

NAVY OFFICERS DISSATISFIED

Do Not Like the New Law—Form an Organization to Influence Legislation in the Next Congress.

The retired officers of the navy have formed themselves into an organization for the purpose of influencing legislation at the next session of congress.

It is proposed to have the pay tables so adjusted that all officers of the navy now on the retired list will receive the pay authorized under the present law.

The net provided for a reduction of 15 per cent. in the salary of officers on shore duty, and most of those concerned feel that if the naval pay tables are to be arranged to correspond with the army salary list there should be no decrease in the compensation of officers stationed on shore.

MUST DIG DITCHES.

Painting, Sketching and Sculpture Classes in Sing Sing Prison Have Been Abolished.

Warden Johnson, of Sing Sing (N. Y.) prison, has aimed a hard blow at art and hit it. He has abolished the painting, sketching and sculpture classes which Warden Sage formed in the institution.

The new rule goes into effect at once. The striped artists will not even be able to finish the busts and oil paintings on which they are engaged.

Warden Johnson says that under the law he is bound to see that the prisoners are put at hard labor. He does not think it is hard labor for them to wander around the charmingly laid out grounds of the prison with a camp stool and an easel, looking for something to sketch and talking to each other about "technique" or "middle distances," which, for all the warden knows, may be things that men drill their way out of prison with.

COLLECT THE MAILS.

The Post Office Department of New York City to Make an Experiment with Automobiles.

In the near future the post office department will make an experiment with automobiles in the collection of mail in New York city. In order to test the advantage of collecting the mail in this manner several manufacturers of these vehicles have offered to place a number at the disposal of the free delivery department.

TO BE KEPT AS A RELIC.

As Little Money as Possible Is to Be Expended on the War Prize Reina Mercedes.

It has been determined that the war prize Reina Mercedes shall be retained on the naval register as a relic. The board of survey, which has examined that ship at the Norfolk navy yard, has reported in favor of doing as little work as possible with the idea the ship may be kept in its present condition with all the evidences of the conflict of Santiago.

Maurus Jokai, the Hungarian novelist, has applied for space for an individual exhibit at the Paris exposition. He will display his novels in every edition and every translation that has been printed, and he has written over 300 books.

Wentvideo Harbor. The government of Uruguay is about to expend not less than \$15,000,000 on harbor improvements at Montevideo.

SOLD TO AN AMERICAN

Lakes of Killarney Pass Into Hands of a Foreigner.

A. G. Peck Pays \$185,000 for This Magnificent and Beautifully Picturesque Estate in the Emerald Isle.

At last the lakes of Killarney have fallen into the hands of a citizen of America. A. G. Peck, of Cohoes Falls, N. Y., has bought the Muckross estates on the lakes of Killarney, about which there has been so much talk.

First it was Howard Gould. He took his bride, who was Katherine Clemons, to the "winding bays and woodland dells." She was entranced, and asked for them of her husband. But the sale was not made.

Then it was Richard Croker who longed for them. He did not purchase them, however.

The fever for the possession of the lakes of Killarney spread. It seized the blood of President James Coogan, of the borough of Manhattan; and of John F. Carroll, vice boss of Tammany; and of Senator George W. Plunkett. This syndicate concluded that it must have the lakes.

But while the Erin-loving Americans were hesitating, the price of Killarney was not; so Mr. Peck is considered lucky in getting them for \$185,000.

The Muckross estate is magnificent and beautiful. It includes about 400 acres of arable land and plantations, including Brien and Diris islands, and the old abbey in the grounds overlooking the Lower lake.

There is, besides the demesne of Lord Brandon on the upper lake with its fine residence, Glebe house, its cottages, deer forests, and its thickly wooded plantations of Tomles, Purple mountain, and one part of Cabernabone and part of Mangerton and Torc. This estate includes also about 20,000 acres in all, in which are the famous cascades known as O'Sullivan and Torc.

FEW INDIANS INSANE.

Out of a Total of 250,000 in This Country There Are Only About Fifty-Eight Demented Ones.

Work will soon begin on the asylum for insane Indians at Canton, S. D., for which congress made an appropriation of \$42,000.

It is interesting to know that out of a total of 250,000 Indians in this country there are only 58 insane, one doubtful, six idiots, and two partly idiotic. This is a wonderful showing and, according to statistics, is not equaled by any race on earth, either civilized or uncivilized. The unbalanced Indians are distributed as follows: South Dakota—Sisseton agency, 3; Cheyenne agency, 5; Utah—Uintah and Ouray agency, 2; Kansas—Pottawatomie agency, 2; Pine Ridge agency, 2; Rosebud agency, 2; California—Mission agency, 7; Oklahoma—Ponca agency, 1; Wyoming—Shoshone agency, 3; Minnesota—White Earth agency, 8; New Mexico—Mescalero agency, 1; North Dakota—Standing Rock agency, 1; Montana—Crow agency, 6; Flathead agency, 8; Blackfeet agency, 4; Indian Territory—Quapaw agency, 6; Wisconsin—La Pointe agency, 5; Iowa—Sac and Fox agency, 2; Oregon—Siletz agency, 2; Warm Springs agency, 1.

Seven of the insane Indians are being cared for at retreats created for the custody of irresponsible, mentally diseased patients, leaving less than a half hundred with no provision for their care and treatment.

TO EQUIP VICTORIA'S CASTLE.

Connecticut Concern Will Put Fire Alarm Bells in the Palace at Windsor.

Electric fire alarm bells will awake the historic echoes of Windsor Castle as soon as the Millford National Electric company can get a couple of electrical experts across the water to place throughout Queen Victoria's palace a complete equipment of fire alarm bells.

The contract was awarded after a competition lasting for weeks among firms from all over this country and England.

Queen Victoria sent a representative to New York to meet the agents of electrical firms. He said to the Millford agents:

"As soon as we begin putting the bloody fire alarm in Windsor all the old castles on the British isles will rush to put in electric bells. We want to make no mistake, but to get just the right kind of bells."

The Millford company has already received letters of inquiry from several members of the British royal family relative to electric equipment for their homes, but the Windsor contract is the only one yet awarded.

Railroad Smoking Compartments. European railroads have smoking compartments for men and women. They have now to deal with women passengers who insist on smoking, and will not go into the men's compartment. Belgium, where the first cases have arisen, now puts up the sign: "Smoking Forbidden," on all women's compartments.

Cheapest Animal to Raise. The cheapest animal to raise is the sheep, and, with the growing appetite for tender lamb and mutton in this country, it is one of the most profitable.

Penniless Klondikers. The number of penniless men in the Klondike is placed at 3,000.

TO PREACH TO PREACHERS.

Reverend Gentleman at New York City Whose Avowed Mission Is the Salvation of Ministers.

In a new tent at Broadway and Fifty-sixth street, New York, across the way from the Gospel tent, a missionary has begun services for the "salvation of preachers." This novel crusade will be led by Rev. J. C. Hogan, a regularly ordained preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church, who two years ago attracted the attention of the whole country by publicly burning his degree of ordination and declaring that thenceforth he should preach to reform preachers.

Mr. Hogan does not believe in "hired preachers," and expresses his sentiments on this subject with a freedom and pointedness which promise to make his first sermon to preachers "mighty interesting reading" for them.

"It is impossible to imagine the Christ of Paul," he says, "consenting to preach a trial sermon before a pulpit committee in the hope of thereby securing a 'call' from a congregation of politicians to preach at them for from \$1,000 to \$5,000 a year."

Mr. Hogan believes that a preacher should be independent of the hire of his congregation, and to prove his words he has, with his brother, opened a little temperance restaurant in Eighth avenue.

YACHTS TO BE ARMED.

Navy Department to Make the Light Draught Vessels Formidable Ships of War.

That they may be more effective for the service intended, the navy department proposes to arm the four yachts which are to do service in Central American waters in case of an emergency with formidable batteries.

The Dorothea will be the most heavily armed. She will be supplied with six-pounders and four Colt automatic machine guns, a very heavy armament for such a comparatively small craft. The Frolic will be supplied with four six-pounders and two Colts. The Hawk will receive two six-pounders and two Colts, and the Viking will probably have the same battery.

It is proposed to keep these ships in such a state of readiness that they can be placed in commission within 48 hours and start for any point on the Central American coast where a man-of-war may be needed. The Vixen is now at Bluefields, pending the settlement of the dispute between the United States and Nicaragua regarding the payment by American merchants of double duties on imported goods.

All of the vessels are of light draught, ranging from eight and a half to 12 feet, and they are consequently able to get closer to shore than a regular man-of-war.

AIRSHIPS TO EUROPE.

New Company That Proposes to Build Machines That Will Make Journey in Thirty Hours.

A. de Bausset says we are to start right away to travel to London and Paris in 30 hours, and there can be express airships every 30 minutes if travel warrants them. That is, they can start that often. A company has been formed to build these ships. It has a capital of \$300,000,000, which, of course, is all that is necessary if it is raised. It is called the Transcontinental Aerial Navigation company of New York, U. S. A. Inventor De Bausset is the president and general manager; also the treasurer pro tem, and a director. A. C. Flak, S. B. Reed, Charles L. Pierce, Thomas F. Donohue, E. L. Squire and Ambrose Sweney appear as the other officers.

Shares are to be sold at once to build four airships to be completed in time to take people to the Paris exposition, and to equip stations in the capitals of Europe, the United States, Asia and South Africa.

The slow speed of 100 miles an hour will be maintained at first, until things get in complete working order, when it may be increased. People can go to bed in New York and awaken in Paris—if they awake at all.

FIND HUGE BRONTOSAURUS.

Scientists in Wyoming Dig Up Bones of an Immense Dinosaur—Their First Find.

The scientific expedition of the fossil fields of Wyoming, consisting of 300 prominent university professors, has already met with gratifying success in the discovery of the bones of a brontosaurus in Wyoming. This is a huge lizard—a genus of the American dinosaur of the Jurassic period. It lived, moved and had its being at an age when the earth was very hot, when the climate of Wyoming and the Laramie plains was similar to that of the tropics and the vegetation resembled the palms chiefly found in the torrid zones of Asia and America. It is thought this bronto is one of the companions of that at Yale discovered in Wyoming and restored in 1891 by Prof. O. C. Marsh. If such is the fact this great reptile must have been in life more than 70 feet long and weighed upward of 80,000 pounds. One of these monsters, whose remains have been discovered in Wyoming, measured nearly 130 feet in length and about 35 feet in height at the hips. Its skeleton weighs more than 40,000 pounds.

A Wonderful Frock. Princess Czartoryski has just had a wonderful frock made in Paris, on which her coat-of-arms is produced in jewels on a white satin ground. For this purpose the stones had to be pierced, and, though their value is thus deteriorated, the costume as it stands is reputed to be worth \$75,000.

THE CENSUS OF 1900.

Estimates as to What It Will Show Population to Be.

Almost Universal Opinion That It Will Show Over Seventy-Seven Million People Probably Is Too High.

Preparations are already considerably advanced for the enumeration of the population of the United States, which, recurring in the regular decennial order provided for by the constitution and followed in unbroken sequence since 1790, will establish the starting point for the twentieth century development of the world's greatest republic.

In advance of the actual count, which will occur during June, 1900, there is naturally much speculation as to the actual increase during the decade now closing, and, as is equally natural among an optimistic people, especially characterized by an ever-reverberating national pride, there is a popular tendency to overstate the present and immediately prospective population. It is not uncommon to hear or read the phrase "eighty millions of population;" a metropolitan newspaper has collected estimates of population on January 1, 1899, made principally by governors of states, which aggregate 77,803,231; and, in spite of the marked decline in immigration during the present as compared with the decade immediately preceding, the impression that the twelfth census will show a population aggregating not less than 78,000,000 or 77,000,000 is almost universal.

An estimate prepared by the government actuary of the treasury department, published by the bureau of statistics of that department and made the basis of several important calculations undertaken in the latter office, gives support to the popular expectation. This estimate places the population on June 1, 1898, at 74,389,000, thus assuming an increase of 11,766,750, or 18.79 per cent. since the census of 1890. A very rough calculation, involving a minimum of mathematical knowledge, yet one that would not be widely inaccurate for so short a period if the original premises were correct, shows that this estimate involves an average annual increase of 1,470,000, which, if carried to the end of the decade, would give a population at that time of 77,322,000.

With all necessary allowances, however, it seems safe to predict that the population of the United States in June, 1900, will not exceed 74,800,000; that it is even more likely to fall somewhat below that figure. Emigration having been treated as negligible, such as has taken place, will tend to secure this result. Whatever errors appear to have been made in estimating the foregoing, the aggregates of particular elements of population will, in very large measure, balance each other.

AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING. Great Boom in the Industry in This Country—Large Output Last Year.

The report soon to be issued by the bureau of navigation will prove gratifying to all patriotic Americans in its record of a great boom in American shipbuilding. According to returns already received by the Maritime Register, the total output of American shipyards in the past fiscal year has been the largest for any year in the last quarter of a century, with the exception of 1891.

Vessels to the number of 1,429, aggregating 320,876 tons gross, have been constructed in the last fiscal year, ending June 30, and in addition to these 22 foreign vessels of 30,181 tons gross have received an American registry.

Ten of these 22 vessels were prizes captured in the late war with Spain, four were steamships admitted to registry by congress upon application of owners, and the others were salvaged wrecks repaired in American shipyards.

The Maritime Exchange has also received a report from Manila showing that 141 vessels have been transferred from Spanish, German and British subjects to Americans. Under existing maritime laws these vessels could not be admitted to American registry.

MADE SPEECHLESS FOR LIFE.

Most Peculiar Accident to a New Haven (Conn.) Ball Player During a Game.

Harry Brace, of New Haven, Conn., formerly pitcher for the New Haven state league team, was the other day probably injured for life. He was struck by a pitched ball in the right temple and knocked senseless. He was taken to the state hospital in New Haven, and, although he had partially recovered his senses, the physicians at the hospital said he would be speechless forever. He is unable to utter a sound and the nerves of his vocal organs are said to be permanently paralyzed. Brace is 20 years old. He was pitching on the Wallingford team against Windsor Locks when injured. Medical experts will make a careful study of his case.

Training Berry Bushes. The German fashion of growing gooseberries on standard bushes—that is to say, snipping off all but one stem and allowing the plant to bush out at convenient height for picking, like standard roses—gives a great effect of neatness. The same effect is to be seen in the Scotch way of growing raspberry bushes, by training two adjoining bushes into an intermingling arch.

Bad Eggs. An immense but unsavory mess was made not long since in London by smashing on the pavement 850,000 condemned eggs and washing them into the sewers. Many persons were made sick by the stench.

ABOUT THE CATFISH.

Is Not Yet Made Fully Into a Perfect Fish—Some of Its Queer Ways.

The catfish belongs to an ancient type not yet fully made into a fish, and hence those whose paired fins are all properly fastened to the head, as his are not, hold him in well-merited scorn. He has no scales and no bright colors. His fins are small, and his head and mouth are large. Around his mouth are eight long "smellera," fleshy feelers, that he pushes out as he crawls along the bottom in search of anything that he may eat. As he may eat anything, he always finds it. His appetite is as impartial as that of a goat. Anything from a deal lamprey or a bunch of sunfish eggs to a piece of tomato can be grateful to him. In each of the fins which represent his arms is a long, sharp bone, with a slimy surface and a serrated edge. These are fastened by a ball and socket joint, and whenever the fish is alarmed the bone is whirled over and set in place, then it sticks out stiffly on each side. There is another such bone in the fin on the back, and when all of these are set, there is no fish that can swallow him, says the Popular Science Monthly.

When he takes the hook, which he surely will do if there is any hook to be taken, he will swallow it greedily. As he is drawn out of the water he sets his three spines, and laughs to himself as the boy pricks his fingers trying to get the hook from his stomach. This boy is sure to do, and because the boy of the Mississippi valley is always fishing for catfish is the reason why his fingers are always sore. The catfish is careless of the present and sure of the future. After he is strung on a birch branch and dried in the sun and sprinkled with dust and has had his stomach dug out to recover the hook, if he falls into the brook he will swim away. He holds no malice, and is ready to bite again at the first thing in sight.

Popularity of the Fish. When he takes the hook, which he surely will do if there is any hook to be taken, he will swallow it greedily.

TICKED FIVE CENTURIES. The Famous Old Town Clock in Rouen Has Kept Time for 510 Years.

Rouen, one of the principal cities of France, and the greatest seat of its cotton manufacture, possesses the oldest public clock in the world. The great Rouen clock has held its place in that city for 510 years and is the pride of its citizens. Placed in 1390, it has been running without interruption from that day to this, requiring nothing except cleaning and a few trifling repairs of its accessory parts. The great clock has been running without interruption from that day to this, requiring nothing except cleaning and a few trifling repairs of its accessory parts.

The pendulum in clockwork was introduced in 1659, but so well satisfied were the people of Rouen with the time-keeping qualities of their famous old clock that 23 years were allowed to pass before a pendulum was substituted for the "foliot." Equipped with this new apparatus it has continued to this day to strike the hours and chime the quarters.

The magistrates summoned the eunuch—Guillaume Petit—and remonstrated gravely with him. Until 1712 the great clock had no pendulum. For 323 years it had no other regulator than a "foliot," an apparatus unknown to the majority of modern clockmakers. The pendulum in clockwork was introduced in 1659, but so well satisfied were the people of Rouen with the time-keeping qualities of their famous old clock that 23 years were allowed to pass before a pendulum was substituted for the "foliot." Equipped with this new apparatus it has continued to this day to strike the hours and chime the quarters.

AMERICAN GIRL'S RETORT.

Her Quick Wit and Knowledge of French Once Stood Her in Good Stead.

As one of our countrywomen was going down the rather narrow stairs that lead from the house to the garden, at the American embassy, she met three or four young attaches of foreign legations, who were entire strangers to her, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Their politeness induced them to stand aside for her to pass, but their courtesy did not prevent their making audible personal comments. They seemed to take it for granted that French was an unknown tongue to Americans.

"Look at her yellow dress; it's very pretty," said No. 1. "Yes, but she has on white gloves," announced No. 2. "She has good teeth," said No. 3. "And an enormous mouth," added No. 4.

"And she understands French perfectly," said the owner of the enormous mouth, turning suddenly upon them, "and would like to say that her ears are even bigger than her mouth." This in French and with such an air of giving impersonal information to nobody in particular, that it was quite as if she had been kindly helping strangers to information out of a guide book.

The men had just enough presence of mind to flee the premises.

Why Women Fight Senselessness. "Are women more subject to senselessness than men?" An Atlantic captain replies: "Yes, but, on the other hand, they stand it better. A woman struggles up to the point of despair against the—what I might call the impropriety of the thing. She isn't so much tortured by the pangs as she is worried by the prospect of becoming disheveled, haggard and dragged. She fights against it to the last and keeps up appearances as long as she can hold up her head."

Typhoid from Files. Dr. H. O. Howard, the entomologist of the agricultural department, is credited by a Washington correspondent with saying that it is the judgment of the highest authorities that a considerable part of the typhoid in camps during the Spanish war was due to the files, which carried the contagion.

LAWYER'S ODD CLIENT.

He Did Not Want Advice, But Paid for the Privilege of Talking for One Hour.

A junior member of a Dearborn street law firm, reports the Chicago Tribune, tells this story of one of his first clients:

"I had just been appointed junior member of the firm and relieved the older members by looking after the minor cases. One day a well-appearing man called at the office and inquired if I could give him an hour of my time and what would be the cost. I told him, and he accepted the terms, but added:

"This is not to be a consultation. I do not want advice or assistance. I know perfectly well what I am going to do, but I want to talk. I have no friend to whom I can unburden myself, but if I pay you to listen I shall have a right to talk to you freely for the time agreed upon."

"I agreed to this strange proposition and appointed an hour at noon the following day. The man came promptly, and I took out cigars and told the office boy we were not to be disturbed for an hour.

"Mind," the man said, "I don't want you to interrupt me. I am paying you to listen."

"Then he began. For one hour he talked as one who never in his life had unburdened himself to a sympathetic listener. I listened without saying a word. When the clock struck one the man ceased talking, paid his fee, took up his hat and walked out.

"Six months later, looking over the daily paper, the story of a suicide at one of the hotels attracted my attention. The name was that of my talkative client. I have always believed that if he had had some one to talk to again he would not have committed suicide."

HER PENCIL GAVE HER AWAY.

This Girl Betrayed Her Calling by Wearing It in Her Hair.

A girl attired in a white Marseilles suit that had a tailor-made finish walked down the aisle of one of the theaters one night recently with the air of a princess just in from her summer palace. She was accompanied by a young man who had an opulent appearance. The girl sank into an orchestra chair, adjusted her glass, and tried to look bored, while her escort glanced at the boxes, says the Chicago Inter Ocean.

The women in the row back of the two imposing young persons seemed to be impressed. They studied the braiding on the girl's white Eton jacket, and furtively admired the scarf on her sailor hat. They whispered approving comments on the summer costume. Then the curtain went up, and the girl removed her headgear.

The leading lady had just appeared when one of the women back of the girl clutched her companion's arm and whispered:

"Cash!" There was a piercing scorn in her tone that made it carry. The girl in white heard it and spasmodically put her right hand up to the coil of pretty blonde hair. Then she flushed a painful crimson.

Stuck among the shell hairpins was a bit of lead pencil with a piece of soiled rubber in the end. The horrid woman who had envied her as the possible daughter of a millionaire had guessed that she was a clerk in a downtown department store.

WHY HE WEPT.

His Mother Told the Chubby Urchin Where and How He Had Been Hurt.

A very fat little boy with chubby legs that stuck out at right angles from his watermelon-shaped body sat in a Georgetown car one day. His fond mamma was engrossed in "says sheing" and "says heing" with her companion, and Master Chuck made up his mind that he'd like to look out of the window. He rolled over and climbed up on the seat, says the Washington Post.

"Now, don't do that," said mamma. "You know you've had one awful fall to-day doing that, so sit right down."

"Where did I fall, ma?" he piped, shrilly.

"In the street car."

"Did I hurt myself?" he asked.

"Yes," she answered.

"Where?" and he looked anxious.

"On the hand," his mother replied.

Master Chuck raised one cushion of a hand to his head, and then, without the slightest warning, he let up a roar that would have made the bull of Bashan green with envy. All the way up to High street mamma was busy comforting him. She had recalled a painful circumstance to him and he wept—the more loudly since there was no present pain to distract his attention. And the woman across the car said if he was her child he'd stop yelling or she'd know the reason why.

Upset the Actors' Gravity. A funny incident happened during a performance of "Macbeth" in Dublin. In the sleep-walking scene, when the nurse and the doctor appear on the stage together and confabulate with one another, a loud voice suddenly called out from the gallery, causing a roar of laughter in the middle of a most serious scene: "Well, doctor, is it a boy or a girl?"

Dogs in Paris. The law in Paris forbids the possession of more than one dog, and a Mme. de Poux has been condemned to five days' imprisonment and a fine of one dollar for having violated the commandment. The madame was proud of four pretty pups, which she neglected or refused to drown, and hence her condemnation.