

A Meeting of Monarchs.



Photograph of King Edward of England and King Alfonso of Spain taken at Cartagena on the occasion of the visit of the British ruler and the Queen to meet Alfonso and the Queen Dowager.

DUELS IN GERMANY

MORE THAN 3,000 CONTESTS DURING YEAR OF 1906.

Nuisance Knows No Bounds in Universities in That Country—Students Slightly Injured About Face Try to Retain Scars.

Berlin.—Baroness Von Eschlinger, young and romantic, was courted by a student in the University of Luebeck, but before consenting to be his wife she exacted as a condition that prior to the wedding day he must fight a duel and get a scarred face.

Among the students in the German universities the duelling nuisance knows no bounds and is increasing at such a rate that alarm has begun to be felt by the university authorities, but the difficulty of distinguishing between duels carried out as sport and those in satisfaction of honor is very great. It is computed that in 1906 more than 3,000 duels were fought. Students only slightly wounded in the face take care to rub vinegar or some other irritant into the wound that the scar may retain a fine, bright red color. There is nothing the ordinary student is prouder of than these facial adornments.

A number of German aristocrats, with Prince Lowenstein and Count Erbach at their head, have resolved to begin a systematic agitation against duelling among university students and in the army. They are promised the support of two of the most influential of the rulers of Germany, the King of Saxony and the grand duke of South Germany.

Although recent edicts of Emperor William have done much to stop duelling in the army, it is well known that the practice still flourishes and that the newspapers mention only a very small proportion of the duels which actually are fought. The emperor's own opinion of duelling has often been discussed. Officially he is opposed to it and more than once has issued a decree against it, but the impression prevails that in his heart he approves of it as a manly and knightly way of settling points of honor among soldiers, especially where the honor of an officer's wife or daughter is concerned. With a word the emperor could stop the practice, but this word he has not yet uttered.

The empress is a stern opponent of duelling from the point of view of religion, and her hatred of it is shared by every Roman Catholic ruler in Germany.

Red Cane for Kansas.

St. Louis.—Kansas has always been noted for doing curious things, but the story to the effect that Gov. Hoch has signed a bill requiring the use of red cans for gasoline reaches the lovely limit. The law makes it unlawful for dealers to sell gasoline in any but red receptacles, and is entitled to the correspondent of Automobile Topics states, "An act to protect hired girls and absent-minded men."

Chicago Gets Famous Gun.

El Paso, Tex.—James M. Guthrie of Chicago has departed for his home after spending some time at Alamogordo. He took with him the rifle that Geronimo, the famous Apache leader used in his fight against Gen. Crook in Arizona. The gun was in the possession of an old regular army veteran, and Mr. Guthrie purchased it for the Field museum of Chicago.

WILL REFOREST PINE LANDS.

Company Carrying on Extensive Experiments in Upper Michigan.

Marquette, Mich.—With the purpose of eventually bringing about the reforestation of the pine barrens of upper Michigan the Cleveland Cliffs Iron company is carrying on extensive experiments. It has established nurseries in Negaunee and Alger counties at which pine trees are being raised from seed and the plan has thus far been attended with entire success. White pine trees grown from seed are ready for transplanting two years after sprouting. Ninety thousand of these tender sprigs are ready for this purpose now, and they are being set out on cut-over lands near Coalwood.

A considerable quantity of seed was planted last year. More will go into the ground this spring, including 50 pounds received a few days ago from Denmark, and this process will be repeated annually for an indefinite time. Forty years, it is estimated, are required for a white pine tree to attain such size as to make it profitable to market.

Another interesting experiment to be conducted by the company is the culture of the southern cottonwood on northern Michigan lands. It is believed that this timber would be ideal for pulpwood.

FRENCH PRIESTS EARN LIVING.

Forced by the Separation Act to Support Selves in Business.

Paris.—The separation act, which deprived the French Roman Catholic clergy of official position and stipends, has led many to adopt curious forms of co-operation, with a view to earning their living in Paris. The priests have formed a syndicate, the chief object of which is to procure coal and provisions at wholesale prices. There is also a federation of clerics who do manual labor.

Many priests who are capable gardeners and carpenters find employment from Roman Catholics through this federation. Its members undertake to copy the celebrated Socialist division of the day by giving eight hours to manual work, eight to clerical and eight to rest.

In the department of Cher priests have formed a beekeepers' association and make as a yearly income from the sale of honey about \$150, almost as much as their former stipends.

Long Fast Cures Disease.

Webster City, Ia.—Mrs. Harriett M. Closs, a beautiful and prominent society woman, has just tasted food for the first time in 45 days. She entered the voluntary fast to cure herself of rheumatism, which had crippled her. Her first breakfast was made up of orange juice. Though she had gone without food for so long she was able to answer the telephone and inform friends of her condition. She says the pain and swelling in her legs are almost gone. She believes dieting can completely cure many diseases.

\$35,000 for Girl's Lost Leg.

New York.—A verdict of \$35,000, the largest on record for such an injury, was given Miss Margaret Noakes against the New York Central railroad the other day before Justice Hendrick by a jury in the supreme court. Miss Noakes, a girl of 20 years, sued the railroad company for \$50,000 damages for the loss of her left leg. A Central locomotive ran down the automobile on which she was in June, 1904.

SCHOOL HABITS IN PERSIA.

Boys Sit on Floor and Recite Lessons as if Chanting.

Oriental children have their marbles, their skipping rope and the little toy plows into which cats and kittens are harnessed for play. They enjoy life fully as much as do American children. When the boys are 10 years old they are sent to school in the nearest mosque. Parents will sometimes take a boy to school and deliver him over to the gentle care of the teacher with these words: "His bones are mine, but his flesh is yours. Teach him and punish him as you see fit."

When boys go to school they usually sit in two rows. One row sits along one wall, books in hand, and the other row along the opposite wall. The teacher sits in the middle of the room. They do not use chairs, but sit on the floor, which is covered with a reed matting. When they are studying their lessons they sway their bodies backward and forward as if they were in a rocking chair and read with a loud voice in a singsong style as if they were chanting.

They have neither blackboards nor slates, but use paper and reed pens in learning to write. They put their left knee on the floor and set their right one up for a desk to rest the paper on. They use the Arabic alphabet and read and write from right to left instead of from left to right. They also begin their books at the back, reading forward. The ability to read a single Persian book is considered in Central Asia to be the sign of a liberal education. The attendance at school is voluntary, no one being compelled to send his boys if he prefers to keep them at home.

THE FIRST CURTAIN CALL.

Voltaire One to Whom Original Honor Was Paid.

At the first performance in Berlin of Gerhart Hauptmann's "Jungfrau von Bischenberg" the author was repeatedly called before the curtain, and the incident caused inquiry as to when and where the practice of honoring an author in that way originated. The Berliner Tageblatt gives this answer: "The first call took place on the evening of February 26, 1743. On that memorable evening Voltaire's 'Merope' was performed for the first time in Paris. The author was known to the Paris public, but nothing that they had seen of him had pleased them so much as 'Merope,' and the enthusiasm found expression in noisy demands to see the author. In a letter Voltaire says this of the incident: 'They dragged me out and led me by force to the box occupied by the Duchesse de Villars and her daughter-in-law. The whole theater seemed to have gone mad—all shouted to the duchessa to kiss me. The noise became so great that the lady finally obeyed. So I was like Alain Chartier, publicly kissed, but he was asleep, while I was wide awake.' Now authors answer similar calls by appearing before the curtain. They gain insofar that they can be seen better by their audience, but they must dispense with the duchess' kiss—at least in public."

"Graveyard Cocktail." Some curious drinks that men call for in saloons, says the Philadelphia Record, were observed the other day by a man who stood at the end of the bar and took in everything that happened. The usual whiskies and beers were frequent, but he also noticed that a number of men asked for egg in milk and egg in sherry. "You sell a lot of eggs here," he observed to the bartender. "You bet we do," answered the man behind. "Hundreds of men drink egg drinks only. There are several men who come in here that order egg in beer. How they get away with that awful mess I can't understand, but they drink it down as though they liked it. One man that comes in here has them all skinned. He always takes the most outlandish mixtures of stout and milk. Let's the limit for a crazy drinker, and heads my list of curious booze artists. We call his drink the 'graveyard cocktail.'"

Friday Not Always Unlucky.

Is Friday unlucky? Gladstone, Beaconsfield, Washington, Bismarck, Fahrenheit and Surgeon were born on Friday. Henry VIII. gave Cabot his commission which led to the discovery of North America. Columbus actually discovered this continent and the pilgrim fathers landed at Plymouth Rock on Friday. Once more: The first newspaper "ad" and the first newspaper printed by steam power (the London Times) appeared both on a Friday; while the stamp act was repealed in England on the same day of the week. With Charles Dickens Friday was an especial favorite.

The Humorist Didn't.

"It must be pretty difficult to originate five or six jokes per day," suggested the casual visitor. "It must so," assented the cheerful press humorist. Do you know of anybody who does it?—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Classifying Him.

"Of course, he's an illiterate fellow, but he's excessively proud. He boasts that he was born and bred in old Kentucky." "Good thing he wasn't born in Georgia; he couldn't have been bread there. He'd have been a cracker."

NEW YORK CITY'S DEBT.

More Than Half as Great as That of the National Government.

New York.—The total bonded debt of the United States is only \$25,000,000, and that of New York city is already more than half that of the national government. At the present rate of increase the metropolis will have the larger indebtedness in five years.

The total debts of all the states in the union amount only to \$234,314,190, less than half that of the single city of New York. The total state, county and city indebtedness of the entire United States is less than three times that of the city of millionaires.

The great military powers of the world are much concerned over China and her debt, and yet China has borrowed only \$613,000,000, against \$509,000,000 for New York. The entire Dominion of Canada owes only \$271,000,000, about equal to New York's increase in four years.

Next to New York the 25 large cities of the United States, in the order of their population, are as follows: Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Boston, Baltimore, Cleveland, Buffalo, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Pittsburg, New Orleans, Detroit, Milwaukee, Washington, Newark, Jersey City, Louisville, Minneapolis, Providence, Indianapolis, Kansas City, St. Paul, Rochester, Denver and Toledo.

Their population, according to the census of 1900, was about 9,600,000, against 3,437,000 for Greater New York. It is not likely that this proportion has changed much. Now, the total bonded indebtedness of these 25 cities is about \$417,000,000, almost 100,000,000 less than that of the metropolis!

This means that the per capita debt of the citizen of New York is \$145.35, against \$43.45 for those of the other large cities. Boston with \$116 and Cincinnati with \$114 come the nearest to approaching New York's record, while Chicago and San Francisco, owing only \$12 per capita each, make the best showing.

IN SCHOOL WITH HER SON.

Iowa Woman Proves Herself a Clever High School Pupil.

Clinton, Ia.—Not long ago a 50-year-old Iowa editor started his college course at the State university and now an Iowa woman is going through high school with her son. Perhaps the only case of mother and son attending public school together is that of Mrs. Ella Feldman and Worth Feldman, classmates in the Sioux City high school.

Finding her son somewhat indifferent to the joys of student life Mrs. Feldman has adopted the course of studying side by side with him. It was two years ago that Mrs. Feldman first tried the plan by attending night school. She and her son graduated to the sixth grade of the Armstrong school, where both are now doing good work.

Mrs. Feldman is said by her instructors to be an especially apt pupil, her interest in class work being much greater than that of the average student.

Mrs. Feldman is the owner of a quarter of a block at Fifth and Court streets, whereon she has 11 houses. While attending school she employs a housekeeper, while Mr. Feldman is the superintendent of her realty interests. She has been in the restaurant business in Sioux City, having kept three different eating places during her business career.

JOHN BULL GROWS TEMPERATE.

Decrease in Consumption of Spirits Not Attributable to Slow Business.

Washington.—Consul F. W. Mahlin, of Nottingham, notes that the "wave of sobriety" observable in Great Britain during several recent years has been attributed to various causes, about which he writes:

"One of these was the business depression which the country has suffered. But this supposition is not sustained by the official statistics for 1906. The year was exceedingly prosperous and satisfactory in all lines of business, yet the consumption of spirits distinctly declined in comparison with 1905, when business was relatively dull. In 1906 the consumption was 0.92 of a proof gallon per head of the British population, against 0.93 and 0.99 in the preceding two years. The true explanation of the sobriety wave is evidently that public sentiment favorable to moderation in the use of alcoholic liquors is steadily growing in this country."

REDUCTION IN OPIUM.

Area Under Cultivation in India is Curtailed.

Calcutta.—In making his budget statement in the legislative council E. N. Baker, who anticipates a surplus of \$3,871,000 for the coming year despite the reduced uniform salt tax of one rupee per maund, said that the opium revenue was doubtful, but it had been decided to reduce the area under cultivation.

For education the budget provision, he said, is the highest ever made. Although nothing is allowed for free education in primary schools, the secretary of state is prepared to consider a suitable scheme and to authorize it if the financial position permits. Army charges are reduced, and though causes for anxiety are not wanting and the prospects for the coming year are full of hope.

GROWTH OF THE TELEPHONE.

Millions of Instruments Are in Use in This Country.

Washington.—Statistics issued at the close of the year 1906 show that there were in use in the United States alone more than 7,000,000 telephones, while an aggregate of a little more than 6,000,000 miles of wire was used for telephone service.

The telephone industry gives employment to 90,000 persons in the United States, an increase of 171 per cent. in six years, while during the same period the number of stations has increased 239 per cent. and the wire mileage 349 per cent.

There is little doubt that much of this increase is due to the general adoption of the so-called message rate system in place of the flat annual charge formerly in vogue. By making the charges proportional to the number of calls the use of the telephone has been widely extended both because of the greater willingness of people to become subscribers under such conditions and because the system gives an incentive to the local telephone companies to give good service and encourage the use of the telephone.

Another cause for the increase in the number of telephones in use is doubtless the extending number of large business buildings in various cities, since the telephone is an absolute necessity in the modern tall building, making it possible to transact business as well from the twentieth story as from the ground floor. The installation of the telephone in every suite in the modern hotel and large apartment house accounts for a portion of the increase.

SHAVES HUSBAND TO BUY RUG.

Head of Family Undergoes Torment to Help Wife Get Carpet.

Trenton, N. Y.—When the new rug is laid in Grace Baptist church, about four yards of it will be consecrated to the fortune of Henry Lonsdale. Every thread represents a whisker which Lonsdale submitted to a razor wielded by his wife.

Mrs. Lonsdale is a member of the Ladies' Aid society, which planned to buy the church carpet on the self-denial plan. There is some difference of opinion on this point, the men asserting that Lonsdale showed himself a martyr, while the women are congratulating the wife.

While other women baked bread and sewed, Mrs. Lonsdale decided she would shave her husband, and charge him 15 cents for the operation. It is not on record how Lonsdale first received the proposition, but the fact that he consented to act the victim is proof that his wife has the true religious spirit.

For four months did Lonsdale go through the shaving process. He once believed that a shave once a day was a necessity, but under the skillful manipulation of his wife he discovered that he could get along on three shaves a week.

Only once did Mrs. Lonsdale ask: "Does the razor hurt?" He did not swear; he did not groan; but the look of anguish was enough.

"APPLE SEED JOHNNY."

Tramp Who is Making Himself Benefactor to Coming Generations.

Tresbein, O.—There wandered through this village last week an old tramp who a generation or two hence may come to be regarded as a second "Apple Seed Johnny." He is planting nut trees, so that the youth of the land in years to come will not be deprived of shellbarks and walnuts.

Not many years ago there was hardly a farm in the east that did not have at least one walnut tree, and there was not a stream which did not have growing along its banks hundreds of shellbark and hickory trees.

The demand for black walnut timber and the need for hickory wood in carriage manufacturing have made both these varieties of trees exceedingly scarce, and it will not be long before the joy of gathering the nuts will be lost to most children.

During the last three years the old tramp has been planting thousands of nuts. He seeks the out of way spots, since he wants the trees to have a fair chance to grow. The rocky sides of hills and the abandoned land at the edges of creeks are sought out, and when their benefactor is but a memory brown-checked youngsters will reap the fruits of his kindness and bless him.

Hatch Plot in Land Office.

Washington.—Hatching chickens in the file cases in one of the rooms of the general land office by the use of heat from a fire leading from the boilers that produce the electric power for the building is a new industry in which three women clerks have been engaged with great interest recently.

One of the women converted a file box into an incubator by substituting for it a box stuffed with cotton and containing three eggs.

She ascertained that the average temperature was 93 degrees, just right according to the books. But one night the fire got too hot and the eggs were cooked.

Dolly Bloom a Great Cow.

New York.—The world's record of milk production for a year by a single cow has been broken by the Guernsey Dolly Bloom, according to the report of Secretary William H. Caldwell, which was submitted at the annual meeting of the Guernsey Cattle club here. Dolly Bloom's record for the year was 17,297 pounds, or about 2,023 gallons. She is owned by F. A. Ames, of Boston.

WEALTH AWAITS BOY

WILL FORFEIT \$50,000 IF HE DOES NOT RETURN SOON.

Thirty Years Ago, When a Mere Youth, John Wilson Left Home After Quarrel with Parents—No Word from Him Since.

Omaha, Neb.—John Wilson will receive a fortune of approximately \$50,000 if he shall return to his old home at Tecumseh within the next three years to reclaim it. If he fails to return within that time the money will go to relatives of his.

A strange, sad story is the story of this man to whom a fortune has been left, but who will probably never know it. Thirty years ago when a mere boy Wilson had a quarrel with his father, John Wilson, Sr., a proud, unyielding old Scotchman, and in the heat of anger he ran away from his home at Tecumseh.

His father, believing that he would soon grow tired of taking the bufftings of the world and return to his home, made no effort to find the boy, and would permit no one else to do so.

The days lengthened into weeks, the weeks into months and the months into years and young John Wilson did not return to his home. His father loved him and longed for his return, and his mother was well nigh heartbroken over his absence, but the father's longing and the mother's grief were futile.

Twenty-five years went by and no word had come to the parents concerning their absent son, now grown to manhood if he were living. They were grown old and before they went to their final rest they felt that they must once more look into his face.

A man whom they suspected might be their son was in Dawson City, Alaska. Despite the fact that they were 80 years of age the parents set out for their hoping against hope that they might find the son whom they so longed to see. They made the journey to Alaska safely, but found no trace of their son there and returned to their home with broken hearts. Within a few months the father died and soon afterward the mother followed him to the grave.

Seven years ago the aged couple made a will in which a large part of their estate was bequeathed to their absent son on condition that he returned to Tecumseh within ten years to claim it. In the seven years that have elapsed since the will was drawn the son's part of the estate has increased until it is now estimated at \$50,000. It will be held for him three years longer. If he shall not return to his old home meantime the will provides that the bequest shall be divided among the other heirs of the dead man and woman.

The other heirs have sought to have the will set aside and to secure a division of that part of the estate left to the son, but the supreme court has held that the will must stand and that the \$50,000 must be held for the son three years longer.

Where young Wilson has been in the 30 years of his absence from his old home nobody in Tecumseh knows. He may be dead; he may be in Alaska or the Philippines.

His long absence and their disappointment at their failure to find him in Alaska shortened the lives of his parents, who were old residents of Tecumseh and very highly respected by their neighbors.

HOW NEW WORLD GOT ITS NAME.

Albany Man Tells Story on 400th Anniversary of the Event.

Paris.—John Boyd Thacher, of Albany, on Sunday mentioned the fact that it was the four hundredth anniversary of the naming of America. He said that no attempt had ever been made to commemorate the event and added:

"The new world was named America in a little book written by Martin Waldseemüller, printed at Saint Die, in the Vosges mountain, on the seventh of the kalends of May in the year 1507. The seventh of the kalends of May when corrected by the Gregorian calendar becomes May 5.

"There was also an element of universality in the ceremony of naming, for it was a German who proposed the name, it was an Italian name, the book was printed in France and the language employed was Latin, the universal medium of mental exchange. It may be too late to celebrate the event, but it should not be too late to recall the fact that the new world received its name just 400 years ago."

EAT SWEETS, SAYS DOCTOR.

Sugar Most Strengthening and Chocolate Antidote for Fatigue.

London.—A noted Harley street physician bids fair to become the most popular physician in London, especially among the youth of both sexes and among the dentists. Everybody should eat at least a quarter of a pound of sweets daily is his dictum. "Nothing," he says, "is more strengthening than sugar. It is possible to work for hours after eating four ounces of chocolate without feeling the slightest fatigue. If I had my way every soldier in the British army should be allowed a quarter of a pound of sweets every day. My practice is to take five or six lumps of sugar in every cup of coffee or tea."

Asked as to toothache, the physician replied: "I can only advise people to clean their teeth often."