

NEW PACIFIC CABLE.

Contract Let to English Company for Laying of First Section.

Official of Commercial Cable Company Explains Why Work Was Not Given to an American Concern - Not Equipped for Service.

Mr. George G. Ward, first vice president of the Commercial Cable company, said in an interview when asked why the contract for a Pacific cable had not been awarded to an American company: "The Commercial Pacific Cable company would have been very happy to have given an American company its contract, but there is no company in the United States that could, we felt, perform the work. They have not the machinery, and we could not afford to have the work of laying the cable take the form of an experiment. The Silverton company has been established for over 40 years, and has laid most of the deep ocean cables throughout the world, so that it understands perfectly just how the work should be accomplished.

"The company has assured us that they will complete the cable and have it here in seven months. Just as soon as this section, extending to the Sandwich islands, is complete and out of the way, we shall commence work on another section that will connect the Hawaiian islands with the Philippines. Our station there will probably be on the island of Laysan and near or in Manila. We have not decided on that point yet, nor have we fixed our schedule of rates, but I may say, in speaking of rates, that we shall reduce them to a reasonable figure. We expect to have the work completed in about two or three years. The estimated cost of the undertaking is about \$15,000,000, but we have capitalized our company at only \$3,000,000, because we prefer to increase our capitalization as we proceed rather than use such a large figure at the beginning.

Mr. Ward said it was expected that the new cable would allow of the transmission of messages in nearly four hours' less time than required at present.

MOURNED SON RETURNS HOME

Curious Little Romance of the South African War Just Enacted in England.

A little romance, and certainly a curious little war story, is told this week by the London Pelican. It began with excitement, became pathetic, ended happily; indeed, became quite a comedy, if not a farce, at the finish. Moreover, it possesses the merit of being absolutely true.

A gentleman farmer of Leicestershire had a son who joined the yeomanry and went to South Africa. One day in an illustrated weekly paper they saw an enlarged photograph depicting the assembling of the yeomanry after a minor engagement near Pretoria. The photograph also showed a number of dead and wounded lying on the ground. Among them was the son. The agitated man cabled to South Africa, and received a reply telling of his son's death. The family went into mourning, and a table commemorative of the dead man was put in the parish church.

Some weeks later there came a ring of the bell at the parental mansion, and who should walk in but the supposed dead man. It appeared that there were two men in the same company of the same name, and what was still more curious, although they were complete strangers, they were of very similar appearance. Both had been wounded, but while one had recovered one had died.

FIND MAN OF STONE AGE.

Gigantic Prehistoric Skeleton Discovered by Hunters Near Skobola Glen, N. Y.

Hunters from Susquehanna, Pa., while excavating for a hunt near Skobola's glen, N. Y., discovered a cave in which they found the skeleton of a man of gigantic size. It was washed in rawhide trappings that kept it in a sitting posture, the knees drawn up to the head and clasped in a bony embrace with fleshless arms.

Near the skeleton were several bowls of reddish clay, but almost as hard as flint. A rude stone tablet was found near the skeleton's side covered with rude pictures of birds and beasts, among them one of a monster half beast, half reptile.

A number of implements were also found in the cave, among them a huge axe made of stone and stone spear heads of unusual size.

Find Old Washington Picture.

In the walls of an old house built 120 years ago at Big Island, two miles from Goshen, N. Y., James H. Vail, of New Milford found, a few days since, a copper plate, 4 1/2 by seven inches, of "G. Washington." It was published by I. Reid, New York, 1796. The imprint of the artist is Holliston Schuppi. The plate was apparently one of the finest of that day, showing fine stipple and line work. It had undoubtedly been hidden for over 100 years, and had become decayed by being carelessly handled. Clinton W. Winger, of Warwick, purchased the plate. He will have the bronzes taken out of it and some prints made.

Buffalo Paying Up.

The people of Buffalo seem to be determined to pay the bill rather than have any further talk about it, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, and it speaks volumes for the people of Buffalo that they are able to pay it, although the Pan-American failed to pay.

WIT AND WISDOM.

When a girl treats another girl the beneficiary always makes profuse apologies.—Washington (Ia.) Democrat.

A man never really knows the value of a dollar unless he is followed by a persistent collector.—Chicago Daily News.

"Mr. Stinson—"They tell me Neighbor Harris' cat is dead." Mrs. Stinson—"Oh, I'm so sorry! It used to take up Fido's time so pleasantly barking at her!"—Boston Transcript.

Encouraging.—He—"My train goes in 15 minutes. Can you not give me one ray of hope before I leave you for ever?" She—"Er—that clock is half an hour fast."—Brooklyn Life.

Information Wanted.—Miss Rural—"And were you never in the country during the season for husking bees, Mr. Sappy?" Sappy—"No. The idea! How do you husk a bee, anyway?"—Philadelphia Press.

Speaking of moral courage: An Acheson woman cleaned the entire house, baked all the cakes, sent out 50 invitations and bought the prizes, and didn't tell her husband there was to be a party until the door bell rang.—Acheson Globe.

Where He Was Lacking.—"I think papa is just as mean as he can be," asserted the little one with indignation. "Why?" asked her mother, in surprise. "Oh, he never can tell anything about the changes in the weather," was the reply. "Why doesn't he get the rheumatism, like Lucy Miller's father?"—Chicago Post.

SOME QUEER UNIFORMS.

Uncle Sam's Soldiers in the Far North Wear the Strangest Kind of Clothing.

Col. Patten says that the military occupation of Alaska presented a new problem as to the particular clothing needed to comfortably protect the men in garrison or on the trail from the rigors of that trying climate. The fur and other heavy clothing furnished troops at the most northern posts in the states being manifestly inadequate for the purpose, a supply list of extra heavy clothing was made up for Alaskan service. The cost of this extra supply per man was about \$20, and the secretary of war authorized that amount to be added to the clothing allowance of enlisted men serving in Alaska, reports the Washington Star. Based upon experience, it has been found advisable to eliminate from future issues for Alaska Mackinaw overcoats, shoes and boot packs, felt boots, wild-cat caps and awateers. Mackinaw clothing not having proved entirely satisfactory, especially in severe weather, a double-breasted canvas, blanket-lined peajacket, blue in color, with trousers of the same canvas, but having a lighter weight blanket lining, has been devised as more fully meeting the requirements of the country and will, it is believed, eventually supersede all the Mackinaw garments. A muskrat cap of improved pattern forms part of the clothing shipped to Alaska this year. The earflaps in front are extended to cover the cheek bones, a small detachable fur strap serves to protect the bridge and end of the nose from freezing, while the lower corners of the flap lap over and fasten by means of a snap fastener so as to cover the chin.

For field or trail purposes a garment called a parka, made of blue denim, having a hood trimmed with wolfskin and a lining at the cuff of the same kind of fur, has been specially manufactured and furnished to meet an existing need not filled by the outer garments heretofore supplied. The muskrat mittens heretofore to be furnished troops in Alaska will have the lining sewed in only at the cuffs so as to enable the wearer to pull it out and dry it when damp from perspiration, which frequently happens. The regulation heavy woolen underwear worn by troops in the states being found from experience to be too light for proper protection in Alaska, heavy fleece-lined garments have been specially prepared to afford a greater amount of warmth during the severest portion of the year. Owing to the scarcity of transportation facilities and the difficulty of communication with the posts in Alaska, it has been deemed advisable to keep at least one year's clothing supplies ahead of requirements. In addition a reserve depot has been established at Fort St. Michaels, well stocked with all articles of clothing, equipment and materials essential to the climate, which can be drawn upon at any time much more expeditiously than by requisitions to the United States. By this means the troops stationed in Alaska have been enabled to continue to be adequately furnished with necessary clothing supplies.

Prep's History. The shortest history on record, probably, has been written by Senator Charles Eberhans, a Peruvian. It is only 10 words in length. Following is the English translation: "The Asiatic origin of the primitive Peruvians admitted, their rudimentary civilization dated with the appearance of Manco Capac, founder of the Inca empire. His successors, continuing his policy, constituted that vast theocratic and communistic monarchy which astonished the world. Conquered by Pizarro (1532), it became a Spanish colony, whose 16 Georges kept it in medieval darkness, and whose heavy yoke provoked the independence proclaimed by San Martin (1821), commended by Bolivar and Sucre at Junin and Ayacucho. The republic established, anarchic supervised, presidents rapidly succeeded, until the disastrous war with Chile, which, chastening minds, has prepared the future."—Detroit Free Press.

NATURE KIND TO THE FISHES.

Injured Fins Are Quickly Repaired But Those Entirely Gone Are Not Restored.

What nature can do for fishes in the way of repairing injuries is shown in the case of a carp now in the New York aquarium, whither it was brought two years ago from the lake in Prospect park, says the New York Sun.

This carp, which is 16 or 17 inches long, was placed when first received in a tank on the gallery tier on the fresh water side of the aquarium, in company with some smaller fishes. It didn't like the tank or the company and soon after being placed in it the carp jumped out.

Over this tank, as over all the others along the tier, is a heavy wire screen, put there to keep the fishes in and keep rats out. Jumping up against the screen the carp pushed it aside and it had gone all but clear out of the tank when the screen dropped down again and nipped the carp's tail between it and the iron-bound edge of the tank.

The carp finished its trip to the platform, four feet below the top of the tank, upon which it landed minus a square inch of its tail, torn off when the screen dropped on it.

The carp's tail is about three inches in length. The missing piece, comprising about one-third of the area of the upper lobe, was torn out of the upper extremity, making in that upper end of the fish's tail a deep, right-angled notch.

It has now been restored so nearly to its original proportions that no one not acquainted with the facts would ever suspect that it had been curtailed at all. The rays, or slender spines, that, like the stocks of a fan in it, form the framework or skeleton of the tail, and the web or membrane between them, have slowly grown out again, gradually filling up this gap in the fish's tail and keeping on growing until now that upper lobe is back into practically its original proportions.

This reproduction of the solid piece lost out of the carp's tail seems wonderful, but nature, as is here shown, is in fact in many ways beneficent to fishes. Not infrequently there are received at the aquarium fishes whose fins have been split, the weakfish being perhaps particularly susceptible to such injury.

A weakfish comes in, for instance, with the web or membrane of its tail fin torn away from some one of the rays to which it is attached; as the body of a fan might be torn away from some one of the sticks.

Commonly with the lapse of time this injury is repaired here. The web and the ray grow together again, beginning at the inner end of the rest, the healing and joining extending outward toward the extremity.

Little trout, two or three inches in length, have been received with the dorsal almost destroyed by fungus, the fin so nearly gone that it seemed at first glance to have gone entirely and as though the fish must get through life without a dorsal fin.

But in time these trout have come out of it with dorsal in full feather so to speak. Salt water baths have killed the fungus and kind nature has done the rest.

And so it might appear that when a fish lost a fin nature would give it another, but it will not do that. It will restore a fin partly lost, though commonly not in as perfect a form as the original; but it does not repair an injury that extends beyond where the rays join, nor will it, any more than it will restore lost scales, reproduce a fin that has been lost entirely.

ONE PASSENGER TOO MANY.

A Green Conductor's Unique Way of Making His Register Tally.

A good story is going the rounds of the offices of the Metropolitan Street Railway company up in the big building at Broadway and Houston street concerning the wonderful presence of mind displayed recently by a new conductor on one of the company's trolley cars, says the New York Times. The particular car was bowling along up Broadway recently when it was hailed and boarded by a company inspector.

The official hurriedly counted the passengers in the car and found that there were nine. Then he cast his eye up to the register and found that there had been only eight fares rung up. He disclosed his identity to the new conductor and called attention to the discrepancy.

Slowly and painfully the new hand counted over his passengers and then scanned his register.

"Begorra, an' you're right, sir," he said, and promptly stopped the car. "Say," he demanded, addressing the passengers in an authoritative manner, "wan of youse fellows'll have to git off the car."

Poor Chumpiegh.

"Why, pa, this is roast beef!" exclaimed little Willie at dinner on the evening when Mr. Chumpiegh was present as the guest of honor.

"Of course," said the father. "What of that?"

"Why, you told me this morning that you were going to bring a 'mutt-head' home for dinner this evening."—Philadelphia Press.

Not a Miracle, Either.

Larry Was Not Ever anything but a wonderful man, he came going to the eye as he needed?

Denny Yis. O'Ver came me two hundred-pound old woman go to no vest-pocket, Bedad. —Chicago Daily News.

ITALY IN THE LEAD.

Sends More Immigrants to America Than Other Lands.

Commissioner General Powderly Recommends Law for Distribution of Feeless Aliens—Must Worth Taking.

The annual report of Commissioner General Powderly, of the immigration bureau, shows the total steerage arrivals in the United States during the year to have been 487,918, an increase over the preceding year of 39,346, or approximately nine per cent. Of this increase, 2,650 came through Canadian ports, and the remainder through ports of this country. There were also 74,930 other alien passengers who came in the cabin, making a total for the year of 562,848.

The ratio of increase of Italian immigration as compared with those from the same country last year, is approximately 36 per cent, or more than threefold the ratio of increase from all Europe. The increase numerically from all other countries of Europe aggregate scarcely one-fourth of that of Italy.

The total steerage immigration was distributed, as to sex, between 241,035 males and 126,863 females; as to age, between 252,562 under 14 years, 326,516 from 14 to 45 years, and 28,840 of 45 years and over.

It is shown that 117,347 were unable to read or write, 4,058 could read, but not write; that 294,560 brought each less than \$30 and that 56,312 had more than \$30 apiece.

During the year 363 were returned to their respective countries, having become public charges within one year after landing.

The number refused a landing was 2,516, as against 4,246 for last year.

It is shown that the character of immigration was decidedly superior to that of last year, the rejections being 720 less, although the arrivals were 59,346 more. The principal countries from which the steerage arrivals for the year came are given as follows: Italy, Sicily and Sardinia, 135,996; Austria-Hungary, 113,390; Russian empire and Finland, 85,257; Ireland, 20,561; Sweden, 23,331; German empire, 21,621; Norway, 12,248; England, 12,214.

The larger number of immigrants, it is shown, were destined to the states of Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The bureau reiterates the view expressed in its last annual report as to the necessity of amending the laws in relation to punishment of persons who induce aliens to come to the United States to engage in labor or service of any kind.

In discussing the general subject of immigration, the commissioner general says, in part:

"To deal with the problem successfully it seems indispensable to remove as far as possible those conditions which conflict with the incorporation of the alien element into the social system of the country, so that by actual experience the former may learn as soon as possible that the basis and foundation of the American policy is respect and affection for a willing obedience to the laws and customs of the land, because the maintenance of those laws is the best safeguard of individual liberty. It is, therefore, recommended that congress enact suitable legislation either with, or, if necessary, without the cooperation of the state, for the purpose of distributing the alien population with some reference to the industrial law of supply and demand."

PIG-KILLING SHOCKS NERVES.

Colorado Woman Visits Chicago Stock Yards and is Now in State of Nervous Hysteria.

A peculiar case of nervous hysteria is being treated at the Chicago police clinic under the supervision of Dr. Hugh T. Patrick. The patient is Mrs. Maria Becker, who, with her husband, came to Chicago from Colorado a week ago on a visit. Last Monday afternoon they visited the stockyards and were escorted through one of the packing houses, where they watched the cattle being slaughtered. Mrs. Becker seemed to be horrified at the sight, but they passed on to where the pigs were being killed. As soon as they reached this place she collapsed, crying and screaming in her husband's arms.

She was at once brought to the city in a cab and Dr. Hemmott and Patrick were called in. They advised her immediate removal to the Policlinic. The case is a unique one, and the conditions brought about by the shock to the woman's nerves are said to have so far baffled the skill of the physicians.

Morgan's Daughter a Banker.

J. Pierpont Morgan's daughter, Mrs. Herbert Satterlee, is in the banking business. The enterprise with which she is connected is the penny provident fund. In her report, issued recently, Mrs. Satterlee says: "The penny provident fund continues to prosper. Quite a number of the girls have used it as a means of saving a sufficient sum to start a deposit in a savings bank, and I am encouraged when I see how many of them are learning the value of this practical proof of the fact that if one takes care of the pennies the dollars will take care of themselves. The deposits from April 1, 1900, to April 1, 1901, amount to \$136."

Fast Time on French Road.

An American-made locomotive, No. 2,029, on the Paris, Lyons & Mediterranean line, drawing 14 cars, a total of 181 tons, ran at the rate of 80 miles per hour the other day, breaking all records.

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

The pope has taken the name and works of Galileo from the Index Expurgatorius.

Preparations are already being made in Germany for the celebration of the centenary of Schiller's death in 1905.

Dr. Abraham Kayser, the present prime minister of Holland, is the first cleric who has ever held that position.

Julius Verne, who has now begun his ninety-ninth book, has lived to see many of his fantastical tales of adventure by land and sea and air come within the bounds of possibility.

Max Quarek, editor of the Frankfort Volksstimme, was sentenced recently to three weeks' imprisonment for libeling the German soldiers who were in China by the publication of a letter headed "German Heasts."

John Riley, an engineer on the Pittsburgh division of the Pennsylvania railroad, has received a check for \$500 and a gold watch, valued at \$1,000, from officers of the company for signal bravery in stopping a runaway train last spring.

Dr. R. S. Linn, of Detroit, who went to China as a surgeon in the volunteer army, has sent home several cases of booted goods. Among other things is a sacred yellow robe which Dr. Linn thinks is possibly the only one sent to America. He took it from the shoulders of a god in the sacred temple of Peking.

For the first time on record the Vienna university has elected as its rector for the year a teacher of English language and literature—namely, Hofrath Prof. Jakob Schipper. The new rector's inaugural address was largely devoted to a comparison between ancient and modern culture, and he came to the conclusion that the 19th's share in the achievements of modern culture belongs to the Anglo-Saxon race. The English language being now spoken by 129,000,000 people, he urged that English and German or French should take the place of Latin and Greek in education, except for special purposes.

STANDS IN TWO COUNTRIES.

Post Office Building That is Located on Vermont and Canadian Soil.

The most curious post office in America is the one which stands in Berbe Plain, a town half in Vermont and half in the province of Quebec, Can., says the New York Herald.

The old post office was built about 75 years ago exactly on the line between the United States and Canada, so that it stands in two countries and serves in the postal service of two nations.

The cellar of the building connects the two countries, and some years ago, when the post office was a general store, whisky was known to be sold in one country and delivered in another without ever having gone out from under the roof of the old structure.

This combination post office is now being run by parent and child, the father being postmaster for Canadian Quebec, and the daughter postmistress for Vermont.

Standing in front of this strange post office is a large post which marks the boundary line, and it is said that one time a man who wanted to get a roadway to his premises moved this post, and many thousands of dollars and no little time were spent to establish the exact line again.

Until a short time ago a very peculiar post office was situated in Argyshire, England. It was situated in the lonely hills between Drimmin and Barr, three miles from any habitation, and consisted of a simple slit in a rock, closed up by a nicely-fitting stone.

When any letters arrived at Drimmin for the district of Barr they were conveyed to the rock by the first shepherd or crofter going so far. Having been dropped in and the slit reclosed, they were left until a shepherd or crofter from the other side happened to come along, when they were taken up and delivered at their due destination. No letter was ever known to be lost at this primitive post-office.

At Barra, Shetland, an old tin canister, made water-tight with newspapers and pitch, was once picked up on the shore. It contained ten letters, with the correct cash for postage.

With these was also a letter for the finder, urgently requesting the posting of the accompanying missives, as they were important business communications. After the letters had been carefully dried they were at once posted to their destinations, which they reached without further adventure.

Wants Gold for Confederate Note.

A letter came recently to the treasury department in Washington from Great Grimsby, England. It contained a \$50 confederate note, and in rather pompous language demanded that its equivalent in gold be forwarded at once to the address given. Treasury officials say that the incident was not an uncommon one. Although the civil war closed 36 years ago, confederate notes and bonds are received two and three times a week. Nearly all of them come from England, where the bonds were sold. Some of the Englishmen, who have been notified that the bonds and notes are worthless, have grown indignant, and replied to the department that they propose to take action looking to the creation of an international incident unless the paper is redeemed.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Chief Difference.

One pulls teeth and the other knocks them out—that's the difference between a dentist and a pugilist. —Chicago Daily News.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

One of the jolliest clubs in Paris, it is stated, is one formed exclusively of deaf and dumb persons.

The city authorities of Durer, England, have received authority from parliament to scrap the starting advertisements off the famous chalk cliffs of that coast.

France is proud of the increase in her population. The census figures for this year are 38,641,331, an increase in five years of 412,364. The increase in the preceding five-year period was only 133,819.

Milk hats continue to be very fashionable in England. Of course, the greatest wear is in London, but throughout Great Britain there is expended each year over \$1,000,000 on this style of headgear.

Ireland continues to far outdistance all other European countries in criminality. Official statistics for the last year just published show a decrease of 10.2 per cent, in minor offenses, as compared with the preceding year.

It is interesting to find that there are still 30 High streets in London, although many others have been renamed. There are 11 St. John's roads and nine St. James' places. Eleven Queen streets still exist, although 33 have been renamed, and 15 King streets remain out of the original 52. There are two Oxford streets other than the famous one, and five Victoria streets.

Nearly half a century ago the experiment of putting horse meat on the market was made for the first time in Austria. A government decree of April 20, 1854, gave legal permission to cut up and sell horse meat as an article of food. During the year of that year and in 1855, 943 horses were slaughtered for food in Vienna; the number rose in 1899—the last year for which statistics are obtainable—to 25,640 head.

At the recent meeting of the German and Austrian Alpine clubs, held at Meran, Dr. Klotzberg, president of the Austrian Tourist club, delivered an address in which he strongly condemned the growing practice of climbing obscure, dangerous peaks, which has led to the needless sacrifice of many lives. "Such climbing," he declared, "is no longer touristic; it is a business, and it is being carried upon the members to discountenance it, and was warmly applauded.

THEY PUZZLE THE MEDICS.

Some New Diseases That Physicians Can Neither Diagnose Nor Cure.

When Solomon declared that there is nothing new under the sun the art of the physician was yet in its infancy. All practitioners of the present day bear testimony to the fact that new diseases of the human system are constantly developing and of necessity they require new modes of treatment, says a London paper.

One disease which the doctors are trying to find out about, with very little success, is beriberi, which seems to be identical with the "sleeping sickness" of the west coast of Africa. The attention which the medical profession has paid recently to eastern and tropical diseases has brought beriberi to the fore, whereas little scientific attention used to be paid to it. Negroes are peculiarly susceptible to the disease, and on the west coast of Africa whole villages of natives have been known to lie down and sleep themselves to death. Some time ago there was an outbreak of this disease in a lunatic asylum in Dublin, and several patients slept to death. How this malady, supposed to be peculiar to the tropics and the far east, came to appear in Dublin is a mystery.

Recently the Norwegian bark Taurus put into Falmouth, England, having had seven cases and four deaths from beriberi on her way from Jackson to appear in Dublin is a mystery. For the disease is unknown in Florida, English and American soldiers serving in the far east rarely suffer from beriberi, but French and Spanish garrisons are greatly subject to it. A couple of years ago out of a garrison of 250 at a post in French Tonquin 50 died from beriberi.

As if the doctors were not bothered enough with the old diseases, a new one has appeared in Sardinia and Sicily. The doctors in these Mediterranean islands recently noticed that many of the peasants showed symptoms of poisoning from eating beans. They developed curious symptoms and all of them were overcome with a drowsy stupor. In some cases those predisposed to the disease have been seen to fall unconscious simply from inhaling the scent of a bean field in flower. Yet to the average person there is nothing poisonous about beans. Horrible thought! Suppose this new disease should spread to Boston.

Another disease which puzzles doctors is that form of idiocy known as cretinism. Why does it exist only in certain districts? It has been said that it is epidemic only in limestone regions, yet there are plenty of places where the rock is of this character and yet the disease is unknown. For instance, it is very rare in England, where there is plenty of magnesian limestone, and prevalent in similar districts in France. It generally is put down as being peculiar to mountain districts, yet on the island of Niederwerth, below Colobona on the Rhine, there are 131 cases among 750 people.

His Favorite Dish.

Stuyvesant—What is your favorite dish?

Joblots—Well, I don't know that I have any, but I think I should like a gold plate about as well as anything. —Somerville Journal.