

**A STEP IN WIRELESS.**

**GOVERNMENT INVENTION OF GREAT VALUE.**

**Army Code of Communication Is by This System Placed Far Ahead of That in the Navy—Records All Known Methods.**

New York.—The signal corps of the United States army has for a long time been experimenting with wireless telegraphy, and Brig. Gen. A. W. Greely has now announced that as a result of these experiments receivers have been perfected that will enable the army to intercept and read the messages sent by any system of wireless telegraphy in use. This invention places the army in a position to cause considerable trouble to foreign countries in the event of their ever being in a clash, and the announcement of the invention is sure to be of especial interest to foreign governments.

At the present time the United States navy uses three systems of wireless telegraphy—the Fessenden, the Arco-Blaby and the De Forest. Intercommunication between the vessels and the navy yards using these three systems has been impossible. The Brooklyn navy yard and some of the battleships use the Arco-Blaby system. The cruisers West Virginia and Colorado are equipped with the De Forest system because they are able to communicate with about 50 De Forest stations that are on the coasts and in Canada, Great Britain, Brazil and China. Now with the new invention of the signal corps, the messages sent by any of the warships can be intercepted and used. It is understood that the government is to at once install the improved wireless receivers in every fort in the country.

Dr. Lee De Forest, head of the De Forest company, has admitted that the signal corps had been experimenting for a long time. He said: "The experts of the corps have helped themselves to any wireless inventions they chose to make free with, and with these have perfected a principle applicable to them all. The government can arbitrarily do such things."

There is expected to be a big fight in congress this winter on a bill which proposes to put all wireless telegraph companies under the control of the department of commerce and labor. Some of the companies are opposed to this action, as they fear a government ownership and monopoly of the business. Dr. De Forest is, however, in favor of it. He said: "I think it would be best for all interests to do this. The reasons are obvious when you consider the chaotic conditions created by half a dozen systems without intercommunication with one another."

**READS BIBLE TO STOP GAME**

**Prisoner in Jail Converts Comrades in Lockup—First Heaped with Abuse.**

Kokomo, Ind.—Reading and praying in the county jail, Charles Johnson, formerly regarded as one of the bad characters of Kokomo, is now doing effective work as an evangelist. Johnson is serving a sentence for cruel and immoral treatment of Mrs. Bertha Lockridge, who is now in the Central Hospital for the insane at Indianapolis. It is said that the woman's insanity was the result of the treatment she received by Johnson while living at his home.

Johnson now reads his Bible daily and prays almost hourly for forgiveness of his sins. Whenever a card game is started by the other prisoners Johnson comes with his Bible, sits down beside them and begins to read. At first Johnson was heaped with abuse, but now his methods are usually effective. Johnson is well educated, but has been a slave to drink for years. Sheriff Lindsey has promised Johnson a position as soon as his sentence is completed.

**Served State Thirty-Eight Years.**

In 1900 Francis L. Brown, widower, of Gouverneur, N. Y., and Elsie M. Price, widow, each with three children, were married. Young Earl Brown and his stepmother, Alice Price, fell in love and were married two years ago. Recently Eugene Price, brother of Alice Price-Brown, married Lena Brown, sister of Eugene Price's brother-in-law, Lena taking as her husband her own brother-in-law, having by the marriage of her brother to Alice Price, her stepmother become the sister-in-law of her step-sister and by her own marriage the sister-in-law of her full brother.

**Illinois Birth Rate.**

The annual report of the Illinois board of health for the year 1905 was presented to Gov. Deneen by Dr. James A. Egan, secretary of the board. According to the department of vital statistics, there have been in the state during the past year about 65,000 deaths and approximately 150,000 births. Consumption continues to cause more deaths than any other disease, but pneumonia and heart disease stand close in second and third places. Of the 150,000 births the males exceeded females by fully 6,000.

**Teach Indiana Tongue.**

A chair of Japanese history has been established at Notre Dame university. Will the Japanese reciprocate by teaching Indiana literature in their leading schools?

**GETS UNIQUE RELIC.**

**MAJOR HAS HOLE THROUGH WHICH HE ESCAPED.**

**Daring Dash for Liberty Made Through Aperture in Prison Floor Told Of by Civil War Memento—Owner Is an Author.**

Des Moines, Ia.—Many queer things have been shipped from one part of the country to another, but it has remained for an old soldier to lower to break the record by having shipped to him from South Carolina the hole through which he made his escape from prison during the civil war. On a recent visit to the south Maj. Byers, who is the hero of this tale, visited the old prison at Columbia, S. C., where for 14 long months he was kept a captive. The old building had been remodeled by a carpenter and fresh new boards, and there, under a layer of fresh new boards, the major was overjoyed to find the identical hole which he had sawed out with a blunt case knife and through which he made the thrilling escape which to this day has puzzled the some of the confederate guards. The hole was cut out and presented to the major, who had it shipped north, and it now occupies a conspicuous place in his elegant drawing room along with his other curios from abroad.

Probably no more thrilling escape figured in the great civil war than that of Maj. B. H. M. Byers, the Iowa poet. Saving their way out with a blunt case-knife, he and a comrade, Lieut. Devine, of a Philadelphia regiment, secreted themselves for two nights and a day in a dark, stifling cubby hole over a porch, where they remained without food or water until they thought the soldiers had all been removed from the fort. Surrounded by waiting guards as soon as they merged from their hiding place, they made a desperate dash for the gate amidst a rain of bullets, and in the darkness made their escape. Maj. Byers is known to old soldiers all over the country, having written the song, "Sherman's March to the Sea," while he was in prison. This was later taken up by the entire army, the song being carried through the lines in the artificial leg of a union soldier.

**ANNUAL POSTOFFICE REPORT**

**Chicago New Federal Building Is Most Important—Receipts Are Biggest Growth.**

Chicago.—Postmaster F. H. Coyle has issued the annual report of the work accomplished by the Chicago post office. A large increase in the business in all branches of the service is shown.

The most important item in the year's work of the postal system was the moving of the office from the old building in Michigan avenue to the federal building. This was accomplished without the loss of a minute. The old office closed at 12 o'clock noon and the new one opened at the same moment. The largest increase is shown in postal receipts for 1905 as compared with those of 1904. In 1904 the receipts amounted to \$11,067,256.57. Last year they amounted to \$12,364,904.32, or an increase of \$1,297,647.75, or 10.81 per cent.

The report shows the total number of pieces of mail of all classes handled increased in one year almost 120,000. In 1905 1,203,145,741 pieces were handled, while in the preceding year but 1,084,954,237 pieces passed through the office.

**ELDER DID THE WASHING.**

**Rev. Perry Miller of Appleton, Wis., Raised Money for the Kaukauna Methodist Parsonage.**

Kaukauna, Wis.—Rev. Walter J. Patton, of the Brokaw Memorial Methodist church, and his wife held a house-warming here. The ladies of the church, who had pledged themselves to give one dollar each, reported having raised \$60 toward the new parsonage.

This report came in the form of an experience meeting of how each one accomplished the feat. There were numerous cases of its having been done by washings done for pay. The presiding elder of the Appleton district, Rev. Perry Miller, who was present, reported that he had done two washings at 50 cents each. A woman owned up to the fact that she actually "fished" the necessary cash from her hubby's pocket while he was taking his second nap in the morning. One woman had to borrow one dollar, which was cheerfully paid into the church treasury and as thankfully received.

The new parsonage has just been completed at a cost of \$2,000.

Still the Same. At a young women's home in Philadelphia it has been decided that girls who have passed the age of 35 are not eligible for admission. This will not, however, be likely to upset the old theory that a woman is as young as she looks.

**BOXING TOMCAT IS GONE.**

**Accomplishments of Ginger and His Sparring Partner Charlie—Feline Dies of Old Age.**

Jersey City.—Ginger, a 13-year-old, six-toed boxing tomcat, is dead at Hughes' morgue here. He had lived with his sparring partner, Charlie, in the undertaking rooms all his life, and was the particular pride of Edward Weston and James Hughes, the assistants.

Ginger and Charlie, who were brothers, were trained in their kitchen to stand on their hind legs and box with their fore paws. They never put on gloves. The cats were ready for a good-natured go almost any time, and it didn't take much encouragement from their masters to set them at it. They were about evenly matched, and apparently took a keen delight in cutting each other around the rooms. When time was called by the referee the cats would cease hostilities and patiently wait for the reward, generally a piece of meat.

Ginger's body will lie in a grave alongside that of Salaam, a trick dog who was poisoned to death. Ginger and Salaam were the best of friends and never had any tiffs, but Charlie and the dog didn't get along so well together. Salaam took a dog's delight in teasing, and often got scratched on the nose for playfully growling at the big tomcat.

In his younger days Ginger was an accomplished jumper. He would leap a distance of six feet from the floor and vault over Mr. Weston's extended arms. He took a great fancy to a pair of rabbits which make their headquarters in the yard at the rear of the rooms, and would go to sleep snuggled close up to them whenever he got the chance.

Ginger's death was due to old age and general debility. Charlie, who also has six toes on each paw, is still in good health and does not appear to be greatly grieved over his boxing partner's death.

**GET 32,000,000 MENHADEN**

**Report on Industry by New Jersey Fish Commission Shows Successful Season.**

Atlantic City, N. J.—New Jersey's menhaden industry receives special attention in the annual report of the state fish and game commission just presented to Gov. Stokes. Four factories are described—one on Crab island, near Tuckerton; one at Leesburg, on the Maurice river, and one each at Port Monmouth and Bedford, Monmouth county. In 1939 those factories were valued at \$2,000, and in 1904 this had increased to \$125,000. In 1904 32,000,000 menhaden were caught, 1,500 barrels of oil made, and 2,500 tons of fertilizer prepared. The great increase developed at the Crab island factory, owned by the Wharton Fishing company and valued at \$100,000. This one company used six steamers last year, employed 200 men, caught 22,000,000 fish, made 1,000 barrels of oil, and prepared 2,000 tons of fertilizer.

One portion of the report is of vital interest to every fisherman along the Jersey coast. This portion discusses the law with reference to the rights of menhaden fishermen to catch food fish. The report says the law on this subject is not generally understood, and this has caused considerable trouble all along the coast.

**IS A MARVEL OF WIRELESS.**

**New Submarine Boat Can Be Steered from Shore by Use of the Ether Waves.**

New York.—Five submarine torpedo boats to be operated by wireless telegraphy have been shipped to an eastern government. They are the invention of Henry Shoemaker, of Jersey City. The boat is so constructed that it may be launched from the deck of a vessel or from shore, and thereafter be controlled at will by the operator on the vessel or shore from which the boat may be launched.

At the point from which the boat is to be controlled there is a complete wireless apparatus, consisting of a transmitter, the usual masts, generators and other appliances. This marvelous new engine of destruction can be steered by ether waves with far more deadly accuracy than if piloted by the most courageous skipper.

Exhaustive tests have proved its practicability. Representatives of the foreign government to which five of the boats have been shipped witnessed several tests a short time ago, and were so favorably impressed that they were so favorably impressed that they at once paid for five boats. Each boat cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000, the engine alone costing more than \$3,000. The boat complete weighs six tons.

**Wireless Carries 2,150 Miles.**

The wireless telegraph system of the navy has eclipsed all previous records. The Colon station has sent to Rear Admiral Manney a record of a conversation which it overheard December 19 between the stations at Manhattan Beach and Pensacola. The distance between Colon and Manhattan Beach, the extreme range of the message, is 2,150 statute miles, while the first Atlantic cable was only 1,800 miles long.

**Friends Charge Wholesale Libel.**

A curious case of wholesale libel is on in Paris. A newspaper of that city told of a certain gallant adventure in which it was alleged that a parish priest named had figured. There are 66 parish priests in Paris and all have instituted slander suits, each with the object of vindicating himself. Each asks \$200 damages.

**THREW AWAY RICHES**

**STEELE SPENT \$3,000,000 IN SEVEN MONTHS.**

**After Wasting Fortune He Was in Poverty for Forty Years—Known as "Coal Oil Johnny" in Oil Fields of the World.**

Franklin, Pa.—John A. Steele, famous in every oil field of the world as "Coal Oil Johnny," leaves as a legacy to his wife the memory of a man who acquired the reputation in seven brief months of being the most remarkable spendthrift in history. In 1862 and 1863 he gambled, spent and gave away \$3,000,000.

At the end of the latter year when he was 23 years old, he had not a cent. He couldn't get work and he had no credit. Hundreds of friends he thought he had during the days he spent his fortune disappeared the day he found his funds were exhausted. Then he looked for credit. Men he had made turned their backs upon him.

He left the Pennsylvania oil fields with a broken heart and an empty pocket. For 40 years he has been a wanderer in the west. His one ambition was to avoid oil men and forget the existence that averaged a cost of \$10,000 a day.

There are thousands of stories describing the many ways Steele parted with his money. His picturesque appearance the days he roamed the streets of Petroleum Center, Pa., are described by natives who recall him parading the main street with clothes plastered with paper money from chin to knees.

This currency was distributed before he touched the pillow that night. How he bought enough champagne to fill a bathtub and how he bathed in the costly liquid is often told by old companions.

While in New York Steele engaged a cab and finally purchased it, and made it a gift to the driver. He bought a hotel and gave it to a clerk. He never paid less than five dollars for a shoe shine. He always tipped his barber ten dollars.

He had likes and dislikes. For his likes he paid fabulous prices. His fondness extended to men and women. He literally burned up his \$3,000,000 in seven months. A great bulk of that tremendous fortune was gambled by friends, whom he staked.

The morning he went broke he did not even have credit in a hotel that he had bought for the owner. That day he counted up the time and the fun he had had.

One year and seven months had elapsed from the time his foster mother, living in a log cabin at the outskirts of Oil City, threw coal oil in the stove and was consumed by flames.

Her death gave Steele the nickname "Coal Oil Johnny." He made the name historical.

It was his mother's property that made him wealthy. Her farm covered an ocean of oil, and royalties received by her had amounted to \$500,000 before death. This increased that much again before "Johnny" became of age.

His reckless doings occurred the six months after he was 21. When he was 22 or older he was en route west, working where he could get a job as laborer.

He worked on a railroad in South Dakota. He lived for a time in the state of Washington. At last he settled in Kansas and worked as a cooper.

His wife helped him back to Pennsylvania.

**IDENTIFIED AFTER 50 YEARS**

**At the Age of Six Carried Off by an Organ-Grinder and Lost for Half a Century.**

Albuquerque, N. M.—Lost when six years old and not finding a living relative until half a century later was the experience of Mrs. Hester Ann Alexander Smith, a resident of Silver City and Albuquerque for the past 20 years.

Just 50 years ago, when six years old, she was attracted by a monkey owned by a wand-ringing Italian organ grinder and followed its owner off. The Italian took the child with him, and despite every effort on the part of her family she was never found.

The organ-grinder came west, bringing the little girl with him. Reaching an age of independent thought and action she finally drifted to California, where later she was married. Twenty years ago she and her husband and their four children moved to Silver City, N. M., where all except herself died. Mrs. Smith forgot the name of her parents, but always had a clear recollection of the scenes of her childhood. For years she advertised in eastern papers, telling of her early impressions. The result was a letter from Thomas C. Paddock, of Vernon, N. J., her cousin, and another from her brother, James Paddock, of Warwick, N. Y., who is still living at the old home-stead. Correspondence began at once, and Mrs. Smith is soon to go to the home of her childhood. She learned that her parents have been dead for 25 years, and that of her brothers and sisters but one is living.

**Lunch Cart Explodes.**

A lunch cart exploded with serious effects in New York a few evenings ago. There has long been a general belief that the lunch cart ought to be abandoned, but nobody ever suspected that it was loaded.

**CONDUCT SALE AT PRISON.**

**Fancy Work Made by Men and Women Convicts in Connecticut—Prisoners Get Proceeds.**

Wethersfield, Conn.—The prisoners at the state prison here have held a sale which has attracted buyers from all over the state and has given to many of the convicts a little spending money.

All the inmates had a chance to contribute to the sale and the proceeds of all articles sold were turned over to the prisoners who made them. Lewis Johnson, of New Britain, contributed the two most remarkable specimens of prison work, a miniature locomotive and an automobile, both made of wood and both complete in their details. A mechanic of Holyoke, Mass., who saw the locomotive, offered \$6 for it, but it had been sold the day before for \$6. Michael Cherest, of Windsor Locks, built a mail coach that attracted general admiration. Harnessed to the coach was a pair of horses and the driver on the seat with a dog at his side was carved with skill. Cherest is a life prisoner.

Not to be outdone by the men, many of the women prisoners were busy for months making embroidered and crocheted articles. Kate Cobb, a life prisoner, is noted for her skill with the needle, and her pin cushions, lace collars, handkerchiefs and other articles have been highly praised by the scores of women who have visited the prison in the past week to purchase. Minnie Anderson, who is serving a ten-year term for infanticide, made several lace collars that showed unusual skill.

Picture frames carved with an inch blade knife by one armed prisoner, C. B. Thayer, were pronounced remarkable as the work of a man with only one hand. John Warren, who has spent a half century in the prison here for wife murder, has learned to carve beautifully since he came here, and his walking canes, picture frames and brook boxes have a peculiar interest to many of the visitors here because of the history of their maker.

**FORTUNES FOR BUILDERS.**

**South Americans Likely to Invest in Modern Dwellings at Cost of \$5,000**

Philadelphia.—That a hustling operative builder who will go to Bogota, Colombia, prepared to erect modern dwellings ranging in price up to \$4,000 or \$5,000, has the opportunity of his life to make a fortune is the opinion of F. L. Rockwood, formerly of this city, expressed in a letter to Charles Elmer Smith, superintendent of the exhibition department of the Master Builders' Exchange.

While in this city recently Mr. Rockwood examined the modern dwellings of moderate price under erection in West Philadelphia, and exploited the latest American ideas in dwelling-houses in Bogota to such a degree that he has had a number of inquiries for just such houses. He therefore asks Mr. Smith to send a list of builders in order that his firm, Alford, Rockwood & Co., may get in communication with them.

Mr. Rockwood states further that there is a growing demand for the best of American goods adapted to the South American needs. He also calls attention to the fact that, as most of the transit is via "mule train," all goods should be shipped in zinc or tin-lined, waterproof cases, weighing not more than 125 pounds, with contents, and iron strapped or wired at the ends and the center.

**EDISON HAS A NEW QUEST.**

**May Soon Announce the Direct Control of the Energy Stored in Coal.**

New York.—Thomas A. Edison hopes soon to announce new discoveries and this announcement may come next month, when he will be 59 years old. In a talk he said it depended on how certain problems "pan out." "It would give me all the pleasure imaginable," he continued, "to make an announcement every day in the year, but it is mere foolishness to express hopes when all the world wants or is concerned in are results. There are far more vital and immediate discoveries to be made."

"For example?" he was asked.

"Well, the control of the energy stored in coal, directly and without waste," replied Mr. Edison.

"Is it a possibility?"

"Yes, it is not only possible, but probable of discovery. Some day soon it will be done. Ninety per cent. of the energy stored in coal is now lost. If a means can be devised by which this enormous waste is saved, it will materially revolutionize and vastly cheapen the production of power."

**Stays Home Only in Winter.**

The cat has come back to Isaac Page's house at Goffstown, Mass., and all the neighborhood is ready to agree that winter has come in earnest. The return of the feline has been an annual event since 1903. As a weather prophet he can't be beaten. He is a big yellow tabby, a mighty hunter and quite able to live off the country, did he not yield to the temptation to enjoy the warmth of the fire-side. About the first day of May the cat takes to the woods. But he knows when to come home.

**Grew Fat So Fast He Died.**

After taking on flesh for the last two months at the rate of a pound daily, Abraham Bouny, of Glidden, Wis., died here of fatty degeneration of the heart. Bouny was 25 years old and weighed 300 lbs. at the time of his death 583 pounds. It was necessary to have a special coffin made for him. It was taken to the cemetery in a dray.

**THE TRADE-MARK ARTIST.**

**Inventor of Words and Signs as Trade Attractions Does Flourishing Business.**

Art is a fanciful mistress and has many workers. One of the latest is the trade-mark maker. There are a half-dozen prosperous members of this trade in the city, says the New York Post. The best-known is an Irish-American with more wit than talent for line or color. He was a mediocre lawyer before he took to inventing trade-marks for merchants. His legal knowledge makes his services doubly valuable.

"There are lots of tricks in this trade," said he, "and one has to keep his eyes open. Did you know one couldn't register a trade-mark unless he was a merchant or engaged in a business of some kind? An insurrectionist or an exile cannot register either, but fadists and married women can, although some states with antique laws won't allow them to own property in their own names. Women get us into a lot of trouble. A complexion maker ordered a mark called Easter Lily Balm. It didn't go, because it had nothing of the Easter lily in it."

"Another woman collected insects' eggs and preserved them and ordered a mark, American Caylor. That was void, too. Then the feminine mind delights in actresses' names for goods, and if there is any possibility of the historians ever going into the business the marks suggest, the government refuses to register. With historic names such as Dolly Madison, Martha Washington, etc., it's all right."

"Animals make a splendid mark and give the artist a chance. I think the most successful idea, however, is the signature and a newly-minted maker, in the former patent-medicine works turn out the most novelties, and in the latter the cereal food manufacturers. Some of these merchants think nothing of turning out a new food and a new mark each month. Sometimes prices are offered for newly-coined words, and sometimes the artist supplies the word, the legal knowledge of registry and the sketch of the mark. In this case there is bound to be a splendid financial return. The latest thing is the collector of trade-marks and labels. He haunts the studios and makes life a burden to us."

**WAS JUST A MEAN TRICK.**

**Flinty-Hearted Father Put His House on Rollers to Elude Daughter's Suitors.**

"I have met up with some mean men in my time," said the Chicago drummer, "but the man who takes the cake up to date lives in Indiana."

"I was introduced to his daughter while on a train and a few days later I called on her at her home. As a matter of fact, I was badly smitten, and on my second call I asked her to be mine and obtained her consent. Then I went to her father. He received me with icy coldness. He had determined to marry his daughter to a butcher, so as to get a discount off his meat, and nothing I could say would move him. I finally told him that I would coax Hattie to elope with me and he turned me out of the house and forbade my entering it again."

"In about four weeks I got around to the village again and after dark I started out to secure an interview with the object of my affections. I approached the house cautiously to find it wasn't there any more. I looked all around for it, but it was gone. I did not give up hunting for a good two hours nor did I know until next day what had happened."

"Fearing that I would carry out my threats, the old hard heart had put rollers under the house, hitched on a dozen yoke of oxen and moved it to another town five miles away. While I was fooling around and trying to locate the new address the girl and the butcher were married and I was left out in the cold."

"I like a fair fighter and am willing to give him every show, but when it comes down to a father moving his house into another county to prevent the union of two fond hearts I call it a low-down trick. I didn't commit suicide over it, you see, but it certainly has affected me so that they are complaining at the house that I am taking too many orders and making it necessary to enlarge the store by 100 feet in the rear."

**Beghellen's New Name.**

The island of Baghellen, the occasion of which proved one of the difficulties of the peace conference, will henceforward, says the Japan Chronicle, be known to the world as Kabuto, the name by which it has been known to the Japanese since its discovery. The government has renamed several points in the southern part of the island, the changes being, as follows: Noto Point, head of the eastern peninsula, including Aniva Bay, to be Kondo Saki. Sibotora Point, head of the western peninsula, to be Juzo Saki.

**Kaffir Poet.**

Rubwana, a full-blooded Kaffir, a savage until his eighteenth year, is today a poet, a pastor and a patriot, a scholar who has mastered English, Greek, Latin and Hebrew, and is engaged in London in completing the first authentic translation of the Christian Bible into his native tongue.

**Her Fall Outfit.**

Mrs. Muchwede—I saw Mrs. Friesley to-day and she had a new bonnet. Mrs. Tenthime—So? Mrs. Muchwede—Yes, and a new fall coat. "Indeed?" "Yes, and a lovely new husband."—Chicago Sun.