

PAINTED THE CZAR.

Miss Kusner, the Miniature Artist, Has Interesting Experiences.

Young American Woman of Talent Who Sees Inner Life of Royal Family of Russia—It is Very Simple.

Miss Kusner, the young American who has achieved a high reputation in Europe and America as a miniature painter, recently returned to London from Russia, where she had most interesting experiences.

The czar spoke warmly of Admiral Dewey, discussing his career with great interest and saying: "His victory at Manila was a splendid achievement."

The czar is not so enthusiastic concerning our land operations in the Philippines. He seemed to think we had our hands full there.

Miss Kusner is contemplating a tour around the world, but returns to Russia for several months next winter.

LION REFUSES TO FIGHT.

Promised Battle at Reims, France, with a Bull Turns Out a Complete Fiasco.

The fight between a lion and a bull announced to take place at Reims, France, proved a complete fiasco except so far as receipts were concerned.

Two cages were brought up. The door was opened, and Goliath, with a terrible roar, stalked majestically into the ring.

The spectators began to hiss. Men tried to irritate the bull, and urged him toward the lion, which at last was forced to resist.

WILL GET RID OF STOCKS.

New York Life Insurance Company to Confine Its Investments to Bonds.

The action of the New York Life Insurance company, in deciding to dispose of all its stocks and confine its investments to bonds, has started a general discussion among insurance men as to the relative value of these two classes of investment.

It is generally assumed in insurance circles that the motive of the New York Life in its new policy was to enable it to renege in business in Germany.

A Playgoer's Revenge. The Parisians are mightily amused over an action pending in Brussels, says the Referee.

American Cheese. In 1850 our production of cheese was 125,500,000 pounds. In 1890 it was 256,750,000.

DECOYS ON STRIKE.

Slot-Machine Men Think They Are Overworked.

Demand That One Hundred Pieces of Chewing Gum Shall Constitute a Day's Work—The Peculiar Duties.

A strike about which very little has been heard has occurred in New York city. The slot-machine decoys quit work and tried to make better terms with their employers.

Each company that operates nickel-in-the-slot machines or penny-in-the-slot machines, it is said, has in its employ men whose duty it is to go around and work up business.

Part of the duty of the "decoy," when he deals with the chewing-gum apparatus is to insert it in his mouth, and then allow a look of pleasure to steal over his countenance.

Falling a raise in the price of work, they demanded that shorter hours and less labor be assigned to them.

SCIENTISTS TO MEET.

Prof. Moore and Gen. Greely to Attend Geographical Congress in Berlin.

Prof. Willis L. Moore, chief of the weather bureau; Gen. A. W. Greely, chief of the signal service, and Ambassador White, at Berlin, have been chosen as the American delegates to the congress of the International Geographical Society at Berlin September 28 to October 4.

Gen. Greely will report on what Americans have done in recent years in geographical research and Chief Moore will demonstrate the new lines of work of the meteorological service.

Another international gathering of some note is a convention of representatives of all meteorological services, to be held at St. Petersburg September 8.

FINDS A BURIED TREASURE.

Cherokee from Indian Territory Locates a Cask of Spanish Coins in Georgia, Hidden 90 Years Ago.

Two days ago a Cherokee Indian from Vinita, I. T., called upon Henry Watling, a nonagenarian farmer who lived at Adairville, Ga., when the Cherokees were removed to the west.

The two men went out and almost as straight as if the place had been marked a chestnut tree was reached, at the foot of which, buried two feet deep, was found an old cask which was filled with silver money.

The Indian gave his friend \$100 and, putting the rest in his saddlebags, rode off in the direction of Calhoun.

GIRL DECIDES NOT TO WED.

While the Preacher Waits She Reaches the Conclusion She Is Too Pretty to Marry.

"I am too young to get married" was the abrupt way by which Miss Annie Gott ended a proposed marriage ceremony at Woodside, Del., the other night and disappointed the prospective groom, Harry Anderson, of Denver, Col.

Sailors' Dangers Lessened. Twelve years ago one sailor out of every 100, on an average, lost his life by accident.

Britain's Postal Profit. The profits of Great Britain's postal service are \$20,000,000 a year.

JULIA DENT GRANT'S GOWNS.

Description of Some of the Costumes Made in Paris, Forming Part of Her Wedding Trousseau.

Mrs. Julia Dent Grant, with her mother and grandmother, Mrs. Frederick Dent Grant and Mrs. U. S. Grant, is at the Windsor hotel in Saratoga.

A black silk gauze, to be worn at court, is brilliant with threads of pure gold wrought into a rich design of Florentine iris.

Another ball gown of Miss Grant's is made of white crepe de chine and broad Brussels lace insertion, made over white peau de soie.

A fish scale sequin gown is another evening novelty in this trousseau. The close-fitting princess robe is entirely formed of overlapping greenish scales and falls upon flounces of black mousseline de soie.

NEW WATER POWER ERA.

Drainage Canal Engineer's Invention Near Seattle Is Started Successfully.

A new era in water power machinery was marked when the Snoqualmie cyclodial mortar received water on it for the first time at the great water power electric transmission plant of the Snoqualmie Falls Power company.

When the great valve was opened, admitting the water, the machinery began to turn without a hitch.

The water wheels attained an efficiency of 92 per cent. Seattle is boasting of the best power plant in the world, and President Baller is receiving congratulations of friends.

WILL NOT DRAW SALARY.

Col. Wheeler, an Inspector in the Postal Service, Manifests Supreme Indifference to Pay Day.

The clerks in Washington have complained to the post office department at New York City because Col. Marion D. Wheeler refuses to draw his salary.

Col. Wheeler, until a month ago, was chief post office inspector of New York city. He is now stationed at Hancock, N. Y.

The bookkeeper in his division can't balance his accounts and is getting angry at what he considers a mean-spirited indifference on Col. Wheeler's part.

A Fortunate Railroad Engineer. The diary of Andrew Walker, railroad engineer, who died recently at Terre Haute, Ind., shows that during his 50 years of active service he guided his engine over 1,000,918 miles of track.

Latest Paper Collars. The latest form of paper collar is treated with a waterproof preparation, by means of which it will remain in good presentable condition for a couple of weeks, and, like the celluloid collar, it only needs to be wiped with a wet cloth to be kept quite clean.

A GIGANTIC SCHEME.

Trust to Control and Operate Dry Goods Stores of Country.

Proposed to Buy Retail Stores in Cities of 20,000 or More Inhabitants—Will Save Expenses of Traveling Salesmen.

Arrangements are maturing for the organization of a \$50,000,000 dry goods corporation in this city, says the New York Herald, to control and operate dry goods and department stores throughout the country.

Men well known in the dry goods trade have been working on the plan for six months, and, it is said, have interested financiers who will back the enterprise.

E. F. Church, who was formerly with E. S. Jaffray & Co., is president of the preliminary company; H. S. Pfeil, a director of the State Banking company, of Newark, N. J., is treasurer; J. H. Strange, president of the Martha Washington Milling company, is secretary, and S. A. Haver, formerly of E. S. Jaffray & Co., is associate director.

It is proposed to buy retail stores in cities having a population of 20,000 or more. The company expects to control from 500 to 2,000 stores throughout the country.

Expenses of traveling salesmen will be eliminated, and the promoters of the enterprise believe their system will avert the evil of bad debts.

It is proposed to control the output of certain mills, and all purchases will be made in immense quantities.

GERMANY'S PROGRESS.

That Noted for 1898 Compared Favorably with That of Any Year in the Last Thirty.

"Germany's industrial development in 1898 compares favorably with that of any year in the last 30," writes Consul Monaghan at Chemnitz.

"The real significance of these figures is found in the fact that a large part of the imports consists of raw materials, which are made into all kinds of manufactures—articles for export as well as for home consumption.

"Of the \$53,212,000 increase in exports, drugs, iron instruments and machines, silk and silk goods, stone, coal and agricultural products, particularly rye, were well represented.

DRIVEN OUT BY ARMY WORMS.

Farmers Around Burlington, Cal., Compelled to Give Up Their Houses to the Pest.

The army worm is creating havoc with the crops about Burlington, in Kit Carson county, Cal.

The worms have evinced a propensity never before charged to them. They have invaded the residences of some of the farmers and in some cases the houses have been given up to the invaders.

After several days' ceaseless fight the Crawfords also gave up and moved to a neighbor's until the visitors could be driven out by smoke and brimstone.

RING UP FARES.

Street Cars of People Run for the Benefit of Charities by Fair Society Girls.

The passengers on street cars at Peoria, Ill., the other day dropped their nickels into the hands of society girls, who took the place of the regular uniformed conductors.

Four years ago the street car company set aside one day for charitable purposes, and the idea was repeated again this year.

This was a most favorable day, and the cars were liberally patronized.

A rifle ball moves at the rate of 1,000 miles an hour.

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR CUBA.

First Shipment Made by the Post Office Department—Description of the Stamps.

The first shipment of Cuban postage stamps has been made by the post office department. The stamps were sent to Havana and consisted of 1,500,000 ones, 2,000,000 twos, 400,000 threes, and 50,000 special delivery ten-cent stamps.

The Cuban stamps correspond in size and color to those used in this country, but are more showy and are typical of the country in which they will be used.

The two-cent stamp has a group of three royal palms in the foreground, with several others in the distance. It has "Cuba" printed at the top with "centavo" at the bottom and the numeral 2 at each side of the centavo.

A BRIGHT FUTURE.

Cultivation of Cacao in Ecuador Gives Promise of Becoming Vast in Its Proportions.

Consul General De Leon, at Guayaquil, Ecuador, has made an extensive report to the state department on the culture of cacao in that country.

"Chocolate is scarcely known in Oceania, the British colonies or Hawaii. Even Europe, Russia, Turkey and Greece are but recently becoming familiar with the product.

"All that is necessary is capital and energy, which will be welcomed and which will surely come when the railway to Quito is built, for no line of agriculture shows such tempting returns."

BLACK BEAR FOR A PET.

Wealthy Banker, of New York, Finds Great Sport in Companionship of His New Possession.

An able-bodied black bear named Jennie, with a pleasing countenance, has recently been adopted by J. Kennedy Tod, multimillionaire, banker, society leader, of New York, and in his hours of ease is his inseparable companion.

Jennie's forte seems to be wrestling. For this exercise mittens are tied on Jennie's paws, for the bear's claws are sharp, and with the friendliest intention it might accidentally inflict some injury.

The encounters usually take place on the grass back of the stables. The set-toes are not formal, and the rules are disregarded by both contestants.

CHICAGO GIRL'S NOVEL WAGER.

Working Her Way to New York City by Shining Shoes—is Accomplishing a Golden Harvest.

A pretty 18-year-old girl, giving the name of Jane Smith and her residence as Chicago, arrived at Binghamton, N. Y., the other day, working her way from Chicago to New York by the sole means of a shoe-blacking outfit.

Three years ago a heifer belonging to W. I. Plumb, at Newton, Kan., gave birth to a calf on Decoration day.

MINERAL PRODUCTS.

Those of United States Have Increased 90 Per Cent. in Value.

Official Report Made by Geological Survey—Normal Increase for 19 Years Has Been at the Rate of \$18,000,000 Annually.

The official report on the mineral production of the United States for the calendar year 1898 has just been made public by the geological survey.

The normal increase deduced from this record of 19 years is at the rate of \$18,000,000 annually, but during the five years since 1893 the rate of increase has been nearly \$25,000,000 annually.

The value of all metallic products in 1898 was \$344,096,120, as compared with \$302,108,502 in 1897, a gain of \$41,987,618.

KITE FLYING IN THE OCEAN.

Society at Newport Invents a New Amusement—A Fords Sport for Bathers.

Tennis in bathing suits at Bailey's beach has aroused the envy of the patrons of Hazard's beach, and a new amusement has been invented at Newport, R. I.

The sport was to raise the kites a considerable distance, and then enter the canoes. The young men paddled the canoes out from the beach.

Walls Plastered with Coins. Singular Contest of a New Jersey Woman Nominatist—Valuable Coins in Collection.

Miss Daisy Dentz, of Dentville, N. J., a suburb of Trenton, has probably the largest collection of coins in New Jersey.

Three years ago a heifer belonging to W. I. Plumb, at Newton, Kan., gave birth to a calf on Decoration day.

The height of the rock of Gibraltar is about 1,437 feet.