

WILL ARM TRANSPORTS.

Fear that Filipinos Might Attack Our Troop-Laden Ships Causes Prompt Action to Be Taken.

It has been found advisable, on account of information received by the Washington authorities, to arm government transports used in the carrying of troops to the Philippines.

The authorities decline to confirm the rumor that the war department has had advice of a plan of the Filipinos to establish a small navy for depredation purposes, as a means of getting materials of war landed at convenient ports and as a system of attack upon our army transports.

The emergency with which the war department has been confronted in this equipment of the transports has embarrassed the officials, who found the ordnance department possessed no guns which could be utilized for this purpose.

TEST OF NEW EXPLOSIVES.

Very Successful Results of Trials Made at the Sandy Hook Proving Grounds.

The officers of the ordnance department, United States army, conducted three separate tests the other day at the proving grounds at Sandy Hook.

The first trial was that of the Itham system of throwing. This consisted in the throwing of 113 pounds of explosive gelatin from the ordinary service gun.

The greatest interest of the day, however, was centered about the experiments conducted with Dr. Tuttle's new explosive, thorite. The inventor was present and personally assisted in the firing of the charges.

BATTLESHIP WISCONSIN.

Nearing Completion at San Francisco - Will Have Her Trial Trip on Puget Sound Probably.

The battleship Wisconsin, now building at the Union iron works, San Francisco, will soon go on Hunter's Point dry dock to have her propeller put on.

OWNS OLD BIBLE.

Whitman (Ind.) Man Possesses Book Which Was Published Three Centuries Ago.

Marion H. Inquim, editor of the Democrat-Journal of Winamac, Ind., a weekly newspaper, owns a family Bible that is over 300 years old.

Largest Bronze Statue.

In St. Petersburg is the largest bronze statue in existence—that of Peter the Great—which weighs 1,000 tons.

SEA SERPENT YARN.

Monster Leaves Seashore and Appears on Wabash River.

Gives a Desperate Fight to Some Fishermen But is Finally Overpowered - Will Be Preserved in Alcohol.

Jesse Plunkett, a ferryman on the Wabash river at Merom, Ind., captured a strange animal closely resembling a sea serpent the other afternoon.

Frawley and the party of fishermen witnessed the race which followed, and attempted to reach Plunkett with a flat-bottomed scow.

After some rowing about Frawley, assisted by Plunkett, fastened a line about the serpent's neck, and it was towed ashore before consciousness returned.

PRECIOUS STONE INDUSTRY.

Special Agent Kuns of Geological Survey Makes a Report on Trade in the United States.

George F. Kuns, special agent of the United States geological survey, in charge of the collection of data relative to the precious stone industry in the United States, has submitted his report for 1898.

The increased output of the Ferguson county (Mont.) sapphire mines and the yielding of fine blue gems up to two carats each, and the discovery of a new locality where the stones are more varied in color than those of any known locality, are commented on, and also the continued output of the New Mexican turquoise mines, and the opening up of mines in Nevada.

The greater importation of uncut diamonds and the increase of the diamond cutting industry in the United States, and the unprecedented increase in the revival of the precious stone industry in the United States are spoken of as matters of interest and importance.

The value of all the precious stones found in the United States in 1898 was \$160,920, as compared with \$136,675 in 1897.

GOAT BUCKED.

Kansas City Man Sues Modern Woodmen for Injuries Received During an Initiation.

The mechanical goat used by the Modern Woodmen of America is accused of bucking and mashing one of Max Dorch's fingers, when he was being initiated into that order, and he has sued the society for \$10,000 damages.

In his petition Dorch says this goat is fastened to an axle between two wheels eight feet in diameter. Dorch asserts that he was strapped to this goat and then the wheels were rolled over the lodge floor and he spun around like a top.

The filing of this lawsuit recalls the one filed a year ago by Lena Winslow against the Maccabees. He was hurt while he was being initiated. He sued and a jury in the circuit court gave him a verdict for \$12,000.

John Sullivan, one of the woodmen, says that the relief committee of the camp provided medical attendance for Dorch, paid him two weeks' salary and took a receipt from him in full payment for his injury.

Comparative Safety.

It has been estimated that steamers are 20 per cent. safer than sailing vessels.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY.

Mrs. Suckles Finds a Method of Rectifying Corn Oil - A Substitute for Olive Oil.

A new and interesting discovery has been made for the use of Nebraska dirt. A woman in Dawes county, Neb., has discovered a method for rectifying Indian maize corn, making it a valuable substitute for olive oil.

Mrs. Emma C. Suckles, now attending the Domestic Science laboratory in Washington city, discovered a way to treat it with the soil of her farm. After several months' time she applied for a patent, which was granted a few days ago, since which she has closed contracts with several down-east corn-milling concerns for the use of the soil in car lots to be used in the treatment of the crude oil.

MAKES COFFIN SERVE TWICE.

Man Disturbs His Brother in Order to Use Casket for His Dead Sister.

The coroner at Omaha had an extraordinary case called to his attention the other morning. Fritz Pries is a peculiar character. He resides on a farm six miles from the city. He is an atheist and believes a dead human body of no more consequence than clay, and that it should be buried at once after death and with no ceremony.

Next to the new grave was the moss-covered grave of Adolph Pries, a brother of Fritz Pries. He was buried there ten years ago. Pries remembered that at the time an unusually fine casket was used for the purpose. He deliberately disinterred the body of his brother and removed the coffin from the ten-year-old grave, lifted the skeleton from the coffin, wrapped it in a quilt, placed it back in the grave and covered it from view.

MAY BE THE TIDES.

Superintendent of Wrecking Company That Saved the Paris Suggests a New Theory.

Superintendent Albett, of the wrecking companies which have just succeeded in getting the Paris off the rocks, gave a representative of the Associated Press the other day a contribution of a startling nature to the controversy as to the cause of wrecks on the Manacles.

"In bringing the Paris to Falmouth she narrowly escaped a big Manacle rock. It was ebb tide, with a northerly wind blowing, which would naturally take the vessel south; but we found her getting nearer and nearer the Manacles until within 400 yards of them, whereas we ought to have been a mile to the southward. Things looked queer for a time, but we altered our tactics and cleared the rocks."

LAST COPPER MINE.

Miss Evangelina Garcia Searching for a Supposed Cipher Description of Its Location.

Miss Evangelina Garcia has arrived at the Broadway Central hotel, New York, to prosecute her search for the descendant of a Spanish prospector named Juan Lopez. This descendant is supposed to possess a cipher giving the location of a valuable copper mine in Mexico.

Tax on Bicycles in Italy.

The Italian government has imposed an annual tax of ten lire on bicycles, and in future all machines will have to carry a mark showing that the yearly tax has been paid.

FOUND NORTH POLE.

Fortunate Discoverer Forgot to Bring It Back with Him, However.

Startling Story of a Man Styling Himself King La Jole - Found Natives and a Boiling Spring and Other Wonders.

A man who calls himself King La Jole arrived in New York the other day and told a startling story of his discovery of the north pole. He left Montreal about five years ago and traveled toward the polar regions with an old trapper by the name of Josh White to hunt the polar bear and moose.

"Several days after I had been made king I took my compass and directed my steps to a steaming mountain of water from which a warm air seemed to blow. When I got there I found an enormous fountain of boiling water about four miles in circumference, which shot up into the air for 1,000 feet. I looked at my compass and the needle was revolving so fast that it was almost invisible. I knew then that I had reached the north pole, and as I was King La Jole I named the country Poleseljo.

ELOPERS SWINDLE FARMER.

A Novel Confidence Game Developed by Michigan's Marriage Industry.

A novel confidence game has made its appearance at St. Joseph, Mich., as a result of the recently developed local industry in quick marriages. A farmer is the victim, and supposed elopers will no longer find a welcome in his neighborhood.

The other evening a well-dressed man called at the home of Robert Wagner, a well-to-do farmer living a short distance from St. Joseph, and asked for a night's lodging, which was granted. A few minutes later a young man and woman called on Wagner and inquired for the nearest minister, as they wished to be married immediately.

A certificate was drawn up and Mr. Wagner's name was secured as a witness, but instead of the certificate they must have, through quick work, placed a promissory note of \$5 in its place. Wagner signed it and it turned up against him. The same game is said to have been worked in Indiana.

ITS LONG FLIGHT.

Carrier Pigeon Sent Out by French Steamer Reaches New York After Travelling 1,000 Miles.

The other evening a tired pigeon might have been seen circling over the Bowling Green offices of the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique. When it finally sought shelter there the attendant in charge of the French line carrier pigeons untied from its leg a tiny scrap of parchment, on which was written in ink: "Rosener: Audubon, Broadway, N. Y.; best souvenirs; compliments; fine weather. Becandeu." The French line officials then ceased to wonder at the weariness of the pigeon which brought the message.

FLAG FOR POSTAL SERVICE.

One of Special Design to be Adopted by This Branch of the Government.

In the near future the postmaster-general will have a distinctive flag, as a proposition is now under consideration to adopt a flag for the post office department. An attractive design has been submitted by a Chicagoan. The proposed flag has a background of white crossed diagonally by red bars. In the center is a circle of blue with white stars, enclosing a man on horseback, the emblem of the mail carrier. Underneath the design are the initials P. O. D. in white. The flag has a fringe of gold, and altogether, makes an exceedingly pretty design.

Adopting American Methods.

A large trust is being formed at St. Johns for the development of the iron, coal and steel industries of Newfoundland.

HOBSON AT HONG-KONG.

The Important Work of Repairing and Overhauling the Ships in the Asiatic Squadron in His Hands.

Naval Constructor Hobson has broken his long and mysterious silence by a brief and formal report from Hong-Kong. He is now the only constructor on the Asiatic station, his senior in the corps, W. L. Capps, being on the Olympia with Admiral Dewey. Hobson is entrusted, therefore, with the important work of repairing and overhauling the ships in the Asiatic waters, and with restoring the prizes for service in the navy.

Naval officers of Hobson's corps say he has not been treated fairly by officers of the line, and they resent the insinuation that Hobson has been snubbed by Dewey and other officers on the Asiatic fleet. They say, moreover, that Hobson was cruelly misrepresented while he was in this country, and some of them go so far as to assert that there was a combination against the famous constructor to injure his chances of getting into the line.

ONLY LEGACY WAS A CURSE.

Dr. Hinkle's Father Kicked Him and He Never Forgave the Indignity.

When the will of Dr. Harry Conrad Hinkle was filed for probate at San Francisco it was found to contain this novel and extraordinary bequest: "I leave to J. M. Hinkle my undying curse for the wicked kick which he gave me to-day. May God give rest to my weary soul. In the name of God, amen."

Father and son were members of the National Surgical company here and did a business of \$35,000 a year. Dr. J. M. Hinkle lives at 1604 Franklin street, Oakland. About three years ago they quarreled. The younger man went to Victoria, B. C., married and settled down to practice his profession. His father again and again postponed settling up the business and in February, 1897, Dr. H. C. Hinkle returned here to compel a settlement. The men came to blows. The son declared his father had kicked him with fearful violence. Immediately thereafter the son became ill and he died July 13, 1897.

His widow, a sensitive woman, did not wish the quarrel to be known. To have obliterated the curse, would have been to destroy its validity, so she readily agreed with her husband's family that she would not file the will if they would hand over to her her husband's property. But a few days ago she learned that an agent of her father-in-law had applied for letters of administration on her husband's estate, swearing that there was no will and that his family were his heirs.

NOW FOR STRANGLING BUG.

Philadelphia Tells of a Hostile Insect That is Visiting Us from Africa.

A formidable rival to the kissing bug, which has put in an appearance in Philadelphia, is known as the strangling bug. William J. Burris, 1267 North Tenth street, was attacked by a species of the pest late at night. According to Burris the bug appeared and began to circle around his head. He attempted to drive it away, but it kept up the attack, and finally he succeeded in killing it by a blow from his hat.

The bug is nearly three inches in length, while its wings from tip to tip measure five inches. It is of a brownish color and resembles somewhat a huge locust.

A few nights ago such an insect attacked a dog, and after it had been killed was examined by Norwood Todd, of New York, an African explorer, who declared it to be a strangling bug and said that in northern Africa the bug attacks the throat, sucking the blood until it is filled.

Not Quite Cautious.

Two months ago a collector paid the extravagant sum of £130 for a copy of Rudyard Kipling's earliest known work, "Schoolboy Lyrics," and hugged it to his bibliophilist breast in the belief that it was, as the catalogue stated, "absolutely unique." But the realization of so astounding a price for these youthful effusions, says the Liverpool Courier, led to the ransacking of other libraries, with the result that no fewer than three other copies have been unearthed and sent to the auction room.

Machine to Cure Stammering.

In a Pennsylvania device for the cure of stammering a pair of slotted metallic plates are connected by a narrow neck and bent into close proximity to be placed on either side of the tongue, the neck having an adjusting screw to clamp the plates in place.

DEAFNESS GROWING.

Census of 1900 Likely to Show Great Increase in the Affliction.

Prof. Alexander M. Bell Declares There is Fast Growing to Be a Deaf Mute Variety of Human Race.

Prof. Alexander M. Bell, father of Prof. Bell, of telephone fame, declares that the census of 1900 is likely to bring out some notable facts in regard to the increase of the deaf-mute affliction in this country. According to the figures of 1890, there were in the United States in that year 49,392 deaf and dumb people and 89,616 persons totally deaf, but not dumb.

"The first recorded marriage of deaf and dumb persons was in 1810. In the 30 years from 1850 to 1880 there were 1,400 such marriages. We find, in short, that the deaf-mute element is growing at a rate enormously greater than the population at large, and it is entirely obvious that this is due to intermarriages among deaf and dumb people. There is every prospect that before long we shall come to recognize the existence of a deaf-mute variety of the human race, entirely distinct and apart. At all events, it is to be hoped that the variety will be set apart, inasmuch as we must otherwise reconcile ourselves to the prospect of the existence of deaf and dumb members in nearly every family."

"This seems rather a startling assertion, but it may be easily demonstrated. Already there are groups of deaf-mute families scattered all over the United States and intermarriage among them has become so common, simply by reason of the affliction which they share, that certain names are associated with deaf-muteness. For example, when you meet anybody who is named (Closson, Brasher, Gertschaig, Hopper, Hullet, or Blizard, you have a right to infer that the individual is likely to be deaf and dumb.

"Questionably a person born deaf ought not to marry, even though the other partner in the contract possesses the sense of hearing. This assertion may be proved by the records, which show that in cases of that kind one out of ten of the resulting children will be a deaf mute. If the trouble ended with the children it would not be so bad, but it is likely to reappear intermittently for generations, thus propagating the mischief indefinitely. If both of the persons are deaf and dumb the expectation is that one in five of their offspring will be a deaf mute, and after a few generations of such intermarriages the faculty of speech will practically pass away from that family."

EXPORTATION OF FLOUR.

It Reaches the Highest Point in Its History During the Fiscal Year 1899.

Millers of the United States, like manufacturers generally, made their banner record in the fiscal year 1899. While other lines of breadstuffs show a reduction in exportation, flour not only shows an increase, but reaches the highest point in history. For the fiscal year the total exportation of flour was over 18,000,000 barrels, representing 80,000,000 bushels of wheat. That flour exports should have continued to increase in the face of the reduction in other lines is especially gratifying to those interested in seeing American labor participate as largely as possible in the profits of American exportation.

The average price per bushel of wheat exported during the fiscal year 1899 was 74.77, and the average price per bushel for the wheat exported in the form of flour was 87.57, calculating that four and one-half bushels of wheat are utilized in the production of one barrel of flour. This adds 12.9 to the amount of money received for each bushel of wheat sent abroad in this form, thus bringing to American industry over \$10,000,000 during the year as a compensation to the enterprise which transferred the 80,000,000 bushels of grain into the 18,000,000 barrels of flour exported.

TO RIDE ACROSS CONTINENT.

Trip for a Cripple Who Uses a Bicycle Without the Aid of Handicrafts.

Messenger No. 574 of the Postal Telegraph company, who has only one arm, and who attracts attention by the ease with which he rides a bicycle without handle bars, is about to attempt to ride from New York to San Francisco in record breaking time. He purposes to start from the New York city hall and hopes to maintain runs of from 60 to 75 miles a day for the entire distance. He will follow the route taken by Mr. and Mrs. Davis in their transcontinental automobile.

No. 574 in private life is Albert V. Roe. He is 19 years old and usually lives at Mills Hotel No. 1, in Bleecker street. His left arm was cut off at the shoulder while switching cars at Los Angeles, Cal., two years ago. A brother and three sisters, his nearest living relatives, live in Grinnell, Ia., and he means to call on them in passing. He rides a wheel geared to 91 inches, and steers it by a crotch four inches long on the head of the machine. A skeleton rack built over the rear wheel will carry his baggage. He has ridden a hundred miles every Sunday for ten weeks to put him in condition for the journey.

Not Etiquettes.

Professionals etiquette prevents French judges and judicial officials from riding in omnibuses.