

A LEGAL PROBLEM

Difficulties of Brooklyn Widow, Who Desires to Adopt Intended Husband of Dead Daughter.

Mrs. Mary Augustus Mott, a Brooklyn widow, with a fortune of \$500,000, has petitioned the supreme court to legally sanction her adoption of Charles H. Crane.

A romance lies behind the legal proceedings. Mr. Crane was engaged to marry Mrs. Mott's only daughter.

After her daughter's death Mrs. Mott urged Mr. Crane to make her home his home, and he has lived at her house.

BABY BAPTIZED WITH BEER.

A Wisconsin Man and Father Advocates a Novel Preventive of Intemperance.

Baptism with beer as a preventive of intemperance is advocated in a curious document on file in the office of the registrar of deeds in Manitowoc, Wis.

In accordance with the laws of the state of Wisconsin, and upon a request of the midwife, Mrs. M., I make the following statement:

On the 21st day of July, 9 o'clock p. m., in the year of our Lord, 1885, my wife, Victoria, born ..., has, under the assistance of said Mrs. M., a male child born, whose weight was about the same as what the weight of a full-grown old country hair is.

TO BUILD TOKIO TRAMWAY.

Band of Fifty American Laborers and Mechanics to Lay Tracks for Surface Road in Japanese City.

New Yorkers who visit Japan a few weeks from now will see a familiar sight—a band of 50 American laborers and mechanics ripping up the principal streets of Tokio and laying tracks for a surface road.

The Tokio Tramway company has contracted for this much already, the amount involved being \$40,000.

The cars are to be completed in eight months' time. At the company's shops in Providence 2,000 men have been set to work on the contract.

FOR HEALTH OF PEOPLE

King Oscar Orders Von Post's Prize Pamphlet on Tuberculosis Circulated in Factories.

R. A. von Post's prize pamphlet on the prevention and cure of tuberculosis, of which 200,000 copies have already been distributed by the Swedish government to school boards, district officials, physicians, etc.

It is estimated that the population of Italy includes about 50,000 Hebrews.

DISCOVERS A NEW PROCESS

A Swiss Scientist Produces Oxygen from the Air by a Secret Method of His Own Invention.

At a dinner given by Henry B. McDowell at the Players' Club, New York, to Raoul Pictet, a Swiss scientist, oxygen was produced from air by a secret process, used for the first time in this country.

M. Pictet asserts that with a 500-horse power plant he can produce daily 500,000 cubic feet of oxygen, 1,000,000 cubic feet of nitrogen and 1,600,000 cubic feet of carbonic acid gas.

GIFT FROM ELLEN TERRY.

Presents Bas-Relief of Herself to the Section for the Blind in the Library of Congress.

Miss Ellen Terry has sent to Miss Griffin, librarian for the blind in the library of congress, a beautiful bas-relief of herself cut in Parisian marble from one of her most famous portraits.

This tribute will be better understood when it is known she visited the pavilion where the blind read and play, and where an entertainment is given by the philanthropic women and men of the city every afternoon.

Miss Terry was so touched by their emotion she sent word to have them brought behind the scenes to talk with her and Sir Henry Irving.

DEATHS EXCEED BIRTHS.

During the Last Ten Years Cuba Had 40,509 Births and 101,932 Deaths.

Maj. John G. Davis, surgeon of United States volunteers and chief sanitary officer of Havana, Cuba, has forwarded to the war department some statistics in regard to births, deaths, marriages and immigration.

Of the 40,509 births during the ten years covered by the report 34,498 were whites, 2,248 negroes and 3,763 mulattoes.

AFRAID OF A CAMERA.

Senator Cockrell, of Missouri, Runs Away When the Attempt is Made to Take His Picture.

Senator Cockrell, of Missouri, who is not the handsomest man in the world, and who is the counterpart of a backwoods farmer, has a natural aversion for a camera.

WED BY DEAD MAN'S VOICE.

The Marriage Service Was Recited in a Photograph by the Bride's Father.

Although the father of Miss Edith L. Smith, of New York, who was married at Binghamton, N. Y., the other day to Frank T. Mercereau, his voice had been dead for several weeks.

An Expensive Habit. The English fashion of hyphenating aristocratic names increases the cable tolls on war messages almost as much as the other fashion of including the aristocratic titles, while, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, neither fashion adds materially to the interest or importance of the news.

AN OBLIGING LANDLORD.

An Alabama Boniface Keeps Ferrets to Clear Out the Rats When They Annoy Guests.

"Recently I had an experience with rats that I will not soon forget," said D. B. Purks, of Fredericksburg, Pa.

"It happened in this way: I was traveling through Alabama, and landed in a small town, worn out after a day's overland travel in a broken-down buggy, and sought the only tavern the town boasted.

"As soon as I collected myself after the execution I hastened out of the room, and made myself as comfortable as possible in a chair, waiting for day to break, that I could shake the town.

SHARPSHOOTERS' MARKS.

How the Philippine Insurgents Found the Range by Certain Objects in the Field.

The killing of Gen. Lawton by the bullet of some unknown Filipino sharpshooter recalls an interesting little story which was told in the corridor of the Grunewald by one of the officers of the Tennessee regiment when it passed through the city recently on its way home from service in the far east.

"In the first advance which we made north of Manila," he said, "we discovered that the native sharpshooters were exceedingly fond of locating range-marks on ground they thought would be apt to traverse.

A very similar story was told by soldiers who participated in the fighting before Santiago. They say that almost every Spanish rifleman hidden away in a tree-top had a scale of distances carefully noted by marks at various points.

The train was three hours late at its destination. The storm was at its height. The street cars had stopped. Cabs were three dollars apiece.—N. Y. Sun.

BIBLES FOR PACKING.

Bibles are often made use of in the gold-leaf trade; the gold-leaf being packed in books made of paper leaves cut from the Bible.

HOODOOS ON RAILWAY TRAIN.

A Whistling Passenger and the One with "Ear Heaters" Brought on a Severe Storm.

The conductor of a railway train that pulled out from Jersey City was taking up tickets. One of his passengers was whistling as he hauled out his ticket.

"I am not superstitious," was the reply, "but I am afraid if that fellow doesn't stop whistling we shall run into a blizzard, or off the track, or have a collision."

"Why don't you ask him a question and punch his ticket while he is answering?"

"What would do no good. He must not have his lips puckered when I take the ticket. Besides, I don't know what to ask him without appearing impertinent. I can't think of anything to ask."

"I can't say how general it is, but I have had it many years, and I know others who think the same. A locomotive engineer doesn't like to have anybody whistle in his pilot."

"But you will have to take up that ticket before he leaves the car?"

"Certainly. But he may stop whistling. If he doesn't I shall have to take it up just the same, but the damage will be done then."

"Why, the hoodoo will be running the train by that time. I know what I am talking about."

"Philadelphia; all out for Philadelphia!" shouted the porter.

"Give me that ticket, quick!" cut in the conductor, "so that I can fix it, or it won't be good for a stopover."

"It might have been all right," he explained to the bald-headed passenger, "but a man got on at Wilmington who wore ear muffs, and I knew then we were in for it.

Arranging Table for Formal Dinner. The plates, which should be placed at even distances apart, usually 2 1/2 feet, should be as handsome as one can afford, and the silver is arranged with two dinner-forks, a fish and an oyster fork at the left of each plate.

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A Healthy Locality. To all appearance Ardnamurchan, on the west coast of Scotland, is a great place for longevity.

Would Not Say So Much. If some people would tell what they know instead of what they believe they wouldn't have so much to say.—Chicago Daily News.

MUTILATED BILLS.

The Treasury Never Redeems Them When They Have Been Purposely Injured.

I am told at the treasury department that it is not possible for a person to defraud the government by what they call "piercing"—that is, by clipping off small slices of several bank notes and fitting them together to resemble a complete note.

"Raising" money, as it is called, is done with great accuracy. To make a ten-dollar bill, a two-dollar bill containing the head of McPherson is usually chosen because of the close resemblance.

The treasury officials have been endeavoring to reduce the number of designs on our paper money so that people might become more accustomed to them, for those who are unaccustomed to handling money are the more easily defrauded by "raised" bills.

The government loses nothing by these fraudulent practices because they are always detected when the bills are sent in for redemption, and defective money is returned to the bank or the merchant from which it came.

A woman in New England placed 48 in bank bills in the oven of the kitchen stove in order to hide it from her husband.

ONE CONUNDRUM. That Was All the Club Was Able to Handle Before It Succumbed to the Inevitable.

They had started a conundrum club, and everyone was expected to come prepared with a number of good ones.

"I've got one," Anderson said.

"What is it?" queried the rest.

"When is an apple pie?" He stopped, and every one looked at him, but said nothing.

"Well," asked a man across the room, "go on. What did you stop there for?"

"Go on? Where? What for?" he asked.

"Why, go on with your conundrum. When is an apple pie what?"

"That's what I said," he replied.

"Well, we know; but what is the conundrum?"

"When is an apple pie?" "There isn't any sense in that," but in another fellow. "What's the rest of it?"

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Nearly all of the ice consumed in Great Britain comes from Norway.

In Belgium penalties are imposed on persons who have the right to vote, but do not avail themselves of it.

Mexicans are not noted for their cleanliness, yet nearly every town in Mexico has a public bathhouse.

Between Madagascar and the coast of India there are about 16,000 islands, only 600 of which are inhabited, but most of which are capable of supporting a population.

An elephant in the Paris zoo had the toothache so much that he became melancholy, and a surgeon found one of his teeth so far gone it had to be either filled or pulled.

According to recent treasury bulletins the revenue from the sale of postage stamps, stamped envelopes and postal cards in the United States during the quarter ending January 1, 1920, was \$24,300,000, indicating a revenue for the whole fiscal year of nearly \$100,000,000.

Unlike the practice in most other countries, the postal business of the United States is operated not as a means of profit-making, but as a public convenience, and the custom of the government is, whenever, as sometimes happens, the postal revenues exceed the expenditures, to make a reduction in the postal charges or an increase in the number of deliveries or an enlargement of the districts served by carriers in order that the post office should be, as nearly as practicable, about self-supporting, with, perhaps, a small loss on the government side.

The means of communication are more generally uniform, that the number of newspapers distributed by the English post office is materially less than the number in the United States, and that letter postage is the most profitable branch of the business.

England is not, however, the only country in which there is a large profit in the postal business. France makes in a year from this source of public revenue \$10,000,000 and Germany \$8,000,000.

She was talking to her husband over the long-distance line. He was in Duluth working. She and the little daughter were in St. Paul visiting.

Something hubby said must have been exasperating, for the wife exclaimed, with emphasis: "I wish I had you where I could get hold of you."

"Why don't you reach your hand in, mamma?" exclaimed Eleanor, who was having her first observation of the long-distance variety of speaking device.—St. Paul Globe.