

NEED OF THE CANAL.

Essential to Our Control of the Pacific Ocean.

Inter-Ocean Waterway Should Be in the Hands of the United States in Peace and War Time.

Command of the sea on our north Pacific coast and the waters of the western basin of the North Pacific should be in our hands in peace and war time. This can only be effected by readiness of a proper and sufficient naval force, either on the spot or to be furnished from the Atlantic through an untrammelled canal.

These observations are made by Capt. C. H. Stockton, president of the naval war college, in an article in the proceedings of the Naval Institute dealing with the commercial, naval and political conditions of an interoceanic canal across the central American isthmus.

The proposition for a canal exclusively owned or controlled by the United States in war and peace means the direct or indirect purchase or construction of the canal by the government of the United States.

The first thing that presents itself in connection with the canal and the naval profession is the necessity for a strong naval force for the United States. Separated, as the canal and its immediately adjacent territory is, from the territory of the United States by Mexico, the approaches to the canal require naval protection in order to give us the status here that Great Britain enjoys at Suez.

POWERS NOT ABRIDGED.

Holy Year Does Not Prevent Catholic Bishops from Use of Faculties and Indulgences.

In view of the recent discussion of the abridging of the rights and privileges of bishops and priests of the Catholic faith during the holy year, a communication has been sent out from the apostolic delegation at Rome.

"This is a serious problem when out of sheer sympathy the work of the government must be impeded by old people almost too frail to go to the office. I believe in an age limit and retirement fund, and I think the government clerks, with their short hours and good pay, should be taxed to pay it."

TO CREMATE BY LIQUID AIR.

Wealthy New York Men Incorporate a Big Company at Yankton, S. D.

The Liquefied Air Cremation & Consuming company, capital stock, \$10,000,000, and the Sea Power company, capital, \$1,000,000, have been incorporated at Yankton, S. D. A Sioux City (Ia.) attorney has filed the articles of incorporation for both.

The incorporators of both the cremation and sea power companies are the following: Stephen M. Emmens and Newton W. Emmens, of New York City, and I. C. Haring, of West Nyack, N. Y., and John Holman, of Yankton, S. D. The purposes of the Liquefied Air Cremation & Consuming company are described in the articles of incorporation as follows:

"To carry on business as cremators of human bodies, carcasses of animals, refuse and garbage of all kinds; to acquire inventions and patent rights, and utilize and dispose of same; to promote and finance subsidiary companies; to act as manufacturers, traders and financiers, and do and perform all matters and things incident and pertaining to the transaction of any and all such business."

The Sea Power company is for the ostensible purpose of harnessing up the power represented by the breaking billows on the shore of Long Island, which are estimated to produce 1,000,000 horse power.

"After much investigation and experiment, I have devised a means for collecting and utilizing this power for any desired purpose. A patent has been applied for and steps taken for erecting a first sea-power station on the shore of Long Island, where the system will be shown in actual operation. The cost of sea power is estimated at ten dollars per horse power per year, including repairs and interest on capital."

PENSIONS FOR CLERKS.

Work of the War Department Crippled by Superannuated Help—Should Be Retired.

Auditor Morris, of the war department, who has had a heroic fight against superannuated and otherwise inefficient corps of clerks through whom the work of that department fell behind three years, said, in speaking of the retirement of government employees:

"In my department is a clerk born in 1818. He is brought to the office each morning and put at his desk, where he sits until four o'clock, when he again stood on his crutches and helped out. I need the work of that desk, and asked for his removal that I might put a competent clerk in his place, but the secretaries of both the army and navy protested most bitterly. I was told if the old man lost his place he would starve. I had to give in, and he still sits at the desk. He was formerly a \$1,000 clerk, but as his work fell off he was reduced until he now gets \$65 a month."

TO RESTRICT MATRIMONY.

A Bill Has Been Prepared for Action by the Colorado Legislature.

Gov. Thomas, of Colorado, is giving attention to a bill placing the granting of marriage licenses in the hands of a board of medical examiners. The governor looks favorably upon the measure, which was prepared by a friend, and is expected to embody its salient points in his message to the assembly.

The bill provides for a board of medical examiners in each county, to consist of three physicians. No marriage license shall be granted until a certificate is had from the board that the man is not less than 25 years old, the woman not less than 22, and that both are free from dipsomania, organic or true insanity, hereditary insanity, tuberculosis of the lungs, or other vital organs; hereditary asthma, serofula and epilepsy, and that there is no blood relation existing between them.

FORBIDDEN TO DENT HAT.

Uncle Sam's Private Soldier is the Subject of a New Regulation.

No more may the private soldier knock dents in his campaign hat or pin up a flap of the brim on one side. The regulation just issued by the war department reads:

"The wearing of hats in any other than their original shape is prohibited. The original shape of the campaign hat is on the Alpine order. The privates have been used to denting their hats so as to indicate the command to which they belonged. It is expected that they will not like the new order."

A CHECK ON SAILORS.

How the Immigration Laws Are Being Evaded and the Remedy Which Is Proposed.

It is probable that in the future foreign seamen coming into the port of New York will have to undergo inspection by the immigration authorities just the same as ordinary immigrants, and it follows that if they are not qualified for admission to the country under the immigration laws they will be excluded. At present foreign sailors that desert or are discharged at that port gain admission to the country by simply going ashore. The state department has sent orders to Commissioner of Immigration Fitchie to investigate this loophole and make recommendations. Commissioner Fitchie said that he had not yet prepared plans, but that some method would probably be devised whereby foreign seamen as well as other foreigners would be compelled to undergo inspection at the barge office before they were admitted to the country.

"Last year 10,200 British sailors were discharged at this port," he said, "and 2,500 British sailors deserted here. That makes 12,700 who were admitted to the country. Of these, 10,700 were re-shipped, so that there you have 2,000 foreign sailors unaccounted for, that came in here scot-free, whether they were paupers, criminals, diseased or what not. Article 1, Section 1, of the Immigration act of March 3, 1891, provides that 'all foreigners coming here shall be under the inspection of the bureau of immigration,' and there is no reason why there should be any discrimination in favor of sailors. Of foreign nationalities other than British, 4,000 sailors were discharged here last year, and doubtless many of these remained here."

WOMEN WORK WITH PICKS.

Excavate for Foundation of a Church Building in Kansas—Men Help Them Out.

A dozen women with picks and shovels for two days dug an excavation for the foundation of a church in the center of the village of Marmaton, just west of Fort Scott, Kan., and the third day the men of the town suspended business and went en masse to their assistance.

A United Brethren church was recently organized there by the women, who undertook to build a house of worship. They exhausted all their resources and had just enough money to buy the material. After debating for several weeks over their trouble they resolved to do the work themselves and Thursday they put on old dresses and went to the site with picks and shovels and worked in a cold north wind, throwing out dirt, only stopping to get dinners for their families.

When they arrived at the site the other morning they found a large company of men there ready to take the work off their hands. The men worked all day and the women prepared a free dinner for them.

GETS NO PART OF TREASURE.

Man Who Revealed the Hiding Place of Spanish Hoard Receives Nothing.

The transport City of Peking brings news from Manila that Harvey L. Jackson, a trader of Malolos, who succeeded in having \$400,000 of insurgent coin turned over to the United States, a beach comb in Manila, without funds to return to this country or start again in business. Jackson did well as a trader at Malolos till the war came. Then the insurgents looted his store and took him prisoner, dragging him around from place to place. When Lawton captured San Nicolas, Jackson escaped to the American lines and in revenge promised to reveal the hiding place of the Spanish commander's treasure. Under his guidance soldiers recovered \$400,000 in coin, but they found much more in coin and jewelry, which was divided among themselves. Several soldiers wore diamond rings and all had abundance of money. Jackson got nothing of the plunder and his part in the recovery of the treasure was never reported to headquarters.

TO REFORM PRUSSIAN SCHOOLS.

Emperor William Plans Changes in the Higher Schools of the Nation.

According to the Berlin Taegliche Rundschau, the German emperor is planning to reform the higher schools of Prussia according to the demands of modern practical life.

The Kaiser's experience with educational affairs has convinced him that too little regard is paid to the practical side. He therefore has again taken up his plans of reform, which he was unable to carry out formerly on account of the resistance he met from scholastic authorities.

Exchange for Women's Work.

New York is one city in which an exchange for women's work has succeeded. The annual report of the exchange for the last year shows that the weekly sales averaged \$1,600. The exchange covers many fields of effort and conducts a number of departments not undertaken by movements of this kind elsewhere, among them an advertising department, which issues an exchange catalogue.

Not So Odd.

As an evidence of the youth of this city, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, it is only necessary to mention that the first white child born in Chicago is still alive.

Shoe Trade with Mexico. According to the best statistics available, says the Mexican Herald, over \$300,000 worth of American shoes were sold in Mexico during 1899.

HORSE WITH HORSE SENSE.

The Intelligent Animal Learned How to Operate an Automatic Feeding Machine.

The manager of the Maine Provision and Cold Storage company, Mr. Vose, has a gray horse which knows as much as any animal in the city, says the Portland Press, not excepting the fire department horses, as his owner thinks. The company stables its horses on Fore street, and Mr. Vose's horse is also kept there. To do away with the necessity of hiring a man to go to the stable at four o'clock every morning to feed these horses an ingenious device was arranged which answered every purpose until the arrival of the gray horse. The device consisted of two alarm clocks which were set to go off at four o'clock. A heavy weight was so arranged that when the alarm started the weight would drop and pull a wire which opened the trap doors and the feed came tumbling into the mangers of the horses.

After the arrival of the gray horse it was noticed that all of the horses became very hungry long before noon each day. This could not be accounted for until some one stood watch to see what was the occasion for the state of affairs. The watcher soon learned. After the horses were fed at night and had eaten all that was given them, the gray horse reached up and, taking the wire in his mouth, pulled upon it. Down came into the mangers the feed that was intended to fall at four o'clock. Of course the horses proceeded to eat at once, and before noon were very hungry. A man now feeds the horses at four o'clock, and the gray horse pulls the wire in vain.

ABOUT FACIAL ANGLES.

The Average Height of Men and Women and Some Other Particulars.

As a rule the greatest facial angle belongs to those of a refined and intellectual nature; the average is about 85 degrees. In some of the African states it is as high as 100 degrees; but the Romans rarely represented it over 95 degrees. It was the Dutch connoisseur, Camper, says an exchange, who first used the term facial angle—that angle which is formed where a straight line is drawn from the middle of the forehead to the point of junction of the nose and lip, where it is met by another imaginary line crossing from the opening of the ear. To form an opinion as to one's intellectual capacity, their profile or facial angle must be studied.

The average height of a man of the Anglo-Saxon race is five feet six inches, and the average weight 160 pounds. Their weight is greatest at 45 years of age.

Early grayness without baldness is an indication of a long life.

Persons naturally thin are apt to live longer than those who are fat. This knowledge may be a source of satisfaction to those of a lean and hungry aspect, like Caspar.

The average height of women of the Anglo-Saxon race is five feet two inches, and the average weight 117 pounds. Their weight is greatest at 50 years of age.

MADE IN GERMANY.

This Account Says the World Sterling Had Its Origin Among Central-Siberian Silvermines.

Sterling is derived from the name by which the dwellers in eastern Germany were known in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries—they were called Esterlings. The purity, not only of their money was very famous, but that of their silver specially so, and coiners and silversmiths were fished from those parts to improve the quality of our own manufactures, says the London Telegraph.

So far back as 1597 two counterfeiters who sold spurious silver articles bearing a simulated royal lion and the goldsmith's marks, were sentenced to stand in a pillory at Westminster, with their ears nailed thereto, and with papers above their heads setting forth the nature of the offense for which they were so disgraced. After this degradation they were publicly marched to Champs-elysées, put in the pillory there and had each one ear cut off, finally being conducted back to the Fleet prison and having to pay a fine of ten marks each. It seems that in recent times the record price for Elizabethan silver was £70 lbs. per ounce. For old articles in this metal the sum usually obtainable ranges from £5 to £17 per ounce, according to the artistic workmanship displayed on them.

THE FIRST HOUSE.

Some Foreigners Call the Federal Barge Office the American Gateway.

Some time ago the dead letter office in Washington received a foreign letter addressed to the "First House in America." The chief clerk of the puzzle bureau sent the letter to the federal barge office of New York on the theory that this would be the first house entered by a foreign immigrant landing in America. His theory, says Collier's Weekly, proved correct; for, when the letter was opened, it was found to contain a communication in Russian informing the immigration commissioner of the impending arrival of some Polish Jewesses who expected to be met at the barge office by their relatives. "The first house in America" is not a bad description for the little gray stone building that stands at the tip end of New York, surmounted by a turret and flag-staff flying a faded specimen of old glory above the vertical stripes and stars of the customhouse. This is where all immigrants admitted to New York first set foot on dry land.

WORK OF BOER HUNTERS.

Some of Their Efforts Have Been Creditable, Some the Reverse.

When the Boers migrated from Cape Colony to the Transvaal they were forced to clear the way by killing 6,000 lions. For years the South African Boers have been hunters, and their skill with the knife is due to this daily practice in the fields and woods. But with them the killing of game has been either a matter of dollars and cents or self-protection. Their creditable work of freeing South Africa of the dreaded lion, which roamed in such numbers that it was rendered unsafe anywhere in the country, is offset by their ruthless destruction of the giraffe from Cape Colony to the Hotelli river. They may have killed 60,000 of the innocent, graceful giraffe, says an exchange.

In the early days of South African history the giraffe was the most abundant game in the Transvaal, Matabeleland and the Orange Free State, but the creature has been killed off like our American buffalo, and the few remaining representatives of a noble race gradually driven north. For years past the giraffe has been a profitable quarry for the Boer hunters, and the animal was valued by them only because the hides were articles of commercial use. They were not hunted, shot down in droves, and destroyed in the greatest number possible in every direction. A good giraffe skin is worth from \$100 to \$200 in South Africa to-day, and much more in Europe.

ON "ONE RUN" FOR 45 YEARS.

The Remarkable Record of an Engineer Who Has Never Hurt a Passenger.

It takes an all-around man to be a good locomotive engineer. No calling or profession requires a clearer brain, a stouter heart and a steadier nerve, says Leslie's Weekly. That Mr. William H. Gordon, of East Milstone, N. J., possesses these qualities in an eminent degree is evident from the fact that he has been in continuous and uninterrupted service as a railroad engineer for 45 years.

More remarkable still is the fact that 47 of these years have been spent in what is known in railway parlance as "one run," that between Jersey City and East Milstone. Mr. Gordon began his railway life in May, 1859, as a fireman on the Camden and Amboy road. A year later he became the engineer of the famous "Johnny Bull" on this line, where he remained until 1867. In 1867 he came to his present post of duty, and has been there ever since.

In all these years he has never had a serious accident and has never hurt a passenger. Mr. Gordon recently celebrated his 75th birthday, when he received the greetings of many friends and well-wishers. Except when he reads very fine print he is not obliged to wear glasses, and his hand at the throttle is as firm and steady as ever.

TOOL MAKING.

According to This Authority the Limit Has Never Been Reached in Any Particular Case.

If the human race continues to exist and to advance in means, comfort and elegance of living, tool making must begin to be carried to what now appears to be a high development, says Engineering Magazine. What is the limit of the toolmaker's art, and when and where should or must tool making stop?

Commercially speaking, it must stop in any particular case when more tool making cannot discharge the total time cost of production; if the demand for the product is unlimited, then the only limitation in tool making is the limit of human understanding and mechanical resources.

Broadly speaking, it is conceivable that in some special production, tool making may be carried to a point where no further profitable advantage can be made, and it is also conceivable that there may be things useful and desirable to the few, which cannot be improved of quality and lowering of cost be made useful and desirable to the many. Speaking narrowly, it seems probable that the limit of tool making has never been reached in any particular case.

QUEER INSCRIPTIONS.

Mottos on Old Sword Blades Show the Sentimentality of the Fighters.

Rough as the fighters of old were, the inscriptions which they put on their swords often showed not only considerable poetic instinct, but sentimentality. "Faithful in adversity" is such a sentence engraved on an old sword of the seventeenth century. In a collection of blades of the sixteenth century are these inscriptions: "I quarrel," "God gives me speed, that my foe be beat indeed," "With this defense and God's will, all my enemies I shall slay," "In battle I will let myself be used," "When I my sword uplift in strife, God give the sinner eternal life," "Trust in God, bravely war, therein your fame and honor are," "Your aim alone be God's great name," "Every soldier fine, look on this sign, and use his hand for God and the land."

On blades from the eighteenth century are these inscriptions: "Nothing better in the world than hast than to hold love and friendship fast," "I serve," "A good blade I—who would deny—let him meet me and I will hold—it will cost him or blood or gold."

Automobile Fuel.

Americans prefer electricity for running automobiles, the French petroleum and the Russians wood alcohol, costing in that country eight cents a gallon.

THE FALSE GUIDE.

Gen. Gatacre Shot Him Through the Body Before He Could Escape.

A letter from a corporal in the Second Northumberland footloosers gives some graphic details in regard to the disaster at Stormberg, says the New York Post. He says:

"On the night of the 9th our regiment, the royal Irish rifles, two batteries of artillery and the mounted infantry proceeded from Pieters kraal to Moltene, a distance of ten miles. When we arrived it was about nine o'clock, and then we all formed up and Gen. Gatacre informed us that he was going to do a night attack on the Boers' position at Stormberg, and that there was to be no firing and no shouting, and to use the laynet only. We started off at ten o'clock to march 12 miles to Stormberg, where we hoped to arrive about two o'clock in the morning. We kept marching all night, but never got there. It was broad daylight when we were at the foot of some high, inaccessible rocks, when the guide we had turned to the general and, pointing to the top of the rocks, said: 'There is your position and there is your enemy,' and immediately started to gallop off. But I suppose he had got two years' term. Gatacre shot him twice through the body, saying: 'Man, you have done me, but you are the first to go.' Those are the exact words that were said, because we were told by the general's orderly."

"When the general saw how we were trapped he cried like a child, and said: 'Oh, my poor boys, what have I done?'—so the general's old-deckamp took an officer."

A DUTCH LIE LETTER.

Novel Means of Avoiding Consequences of Circulating Slandorous Statements.

There was a return to an ancient Dutch custom in the common pleas court at Lancaster, Pa., the other day, when the suit of Abraham A. De Haven against Moses Weller to recover damages for slander, was called for trial. Weller says the Philadelphia North American, on short further proceedings in court and possibly said: "I limit the payment of heavy damages by agreeing to publish a 'lie letter' in which he retracts all of his statements derogatory to the character of De Haven; and such policy has the 'lie letter' that bearing certain circumstances which have got to be gone through with in connection with this peculiar settlement out of court, the public will hear no more of the case. These particulars consist of the circulation of the 'lie letter' among De Haven's friends, the posting of it in all public walks in those localities where the friends of De Haven gather most, and the reading aloud of the letter by Weller at the next public gathering in the neighborhood.

These 'lie letters' were formerly much more resorted to for the settlement of lawsuits in this section of the state than now. They are still in high favor in South Africa, the lawyers of the Transvaal frequently containing these quaintly worded apologies of the burghers for wrongs by way of mouth which they have done their fellow countrymen.

THEY ALL PLAY THE GUITAR.

The Portuguese Are Always Accomplished Manipulators of the Strings.

In Portugal men play upon the guitar as naturally as Yankees whistle. The peasants are unhesitatingly given to the instrument, clearly an accomplishment to the voice. In towns and villages the artisans are often expert guitar players and walk in groups to and from their work, envying the journey with music and song. The carpenter who comes to your house to execute a small job brings his guitar with his tools, and the blacksmith is a far better performer on the guitar than the anvil.

When Portuguese day laborer or workman has finished his long day's toil he does not lie in to a wife's shop to squander the few cents he has earned; he does not even lean against a post and smoke, nor whistle a stich while swapping yarns with his fellows. If he did not bring his guitar with him he goes straight home and gets it, rests and comforts himself with the music while supper is being prepared. Afterward he spends the evening singing doggerel songs to a strumming accompaniment, tilted back in a chair against his own house wall or on the doorstep of a neighbor.

A Valuable Book.

A very valuable book is a Hebrew Bible in the Vatican. In 1522 the Hebrews tried to buy it of Pope Julius II. on its weight in gold. It is so large and heavy that two men can hardly lift it and it would have brought \$1,000,000.

Has Its Advantages.

Open Victoria always has her new shoes worn a few times by one of her maids. After all, there is some advantage, thinks the Chicago Times-Herald, in being a monarch, even in England.

Starring Kentucky Again.

A Jersey justice of the peace sneered so hard he paralyzed himself, and the New York Press, commenting on this, says that even a smile will do it effectively for some men.

Hydrant Waterworks.

In Dawson City the waterworks company supplies each customer with a little house, heated by a stove, over each hydrant, and charges one dollar a week for the service.

A Mark.

A San Francisco widow has just come into possession of a \$7,000,000 estate. If she keeps on being a widow, the Chicago Times-Herald thinks it will not be by accident.