### DESIRE ANNEXATION.

British West Indies Eager to Join the United States.

An Old Question Again Being Agttated-Industrial and Commercial Interests Are Much Interested in the Question.

The abstract question of the political possibility and the industrial and commercial desirability of the annexation of the British West Indies to the United States is nothing new. As a matter of casual discussion, at least, it has been on the cards since 1867, when Gen. Grant developed the scheme for acquiring the Danish islands.

It, however, remained for the American conquest of Cuba and Porto Rico to awaken the English colonists to a full realization of the outlook. The Americanization of those two islands presents a most serious menace to the industrial and commercial prosperity of their British neighbors, and it is only natural that the English colonists should have been attracted by Andrew Carnegie's suggestion to exchange the British West Indies for the Philippines.

As far back as August of last year the question of securing annexation to the United States was mooted in Jamaica. Nothing came of it, however. A plebiscite was suggested in planting circles, and the commercial community was not wanting in sympathy with the proposal. But, on the other hand, the extreme antagonism of the colored population was so marked that the most enthusiastic annexationists realized the then impracticability of a plebiscite. Consequently the matter was speedily shelved.

The continued industrial decadence of the islands under the unfair treatment of the mother country and the ever-growing menace of Cuba and Porto Rico has again brought the question into prominence. In this case it is the island of St. Kitts that has taken the initiative and made some definite move. While Jamaica, on the principle of half a loaf being better than no bread, insists on securing commercial reciprocity with the United States, St. Kitta has come forward with a plebiscite asking for actual annexation.

As might have been expected, the West Indian newspapers, as a whole, being mostly in the hands of colored men, to whom the very word American is obnoxious, have denounced the plebiscite and endeavored to obscure its significance. Under the circumstances, the St. Kitts annexationists have issued a manifesto to the sister colonies setting forth their position and furnishing seven reasons why West Indians should seek admission into the United States. First, on account of unjust treatment on the part of Great Britain. 2: Because of expensive administration. 3. Because of contiguity of the islands to the United States. 4. Because of growing population of United States and their increased consumption of sugar. 5. Because they would be assured of full political liberty. 6. Because at any time change of tariff laws of United States may discriminate against them. 7. Because of an assured and protected market in the United States for their sugar.

# LOANED BABY FOUND AT LAST.

Mother and Child Reunited After a Separation of Twenty Years.

Mrs. Mary Williams has returned to Muncie, Ind., from the quest of her daughter, who has been lost for 20 years, having found her and paid her a visit. A score of years ago Mrs. Williams loaned her child, then scarcely more than a baby, to a theatrical company which needed a child of that age. The time for the child to be returned came, but the baby did not appear. No trace was discovered of the child until about two months ago, when there came a letter from a close personal friend of Mrs. Williams, who stated that while traveling through a little Pennsylvania town she had discovered a young woman whose history tallied closely with that of the missing child. Mrs. Williams did not have the necessary funds, but, assisted by the Muncie police, a sum sufficient was soon raised, and about a month ago she went in search of her daughter. Absolute proof of the child's identity was discovered. The mother has returned to Muncie and is making preparations to return to her daughter's home to reside.

# STOPS DIGESTION.

Cat Under the X-Ray Teaches an Important Lesson to Mankind-Don't Worry.

The cat has served to teach mankind an all-important lesson concerning the working of the stomach. The X rays directed upon a cat's stomach have demonstrated that any irritation or disagreeable nervous excitement arrests the process of digestion. Dr. Fritz Lange, of Munich, who makes a special study of the stomach, performed a series of experiments which resulted in this interesting discovery. After the cat had eaten, the X rays were turned on, and Dr. Lange watched the animal's stomach through a fluorescent screen. Then he irritated the cat by placing a live mouse just beyond its reach. Dr. Lange was able to observe that digestion was absolutely interrupted by the irritation of the animal. Briefly stated, the lesson for man is: Don't let anything bother or interrupt your dinner.

One Cause of France's Troubles. While the population of France has increased only ten per cent. in the last 50 years, says the New York Sun, the number of state officials, according to M. Turquan, shows an increase of 120 per cent.

#### FISH, BIRD AND SNAKE YARNS

Trout and Hawk Caught on the Same Hook - A Voracious Snake.

A farmer residing near Middletown, N. Y., recently noticed a remarkable falling off in the production of eggs at his hennery, which he was unable to account for. He concluded that an egg thief was at work, and established a strict watch. The eggs continued to disappear, and no clew to the thief was obtained until a day or two ago, while working near the hennery, the farmer came across a large blacksnake, which he quickly dispatched. As the snake lay on the ground the farmer noticed a lump in the reptile's circumference, and with his knife cut from the snake's stomach a large china egg. It is argued that the snake's appetite for eggs increased at a more rapid rate than the yield of the hennery, and that it resorted to the china eggs in the absence of the genuine article.

Edwin Robinson, a respected resident of Pawling, is credited with capturing a fine trout and a bird resembling a henhawk with the same bait. On a recent fishing trip he dropped his hook in a ripple, and the current carried it down under some overhanging trees, where a large trout struck it. There was no opportunity to play for the trout, and Mr. Robinson gave his pole a smart jerk, hoping to land his prize on the bank. Both trout and line went sailing upward, and the line caught fast in a tree. The trout tore away from the hook and flopped back into the water. Mr. Robinson had dropped his pole to save his fish, and when he picked it up again felt something tugging at it. Looking upward, he discovered that he had another bite. This time he landed his prize, which proved to be a large bird, hooked through the lower side of the bill.

#### SOUTHERN NEGROES.

Suggestion of Col. Duncan B. Harrisen, of Chicago. hor Supplying Army for Philippines.

"If it becomes necessary to send volunteers to the Philippines," said Col. Duncan B. Harrison, of Chicago, "I would suggest negro soldiers without hesitation. My regiment of colored men in Cuba taught me a lesson of what the race is capable of. They are more amenable to discipline than white men. fight less among thereselves, and with proper treatment follow their officers anywhere. I know that before mustering out 80 per cent. of my regiment voted to reenlist for two years if wanted. I would take the volunteers for the Philippines from the southern negroes. They would have no politicians or demagogue governors howling about them and their comforts, but, on the contrary, it would be a relief to people of the south to have them employed in the army.

"The colored troops are greatly benefited by army service. They learn a great deal, acquire personal dignity, discover there is something in sanitation, and go back to civil life better than when they came into the army. The colored soldier is a grim, determined-fighter, and a good bushwhack-He will put up uncomplainingly with more discomforts than the white soldier, and undoubtedly is better fitted for campaigns in tropical countries than seasoned white men. Colored troops from the south need no acclimating to speak of. They know what heat is. I believe 20,000 volunteers could be raised among the colored people of the south within 60 days."

# FORCED TO EAT LOVE LETTER.

Serious Consequences of a New Jersey Man's Joke on a Married Friend.

Albert Waugh, of Paterson, N. J., harbors in his stomach a lump of desiccated note paper, flavored with violet ink. In its original form Waugh's meal was a high-flown love letter written by himself in a feminine hand, unsigned, and addressed to his comrade and neighbor, John Watkins, a young married man. Inclosed in the envelope was the photograph of an attractive girl. Waugh did not know who she was, for the picture had fallen into his hands by chance. Across the back he

wrote: "To the only one I love." Mrs. Watkins found the letter in her husband's coat and it caused a temporary separation. Waugh then ac-

knowledged that it was all his work. This confession reunited Watkins and his wife, but the husband vowed to have vengeance. Encountering Waugh he produced the letter and photograph and commanded the practical joker to eat them, drawing a pistol to enforce the demand. Waugh obeyed meekly enough so far as the latter was concerned, but when it came to the photo-

#### graph his stomach revolted. FIRE IN A COFFIN.

Cigarette Fiend Comes Near Making Feigued Death the Real Thing.

Carl Atheno's performance of suspended animation at Fall River, Mass., came near ending in cremation, the fire in his coffin being discovered just in time. Atheno went to sleep on Monday night and intended to wake up on Saturday night. An electric light inside the coffin

showed the face of the sleeper when anyone peeked down a wooden tube. It is believed that a cigarette was thrown down on the sleeper in order to learn whether the sleep was a real one. His clothes were badly burned. He did not awaken.

Dandellons. The market gardeners around Paris cultivate the dandelion on a large scale and sell it for good prices in the mar-

The state of the s

# A LION AT LARGE.

Causes Great Excitement on the Streets of Indianapolis.

Finds His Way to a Butcher Shop and Helps Himself to a Good Square Meni - Captured After a Fight.

Brutus, the largest cub in the lion family of the trained animal show exhibiting at Illinois and l'ratt atreets, Indianapolis, Ind., escaped from his cage the other day and gave the residents of North Illinois street and vicinity the worst scare they have received in some time. After stealing out of the circus grounds, he started out to view

Brutus is a well-developed Nubian lion cub, and his appearance bounding down the pavement on Illinois street caused every one in sight to give him the right of way. Horses broke loose and ran before him, and the residents barred their doors and hid. The whole neighborhood resounded with a series of awful roars. Upon reaching the grocery of E. L. Hauk his attention was attracted by some strawberries. Bounding upon the sidewalk, he began to sample all in sight. He smelled meat. and, with a savage growl, the lion bounded through the massive plateglass window.

Upon discovering that he was sole master of the store, Brutus tasted of all the meat in the meat market. His exact course could not be ascertained, for the reason that the neighborhood was vacated for some distance on all sides. The interior of the store presented

proof of the mood of Brutus. Attracted by his growls, his trainers found him in the meat market, and erected a wall of boxes and barrels around him. Mounting on these, after working an hour, a noose was slipped over his head, and he was choked into submission. He was strapped in an iron cage and sent on to Chicago. In the capture Trainer Ricardo had his left hand severely bitten.

# MISHAPS AT A WEDDING.

Peculiar Circumstances Attend a Ceremony on Board a Steamboat, I

J. A. Carson and Miss Maud Cranaton, a young couple residing on Kootenai lake, Washington, were married the other day under circumstances seldom paralleled in fiction. The bridal couple and relatives boarded the steamer Klondike on her trip down the Columbia river to Bonner's ferry, Idaho, having decided to be married there. In passing the officiating preacher's ranch he was found a prisoner on the roof of his submerged residence and was rescued and taken aboard. The steamer made a brief stop at Racine landing and two passengers came aboard with a coffin containing the corpse of James Carter. A bulldog also accompanied the men. When the preacher came on deck, wearing a suit of Capt. Newman's clothes, the bridal couple announced that they would have the wedding take place then and there.

to the point where the preacher was about to pronounce them husband and wife when Capt. Newman's dog and the bulldog got into a fight. In the midst of it they upset the coffin, which had been deposited on beer kegs. As it struck the deck the casket burst, spilling out the corpse. One glance at the dead man's features and the bride gave a scream and swooned away in the arms of the groom, for the corpse was that of a former lover to whom she had been engaged.

### **NAVY INSURANCE ASSOCIATION** Proven to Be on a Sound Basis and

It Is Not Likely to Be Discontinued. Naval officers who have been a good deal exercised over the proposition to abolish their mutual insurance associ-

tion are greatly relieved to know that a majority of the communications to far received express a desire to continu with the organization on its present basis. A Philadelphia insurance company made an attempt to have the list of members of the Naval Mutual Aid association transferred to its own books on the ground that the organization was on an unsound basis. This caused some consternation among the naval officers, but an inquiry has proven that the association is in good condition and that it is prosperous. The Philadelphia company's proposition is not likely to be accepted.

# MEDALS FOR DEWEY'S MEN.

Navy Department Is Ready to Distribute the Bronse Rewards.

The navy department has received the 1,700 bronze medals authorized by congress for the officers and men who participated in the battle of Manila bay. The bureau of navigation will see to the distribution of the medals, those for the officers and men of the Olympic and Raleigh being given to them in this country, while those on the ships still at Manila will be forwarded. The medals are handsome products of the jeweler's art, one face showing a bas-relief of Admiral Dewey, while the reverse shows the idealized

head of the American sailor. Why Iceland Wants a Cable. The Chicago Record suggests that the people of Iceland would like to be connected with the rest of the world by cable, so that they might call down occasionally through the summer and innocently ask if it is hot enough for us.

Big Australian Sheep Farms. It is said that some of the sheep farms in Australia are as large as the whole of

### WILL SHOW A COLUMN OF GOLD

Plans for Dezzling American Attractions at the Paris Exposition.

A meeting of Commissioner Peck and the members of the staff of the New York office of the United States commissioners to the Paris exposition of 1900, was held at New York the other day to discuss the allotment of space to exhibitors.

E. W. Runyon, the California state commissioner, said that California had appropriated \$130,000 for the exhibition already, the largest amount given by any state, and would put up \$100,000 more if assurances were given that adequate returns would be got for the money.

Commissioner Peck suggested that if California would contribute a certain amount to the general fund it would be given a special room in the national building. He said that this offer would be good to every state in the union. No state buildings will be permitted. Commissioner Peck said it was planned to have five star American attractions at the Paris exposition. One of these is to be an exhibit of the gold mining of this country, being a gold column containing \$1,000,000 in gold. Another will be an American trolley line six miles long from the American landing to the national building down the Seine. A third will be a pier landing, where Americans will take steamers carrying the American flag for the Vincennes woods.

### TO MUMMIFY HER BODY.

Little Eskime Girl Who Died at Mount Vernon to Be Given to Scientists.

Little Aitmarhoke, the Eskimo girl, who smiled, bowed, danced and said "Aliana mik" instead of "good by," so prettily at lectures in the public schools at New York last winter, died at Mount Vernon on Saturday. Men of science are to make a mummy of her.

She died of the heat and of consumption. She was in Dr. Walton's sanitarium. The physicians there say that she was a free patient in the interest of science. She was brought into this country in 1895 by Miner W. Bruce, to meet her twin sister, Zacksriner, who had been in the west for three years. The father and mother of the twins were dead.

Columbia university is to have the body of Aitmarhoke. The men of science there are to send her to the Museum of Natural History, to be exhibited mummified, as are the Pharaohs. It is an opportunity to show that we know how to make mummies.

Miner W. Bruce is in Seattle, Wash. Zacksriner is in charge of a friend of Bruce here.

### AN ODD REQUEST.

Kansas Governor Asked to Pay a Dog Tax by an impecuations Old Maid.

An old maid in Kansas City, Kanwith an unusual amount of faith in men, has written to Gov. Stanley asking him to pay her dog tax. She explains that she is poor and that her dog is the only comfort she has in the world. She asks the governor to go over to the state auditor's other and look over the list of dog tax due. If he finds there the name of "Grant," with two dollars due for taxes, he will know that the dog is hers and can pay the money.

The governor turned the letter over to Private Secretary Alien with instructions to assess the members of the state committee for the necessary amount to pay the fax. Chairman Albaugh heard the letter read and agreed to pay the tax if the governor would tell him the name of the "oman. This Gov. Stanley refused to do. It is probable that Grant will be assessed and taxed in the regular manner by the Kansas City (Kan.) authorities.

# MAY REORGANIZE.

Report Revived Togt the Standard Oil Company Will be Capitalized at \$500,000,000.

The report has been revived that the Standard Oil company will be organized in the shape of a giant corporation under the laws of New Jersey, and the present trust features abandoned entirely.

At present the concern is in the hands of the liquidating trustees. The stock which the trust holds in the subsidiary companies (a majority interest in each case) has been taken up and liquidating certificates issued. These certificates, whose par value is \$100, are quoted in Wall street at 456@458, an increase of about 100 points within the year.

There are said to be \$96,000,000 of these outstanding, and, according to report, it is the plan to call in these certificates and to issue in exchange for each one five shares of stock in the new corporation whose par value shall be \$100. Thus the present certificate holders will receive \$500 for \$456. The capitalization of the new company is to be \$500,000,000.

Real Game Preserve.

One of the most curious sporting estates in the whole of the British Isles is that of Arnold F. Hills, Redleaf, in the county of Kent. There no shooting or fishing is permitted. This novel experiment in game preservation is due to the principles of the proprietor, who, as a strict and consistent vegetarian, holds that man has no right to slay the lower animals either for food, profit or pleasure. As he is rich, Mr. Hills is thus enabled to put to a practical test the oft-debated question as to what would become of the animals if all the world turned vegetarian.

Fiji Currency. Whales' teeth form the currency of the Fiji islands.

## PROBLEM OF UNIFORMS.

Complaints Received from Officers in Cubs and the Philippinesa reposed Changes.

Complaints continue to be received from officers in Cuba and the Philippines in regard to the uniform which the troops are wearing. Constant changes have been made to conform to the climatic demands of those localities, but there still remains a great deal to be done for the comfort of the troops. The inspectors have encountered numerous suggestions and have transmitted them to the war department, where a diversity of opinion is noted, to the confusion of the whole

subject. Many of the articles issued to the troops are declared unsuitable for military uses. This is accounted for by the fact that inferior goods were bought in the haste of acquiring military supplies in the days just before war broke out. Lately the contracts have been made with greater care and inspection of material has been more rigid. The purchases, however, have not always been satisfactory to the officers and men who must wear the clothing bought. The quartermasters are desirous of securing the best material, and such as will be most conducive to the comfort of the soldiers.

It is proposed, among other things, to authorize coats and trousers of bleached cotton duck for non-commissioned officers and bandsmen and of unbleached duck for the privates. While linen caps will be worn, the officers will be provided with a light white helmet, and cork helmets are to be worn by the soldiers. Straw hats will be adopted for fatigue duty dress by the enlisted force, and the white collar will be worn when summer clothing is permitted.

It has been suggested that the matter of uniforms be taken up systematically, and departmental commanders meanwhile be permitted to exercise discretion in the matter of dress for the troops of their commands,

### AGUINALDO'S THEFT

How the Filipine Chief Became Persessed of a Supply of United States Shells.

Military officials are not much surprised to learn that the insurgents driven out of the territory around Bacoor by Gen. Lawton had a supply of five-inch shells marked "U. S. Navy Yard." It is explained that after the fight in Manila bay Admiral Dewey, having no landing force, naturally gave the insurgents the run of the arsenal at Cavite, where the Spanish naval stores were. Dewey landed some marines with arms and ammunition, and it was natural these should become mixed up with the Spanish supplies and so drift into the hands of the insurgents.

There has been no secret of the fact that Aguinaldo helped himself at Cavite with the permission of Admiral Dewey, as the insurgents were then supposed to be faithful ailies. Later on American troops were landed in the little bay, and as they advanced toward Manila, practically through the insurgent lines, stray ordnance stores were left scattered along the line of march. as is always the case. The insurgent cannon were, it is said, smooth bores, to which they had adapted rifle shells,

but probably not with much success. It is said that it is impossible that any large amount of American ordnance stores can have found their way into the hands of the insurgents, and all these transactions are ascribed to the interval between Dewey's victory and the landing of the American infantry, during which time Aguinaldo did pretty much as he pleased ashore.

# A BRIGHT OUTLOOK.

Crops and Business in the West. Premise Well-Opinion of Ansen R. Flower.

Anson R. Flower, head of the firm of Flower & Co., who has just returned to New York from the west, said, in discussing his trip: "I visit the west fry year at about this season with the object of learning for myself the state of business and the crop outlook. I believe, from what I have seen and heard on the trip just ended, during which we traveled about 4,000 miles, that the country has never been more prosperous than it is at present. The crops seem to be in good condition, and the western railroad officials say, basing their opinion on the reports furnished directly to them by the agents along their respective lines, that there will be at least an average crop this year. The manager of one of the Northwestern lines, who was with us on our trip, told us that the crop in the region traversed by his road, which is chiefly a spring wheat country, would probably be larger than last year. The railroads are carrying more tons than ever to the mile and are reducing grades and otherwise bettering their properties. As for the Federal Steel company, it owns its own mines and steamers, as well as its manufacturing plants, and an enormous quantity of ore is being taken from its mines. All the other companies also are prospering, and industrial conditions throughout the country appear to be excellent. There does not seem to be a cloud on the financial sky."

She Saw Napoleon in Exile. Miss E. P. Bagley, one of the few surviving inhabitants of St. Helena who remembered having seen, when she was a child, the great Napoleon, recently died at the age of 90. The St. Helens Guardian says of Miss Bagley that from her sound memory much interesting matter concerning the Napoleon days in that island was compiled. She retained all her faculties up to a fortnight before her death.

Minneapolis Flouring Mills. The Minneapolis mills make 14,000,-000 barrels of flour a year, and consume 60,000,000 bushels of wheat.

# SUBMARINE VESSELS.

Doubt as to Their Adoption by the Navy Department.

Another Test of the Holland to Be Made-Demand That She Ran Submerged for Two Miles.

There is a divsion of expert opinion within the navy in regard to the submarine boat, which is still in its experimental stage. The construction board at Washington came to no conclusion the other day, although it implied its favorable view of the submarine boat in warfare. The question was presented by the fact that the Holland, the boat in New York, is nearly ready for official inspection. The naval officers detailed to conduct the trial required that certain important changes be made in the boat and that a trained crew be assigned to the work of operating it. This has been done and the boat will be tested shortly by the naval board of inspection and survey, with a view, the projectors hope, to the purchase of the craft by the navy department.

Now the board of inspection has laid down rules governing the trial which are deemed excessive by the designers of the boat. One requirement to which objection is made is the demand that the Holland shall run for two miles in a submerged state. The experts in the navy department differ as to the severity of this requirement. Some of them think the run for that distance is no more than should be exacted of a submarine boat and that if the designers are confident of the prowess of their ship they need not fear the requirements of the distance the ship shall run under the surface.

The matter has been laid over until the return of Rear Admiral Hichborn, the chief constructor of the navy, who is believed to be not especially in favor of submarine construction. There is no doubt about the strategic value of such craft, but there are so many difficulties of construction and so many great dangers attending the submerged ships that conservative officers of the navy are not enthusiastic over the idea.

### WATER TUBE BOILERS.

Engineer in Chief of the Navy Decides That the Straight Tube Variety Shalt Be Used.

Rear Admiral Melville, engineer in, chief of the navy, has determined that in ships of the cruiser class above the type of torpedo boat destroyers water tube boilers of the straight tube variety shall be used. This is a big thing for the few firms capable of meeting this and other requirements of the navy department for marine boilers. The decision is a step in advance of Great Britain, which uses boilers of the serpentine tube type. The adoption of the straight tube boilers means greater economy in this part of warship equipment and greater facility in the leaning and repair of boilers. The important feature, however, is the fact that the material can always be procured in any part of the world. It is common to the markets everywhere and in an emergency it will be easy to improvise pipe answering the purpose of boiler tubes. The matter is one of much interest to marine engineers, and is the more interesting because the action appears to have been influenced not only by observation of foreign customs, but by the experiences on the great lakes on the big steamers, which, as one naval engineering expert said, "are not run for fun or show, but with the idea that every dollar will count."

# UNDER SURGEON'S KNIFE.

Wilbur Rogers Corbin and Miss Rebekah Howe Morse Married in Operating Room.

Everything was ready in the operating-room in New York when the clergyman reached the sanitarium. His mission was not to offer spiritual comfort to the patient, but to make her a bride. It was feared that Misa Rebekah

Howe Morse might die under the knife. Her affianced, Wilbur Rogers Corbin, desired at least that she should become his wife before surrendering her consciousness to the ether, not knowing whether she would ever awaken. So Rev. Houghton was summoned

from the rectory of the Little Church Around the Corner, and he performed the marriage ceremony. Their wedding had been looked for-

ward to as a great social event in New Haven, but it would have lacked the sincerity that marked the ceremony at the threshold of pain and darkness.

Mrs. Corbin was carried away, and the door of the operating-voom closed upon her, and for hours, that seemed years, her husband waited to hear. When he left the place he walked as upon air, for the surgeon had told him that all was well. That was only a day or two ago, and the bride continues to improve.

America's First Electric Road, The first electric railroad operated in America was constructed and first run successfully in Baltimore. This was the suburban line between the city and the village of Hampden. On August 10, 1885, successful trial trips were made, the cars being drawn by a Daft. motor, the invention of Prof. Leo Daft. of Jersey City, N. J. Three days later two Daft motors were in regular service, and with an ordinary horse car attached, filled with passengers, made. a round trip of four miles in less than: 25 minutes. A third rail was placed between the car tracks.

Fencing Masters of Paris. There are more than 70 halls in Paris devoted to fescing, each presided over by a fencing master more or less fa-

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