

DESIRE ANNEXATION.

British West Indies Eager to Join the United States.

An Old Question Again Being Agitated—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.

It, however, remained for the American conquest of Cuba and Porto Rico to awaken the English colonists to a full realization of the outlook.

As far back as August of last year the question of securing annexation to the United States was mooted in Jamaica.

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.

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.

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.

STOPS DIGESTION.

Cat Under the X-Ray Teaches an Important Lesson to Man—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.

One Cause of France's Trouble. 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.

FLOWERS FOR OLD STAMPS.

How the Women of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Chicago Get Altar Decorations.

One church congregation in Chicago collects 25,000 canceled postage stamps every week, and 1,300,000 in a year. This is St. Mark's Episcopal church, corner Cottage Grove avenue and Thirty-sixth street.

"Why, I'd as soon think of throwing away car fare as to waste old postage stamps," said one.

SHE IS GROWING RICH.

Chicago Woman's Hands Bring Her About \$5,000 Yearly—She Is a Masseuse.

Half the world is as ignorant of how the other half makes its money as of how it lives. There is a Chicago woman, for instance, who earns with her hands yearly sums that would make the average brain worker envious.

Most of her work is done at the homes of her patrons, though they may come to her establishment at about half the home rate. She rubs a woman an hour at each visit, and her patrons are positive that she imparts to them a tremendous amount of vitality.

GOTHAM'S INFAMOUS CAFES.

A Glance at the Interior of a Notorious One That Was Raided by the Police.

Through one of the most infamous of the cafes a Leslie's Weekly writer went recently, just after the police had raided it with axes. The entire ground floor was a drinking hell of tawdry elegance.

EELS IN CAPTIVITY.

They Keep Their Appetite and Grow Fat and Appear to Get Along Very Well.

Eels appear to be pretty hardy in captivity. There are in a tank at the aquarium a number of eels that have thrived and grown fat there, although they must there content themselves with a gravel bottom instead of one of mud, which they would seek in nature, says the New York Sun.

The eels are fed on chopped-up clams, with occasionally some live killies, which they are easily able to catch and which they like. Killies, in fact, make a good bait in fishing for eels, with the killie hooked through the back in such a way as not to kill or deprive it of the power of motion.

QUEER POSTAL SERVICE.

That of Havana When the United States Took Charge of Its System.

Under the Spanish system the letter carriers received their pay by charging from three to five cents, and sometimes more, for every letter they delivered.

The carriers under the Spanish system not only charged for the delivery of mail matter, but they riddled letters freely, and made money by stealing stamps from mail matter and selling them.

Another form of corruption was evident when the salary lists were examined. There was no scale of salaries. In one city a postmaster would receive twice the salary that the postmaster of a larger city received.

THE REPORTORIAL SCOOP.

How It Was Worked on a St. Louis Scribe by a Conscienceless Contemporary.

A reporter named Jones on a daily in St. Louis was detailed to interview the governor of another state, who had slipped into the city on a secret political mission, says the San Francisco Argonaut.

The governor turned purple. "Dy' question my word?" he asked.

The old man foamed at the mouth. "You insolent scoundrel," he roared, "get out of my room!" That was exactly what Jones wanted and he went.

FIRE SERVICE IN ENGLAND.

The Force Employed in London is Only Half as Large as That of Paris.

The British towns seem to have the smallest number of paid firemen of any cities in Europe and America, says Municipal Affairs. The London fire brigade has about 800 men, about the same number as Berlin, which has only a fourth of the population, and less than one-half the size of the Paris corps.

A Faithful Dog.

The Paris Figaro relates a touching souvenir of the poet de Musset, as mentioned by the poet's governess, Mme. Adele Collin Martellet, who has just published her memoirs.

Invention by the Marquis of Lorne. The marquis of Lorne has taken out a patent for a brake to be applied to the back wheel of a bicycle.

A LION AT LARGE.

Causes Great Excitement on the Streets of Indianapolis.

Brutus, the largest cub in the Non family of the trained animal show exhibiting at Illinois and Pratt streets, 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.

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.

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.

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.

MISHAPS AT A WEDDING.

Peculiar Circumstances Attend a Ceremony on Board a Steamboat.

J. A. Carson and Miss Maud Cranston, a young couple residing on Kootenai lake, Washington, were married the other day under circumstances seldom paralleled in fiction.

The ceremony had proceeded almost 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.

Naval officers who have been a good deal exercised over the proposition to abolish their mutual insurance association are greatly relieved to know that a majority of the communications so far received express a desire to continue with the organization on its present basis.

Naval Department is Ready to Distribute the Bronze Medals.

MAY REORGANIZE.

Report Revived That the Standard Oil Company Will be Capitalized at \$200,000,000.

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.

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.

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.

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WILL SHOW A COLUMN OF GOLD

Plans for Displaying 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 \$100,000 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.

TO MUMMIFY HER BODY.

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

Little Aitmarboke, 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.

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.

Columbia university is to have the body of Aitmarboke. 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.

AN ODD REQUEST.

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

An old maid in Kansas City, Kan., with 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.

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 tax.

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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 henry, 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 clue to the thief was obtained until a day or two ago, while working near the henry, the farmer came across a large blacksnake, which he quickly dispatched.

Edwin Robinson, a respected resident of Pawling, is credited with capturing a fine trout and a bird resembling a hen-bawk with the same bait.

SOUTHERN NEGROES.

Suggestion of Col. Duncanson B. Harrison of Chicago, U. S. Supplying Army for Philippines.

"If it becomes necessary to send volunteers to the Philippines," said Col. Duncanson B. Harrison of Chicago, "I would suggest negro soldiers without hesitation.

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.

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 delectated note paper, flavored with violet ink. In its original form letter written by himself in a feminine hand, unsigned, and addressed to his comrade and neighbor, John Watkins, a young married man.

FIRE IN A COFFIN.

Cigarette Friend Comes Near Making Feigned 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.

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.

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