we occupied. During the night we were further disturbed by something which endeavored in no uncertain manner to devour us alive. I lit a match and turned back the sheet and there they were massed in football formation, all ready for another grand rush.

"There must have been hundreds of the pesky little bedfellows. The warfare was so vicious that we in time were literally forced to abandon the room and seek other quarters."

The building was constructed in 1853 by a man named Smithy. The front part was occupied by a grocery store. Just back of it was the post office, presided over by Postmaster Page, now cashier of the United States assay office in New York city. Beyond the stairs was the law office of A. N. Botsford and the late Capt. J. A. O. Yoeman, who while alive effected the distinction of being detailed as captain of the 39 picked men to effect the capture of Jeff Davis. Capt. Yoeman inhabited the greater part of the second story, the room in the rear being occupied by the late Dr. McNulty, a man of generous proportions, who during the time he lived there kept a stout rope in the bottom of his trunk to land him safely on terra firma, less than 20 feet below, in case of fire.

It is related that when Capt. Yoeman brought his bride to Fort Dodge in the early '70s among other things in which he indulged was an elaborate bedstead, which is to-day referred to as the high-back variety. The low ceiling of his quarters would not permit of its maintaining a strictly upright position, but the captain's ingenuity came to his rescue in the matter and four holes made in the floor permitted the legs to drop sufficiently to permit of the bed assuming its proper attitude.

It was while occupying the rear upper room that Senator Dolliver secured his first lawsuit, which gave him no small amount of notoriety. It was not altogether an accident, but nearly so. His client in reality had come to consult Capt. Yoeman, but finding him out unfolded his tale of woe as to how he had been swindled in a horse trade, and in the course of the conversation the attorney was paid a retainer's fee of \$10 to pilot his interests before Justice Sherman.

When Capt. Yoeman returned to his office and found that he had lost a client and a fee as well he was greatly displeased and lost no time in making plain the state of his feeling to the one directly responsible, but Dolliver said he "needed the money" and there is none of the early acquaintances of the now illustrious senator who in any way doubted the truthfulness of this statement.

FACTOR IN WORLD TRADE.

United States Provides 14 Per Cent. of Imports of Other Nations.

Washington.—The international commerce of the world now exceeds \$26,000,000,000, of which \$13,500,000,000 is in imports and \$12,500,000,000 in exports, according to a statement issued by the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor. Of the imports of countries other than the United States, 14.13 per cent. is drawn from this country, and of their exports 9 1/2 per cent. These figures include only domestic products exported, and not foreign colonial merchandise brought into the country and re-exported.

Total imports of countries other than the United States are given as \$12,613,143,000, and the share of these imports drawn from the United States is \$1,798,328,000, or 14.37 per cent. Exports of countries other than the United States are given at \$10,778,466,000, and the share sent to the United States at \$1,031,112,000, or 9.57 per cent.

Minister Advertises for Souls.

Marion, O.—Rev. W. N. Drake, who styles himself as Christ's evangelist and minister of prayer, has inserted this advertisement in local newspapers:

"All persons who are not wholly satisfied with their religious experience please call at 128 East Mill street, where Rev. W. N. Drake will pray with them and instruct them in the word of God. No charge will be made. All are welcome."

PUSH THE COUNTRY'S TRADE.

Invaluable Work That Is Done by American Drummer.

"The American drummer is the greatest patriot in the world," said W. J. Clark, in the Washington Post. "I believe no other men can touch the Americans in selling goods or boosting their country. The traveling men of the United States have made our foreign trade. They are good mixers, quick to catch on and are the greatest civilizers we have, with the exception of the newspapers. How faithful and patriotic they are none but those who have seen them can appreciate. Their patriotism is put to the real test, for anyone who has traveled in a foreign country longs to get back home when he has been years away from his fireside. But the men stick to their work, knowing that it is up to them to make trade. And they are doing it bravely and surely. There is no better trade-mark in Europe day than that which appears on American goods. Foreign countries know it, too, for many of them are continually making imitations of our manufactured products, and some are even going so far as to mark them with American names. The people of Europe are beginning to look upon goods that come from America the same as we looked upon woollens and other articles a few years ago that were marked imported."

MANY USES OF THE BANANA.

Product of Entire Tree Utilized by West Indian Natives.

In this country the banana is regarded mostly as a food product, but in the West Indies the natives find a use for the entire tree, and well it serves its many purposes. When the young coffee and cocoa plants need protection from the fierce rays of the sun banana leaves give the desired shelter. Physicians and nurses use the tender, unopened leaves for dressings, and the old leaves are made into twines and boxes. In Malaya the stalks and leaves are made into a soap for laundry purposes, and a solution forms a valuable salt. From banana juice and the skin of the fruit a preparation is made for bleaching purposes and the juice also makes a good indelible ink.

WHERE AMERICA IS SUPREME.

Traveler Praises Coffee Served in This Country.

"It is refreshing to me," said the smartly dressed woman, "to get back to America, where I can have water and good coffee to drink with my meals."

"Oh, yes, of course, one can buy bottled water in Europe, but somehow one seldom does; at least not to use on the table. One drinks according to the country over there, and the natives seem as ignorant of the uses of water, internally at least, as a Kentucky colonel."

"In England I drank ale and tea; in France, claret; in Italy, Chianti; in Germany, beer and Moselle and Rhine wine, and in Holland, coffee."

"No, I did not like the coffee they make in France, notwithstanding we hear so much in our own restaurants about French coffee. Neither do I care for Turkish coffee. In fact, America and Holland—or, I should say, New York and Holland—are the only places in the world where I can find coffee to suit me."

SPINDLE-SHANKED MEN OF TODAY.

"You see," said Mr. Simpson, editor of the American Gentleman, "trousers are trousers and there are no new ideas possible in them. We've had the baggy trousers and the peg-top. The normal has now been attained and we're going to stick to it. Knee breeches? Oh, my, no! You'll never see them in America—not even for evening dress. The trouble is that the modern city man is too spindle-shanked and knock-kneed to wear them with distinction. And it's not only the city man's legs that are deteriorating in grace and strength. It's a well known fact among tailors that the man of to-day is physically inferior to his grandfather. It's the extension of transit facilities and elevator service that is ruining him. Nowadays if a man has any flesh it's under his waistband."

STARTLES A BRIDAL COUPLE.

In one of the Seventeenth street windows of the Colorado Midland ticket office is a stuffed stork. Yesterday about noon a young Elk and his wife stopped in front of the window and had a look at the stork and the baby camel which stands by it. Jim Davis, the Midland's city passenger agent, noticed them gazing at the stork as he came up Seventeenth street. He hesitated a moment before the window and the young Elk noticed him. "That's a stork, isn't it?" asked the Elk of Mr. Davis. "Yes," replied Jim, "that's a stork." Then, as he went through the screen door: "Just leave your orders in here." The young Elk and his wife "faded away" in a hurry. —Denver Post.

HOW HE AWOKE THE CONGREGATION.

Ferdinando Nicholls, who was at one time rector of St. Mary Arches, Exeter, England, in the midst of his sermon one day discovered that several of the men in the congregation had fallen asleep. He paused and sat down. The people then began to stand up and move about, and this had the effect of awakening the slumberers, who stood up with the rest to ascribe the cause of Mr. Nicholls' silence.

DECLINE IN ENGLISH STUDY.

In all directions tragical results of the long neglect of serious English study are visible, writes Sidney L. in the Academy. The worst English is practiced and appreciated, outside a very small circle of English society. The municipal libraries, which minister to the literary needs of the multitude, overflow with literary vacuity and vapidity. The standard of the average taste in literature steadily declines.

PROOF OF GOOD MEMORY.

"I got a shock from a 'lectric battery terday," said the first hobo. "Gee! It's a funny kind of a feallin'; feels just like takin' a bath." "Say," exclaimed the other one, "you must have a great memory."

CRAMMING THE BIBLE.

A hundred square miles of country around Mount Kosciusko, one of the highest peaks of the Australian Alps, has been proclaimed a reserve by the government, with a view of the formation of a national park. "Freedom shrieked when Kosciusko fell," according to the poet Campbell, and this peak was so named by a brother Polish patriot, the late Count de Strzelecki, a political refugee, who spent several years in Australia and did some valuable exploring and geological work.

He was probably the first discoverer of gold in Australia, but at the request of the local government, which feared an outbreak of the convict population if the news became known, he made no public announcement of the fact. He spent the closing years of his life in London and was knighted by Queen Victoria.

BIBLE DROVE HIM TO DRINK.

Abram B. Cartridge, very drunk, was picked up by the police force from the gutter on South Main street, says a dispatch from Waterbury, Conn. In his hand he clasped an open Bible and he spoke to the officers strangely in "Scriptural phrases." In court Abram said that study of the Bible had driven him to his fall.

"It is so full of inconsistencies," he declared. "I learn its truths and am uplifted—then I discover that its truths are false and I sink to the depths. How can I deliberately stay in my right mind, judge, when I find that the foundation of salvation is built on sand and good liquor, which will make me forget it, is so cheap?"

CARTRIDGE WAS SENT TO JAIL 30 DAYS.

"Gee! It's a funny kind of a feallin'; feels just like takin' a bath." "Say," exclaimed the other one, "you must have a great memory."