

BROKE UP GAMBLING GAME.

A former sport sharper with the Plans of Card Sharppers on a "teamship." Professional card sharppers, whose presence it is exceedingly difficult to detect, and whom to accuse is frequently a most awkward and delicate matter, are regular passengers by almost every big liner leaving the British and continental ports during the tourist season. Large sums of money are often won and lost in the brief six days between Liverpool and New York. On a voyage of a popular Atlantic liner from Liverpool to New York last fall a very extraordinary attempt at swindling was exposed, thus preventing four professional card sharppers from winning by foul play a sum of nearly \$10,000, reports the London Express. It came about in this way: Play began on the very evening the ship left Cherbourg, and for four days, with but brief intervals for eating and sleeping, the party, among which were the four professional sharppers, sat steadily at the table. The table occupied by these players most of the time was surrounded by from a dozen to 50 interested spectators. It was in a corner of the smoking room under a window looking out on the port quarter. Among the players was an ex-gambler from a southwestern state whose name was not sufficient to identify him with this list of passengers. He said nothing, but the young and innocent player interested him. For 20 days the youth won steadily. On the fourth day out, with 20 spectators, including the ex-gambler, standing about the table, the game reached its climax. The youth was nervous and erratic in his play. Three of the players were drinking beer from mugs, which, to keep them out of the way, they placed on the little shelves under the table. Suddenly the ex-gambler laid his hand emphatically on the table and said: "Right here the game ends." There was a sensation. The man with his back to the window and three others of the party looked at the speaker and turned pale. The youth and the two remaining players expressed their indignation. The ex-gambler looked from one of the quartette of sharppers—unsuspected till now—to another and said: "If any one of you four men is seen playing on this ship the rest of this voyage or if any of us here see you playing again on any ship we are on, you will immediately be arrested. Now, take your hands off that money till this young man takes what he has put in." The cowed aspect of the swindlers caused all the spectators to shift forward threateningly. Without a word they took what money the young player left on the table and left the room. To the other spectators the ex-gambler explained that he had observed unmistakable signs that the four culprits were in collusion. Through motives of ex-professional pride, perhaps, he mentioned to only one person that while he was out of the room he had glanced through the window and seen one of the quartette add a fourth king to his hand while ostensibly reaching for his mug of beer.

EMPEROR IS A GOOD FARMER.

German Ruler Sets a Good Example to His Subjects Engaged in Agriculture. Emperor William has been directing much attention lately to agriculture. He says if German farmers would only take lessons from scientific farmers in England or the United States they could increase their crops and improve their condition without state aid, says a Berlin report. William's model farm in Cadinen is being rapidly transformed into an agricultural show place. When the emperor took possession of it four years ago it was in a condition of wreck, both houses and estate, badly drained, badly stocked and yielding no crop worth speaking of. In four years he changed everything. The house is now a charming English country seat and shooting lodge combined, and the estate, of about 5,000 acres, half forest, is in a fair way to add \$20,000 a year to the emperor's revenues. Four years ago only rye and potatoes would grow in Cadinen. The emperor has introduced wheat, oats and barley and mangel wurzel for cattle. He has put 150 Dutch cows on the estate, and every day their produce goes to Dantzic and other towns in the vicinity. The Cadinen milk, cream, butter and cheese have become famous throughout the east of Germany and command the highest prices. The emperor's new dairy is modeled upon the Windsor establishment. A spirit motor supplies all the power needed. During his recent stay in Cadinen the emperor read up all the latest English books on dairy farming. His attention has also been directed to a better breed of swine. He has just bought a farm adjoining Cadinen, a place called Kieckhof, where he has installed some of the best Westphalian breeds. But he is proudest of his potatoes. In four years he has replaced the poor, soupy potatoes which used to grow in Cadinen with a splendid, floury article admired all over the country-side. The potato output of Cadinen this year was over 1,000 tons. Want Better Service. Efforts are being made in Paris to form a society for securing promptness and politeness from telephone attendants.—N. Y. Sun.

EMPERESS JOSEPHINE'S CAGE.

The Abode of Napoleon's Consort to Be Turned into a Museum of Royal Relics. La Malmaison, so full of the memories of Josephine and of Napoleon, has become state property. The house was purchased by a wealthy merchant, M. Ouiris, who, after expending a great deal of money upon its restoration, has presented it to the nation. The authorities had some hesitation in accepting the handsome gift, on the ground that its maintenance entails expenditure, and that its removal from Paris militates against it becoming a popular show place. But happily their scruples have been overcome, and La Malmaison will become a museum of Napoleonic relics—that is, if the wishes of the donor are complied with, says a Paris correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette. La Malmaison was the elegant cage that kept poor Josephine captive in the years of her divorce. It was here that she died in 1814, on the morning of the entry of the allies into Paris. It was precisely a drive that she took with the Emperor Alexander of Russia, who had come to set the Bourbons on the throne again, that gave the unhappy princess a chill from which she died. Josephine thought to make a Trianon at La Malmaison; she only succeeded in making a comfortable house, with nothing very remarkable about it. Josephine held something of a court at the chateau, and she gave receptions which were very popular with the great artists of Paris. The most dramatic episode in the history of La Malmaison is the adieu of the emperor on the eve of his departure for St. Helena. There, in the great vestibule that divides the house in two, he stood, grave and silent, surrounded by his family. Madame Mere was there, with tears running down her cheeks. "Adieu, mon fils," "Adieu, ma mere." That was all, and the emperor turned away with never another word, walking slowly into the garden and down the avenue of plane trees. At the bottom he seated himself upon an old stone bench, and there he remained, with his head bent upon his breast, until darkness had fallen. With a silent gesture he sent away every one who would arouse him from his somber reverie. Napoleon III. bought La Malmaison for \$30,000 out of memory for his mother, Queen Hortense, and of his grandmother, the Empress Josephine, both of whom lie buried in the little church of Rueil, whose soft chimneys must often have fallen upon the ear of the great captain. His descendant thought to make a museum of the chateau and a souvenir, much as it is today; but the idea did not fructify, and the war and the commune came to put the house in ruins. La Malmaison figured conspicuously in the defense of Paris. The Prussians occupied the house, from which the French tried to drive them. Now it has come upon peaceful days. Unhappily for the interesting project that would turn it into a museum, all the furniture is dispersed and cannot be got together. One of the most recent visitors to La Malmaison was the Empress Eugenie. As this august lady gazed upon this cradle of Napoleon she burst into tears. It was a bereaved empress mourning the griefs of another.

ART ON CANAL BARGES.

Pictures of All Sorts of Celebrities Found on Cabin Walls of Old Canal Boats. Capt. John A. Hiester lately completed the tearing up of his one hundred and tenth canal barge to be sold for firewood. These canal barges were gathered from the canal graveyards all along the Reading company's Schuylkill canal system. Many of them did service for 30 years, says a Reading (Pa.) report. The cabins of these old canal boats are interesting studies. In one were found pasted up pictures of the Heenan-Sayers fight in England, together with engravings of all the famous fighters of America and Europe. Evidently the captain that piloted the old barge was interested in prize fighting and the illustrated history of the manly art of self-defense. Another cabin's paper on the wall was made up of pictures of singers and actresses, beginning with one of Jenny Lind's arrival at New York. Every actress or singer of note figured in this collection, but the engravings were soiled and yellow with age. Another cabin was full of illustrations of the assassination of Lincoln and Garfield. The old boat had been laid up and abandoned before the shooting of McKinley at Buffalo. Another cabin's walls were pasted full of illustrations of the leading battles of the civil war, with pictures of Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee and other commanders of both sides. In another cabin the captain had pictures of sea fights of the civil war, from the Monitor and Merrimack to New Orleans and Farragut and the Mississippi gunboats, and the sinking of the Alabama by the Kearsarge. Each captain apparently had made a specialty of one subject, dating from the civil war. In one cabin were simply the presidents and vice presidents of the United States from the Buchanan administration down to Mr. Cleveland. One captain's taste evidently ran to dogs, as his cabin was filled with engravings of all kinds of kennel show winners. Pictures of Flora Temple and other crack trotters of years ago were in another cabin. Another curious study was the title lines of the leading newspapers of the country.

IDEAL SETTLEMENT.

A Swedish Community in Kansas That Is a Model. Not a Cooperative System Yet the People Work with Unity of Purpose and Are Prosperous. The Swedish colony in the center of Kansas, which has for its educational, business and amusement seat the town of Lindsay, is one of the most independent communities in the United States. The original settlers, most of whom came directly from Sweden to take up their homes on the plains, are not yet aged people, while the younger generation has just taken hold of affairs with the certainty and intelligence of early maturity and augmented by the thousands of recruits that have come from time to time from Sweden and from other colonies in this country. Yet this settlement of naturalized citizens, who are as thoroughly American as adoption, assimilation and patriotism can make them, has given to the country one of its most laudable examples of local sufficiency, says the Kansas City Star. The Lindsay community is not a cooperative settlement. While there is a great unity of purpose and mutual helpfulness, there is a strong degree of individuality. There is nothing visionary about the lives or the government of the people. They take a broad view of things. They are not arrogant toward others who are rivals in trade or educational affairs. They have simply endeavored to provide for themselves in the largest possible degree, aiming above all to make their homes and their local institutions attractive enough to keep the colony intact. So far there has been little tendency on the part of the younger generation to seek elsewhere for opportunity or amusement. Bethany college, the finishing school of the settlement and the largest denominational institution in the state, employs more than 30 teachers. Yet the graduates turn from their studies to the stores, the farms or the factories of their fathers and find application in their daily lives for the enlightenment they have gained in books. The rich lands of several counties about Lindsay have been appropriated and utilized and still the community grows. The town has aimed to make the best possible market for the products of these farms. What is said to be the finest broomcorn district in the world is among these Swedish possessions and a large broom factory has been constructed to make a local market for the raw material. Grain elevators of large capacity handle the wheat crops. There are also several flourishing flour mills. Every local facility that can be utilized for shipping such products as are not consumed at home has been supplied. For a plain country town Lindsay is a model of neatness and cleanliness. The streets and private premises are kept in good condition. There is no attempt at embellishment at the expense of utility; for the simple reason that the original settlers had but limited means and that the time is not yet quite at hand for ornamentation. For example, when the festival chorus, which has done much to entertain and hold together the younger people, grew to more than 300 members, it was deemed necessary to erect a large hall. This is of the simplest style of construction, being octagonal in shape and made of the plainest material. The organ, an immense affair, is anything but ornate, yet it cost the colony \$5,000. The aim in the purchase, as in many other investments, to speak figuratively, was to get the best and most music for the money. Of course, the great progress, the enthusiastic unanimity and the local reliance that characterize the Lindsay community would have been impossible without strong leadership. This was supplied in the person of Rev. Carl Swenson, president of Bethany college, who has been the master mind of it all. Anyone who pays a visit to the little town in the Smoky valley, especially if he happens to be present on some festival occasion like that of the other night, when Mme. Nordica sang, will understand why Lindsay and Dr. Swenson are so well known in Sweden. And if he meets Dr. Swenson and has some comprehension of his personal force and intelligent administrative powers he will see the fitness of the knighthood that was recently bestowed on him by the king of his native land. A Little Bit of History. Calphurnia giggled as her lord and master cleaned the furnace. "You women," he growled, "have no sense of humor, anyhow." "Indeed," retorted his spouse, "I was laughing just then at Caesar's Commentaries." With an angry glare he pulled out the joint, remarking that she seemed to think the job was "a pipe," anyhow.—N. Y. Times. His Query. She—Do I really love you, Cholly? Why, I'd sooner be miserable with you than happy with some other fellow! He—But are you sure you won't find some other chap that you'd sooner be miserable with?—Puck. Frenzied Shadows of Night. Old Crustigh—How did you dare, sir, to kiss my daughter last night on the dark piazza? Young Gayboy—Gad, now that I've seen her by daylight, I wonder myself.—Smart Set. Tumbled to It. Mrs. Crabshaw—I forgot to tell you that the boys made a slide on the sidewalk. Crabshaw—Never mind. I found it.—N. Y. Sun.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Baldness afflicts almost every young man who spends any length of time in the Philippines. Although the smallest parish in Norfolk, England, has but one house and five inhabitants. Only one marble statue of the human figure with eyeglasses is known. It is one of the gems of the Vatican, the "Sleeping Ariadne," and was discovered in 1503. The Egyptians, the Persians and the Aztecs of America reckoned their day to begin from sunrise, and divided it into four intervals, determined by the rising and setting of the sun, and its passage over the meridian. The regular way of searching for truffles in France is with the assistance of trained pigs. But as it is impossible to escape with a pig, poachers have in recent times successfully trained dogs for the purpose. The snuff users in the United States have increased in number about six per cent. a year for several years, taking the annual consumption of snuff as the basis of calculation. The aggregate weight of purchases of snuff last year was 15,000,000 pounds. The three highest mountains in the United States, not including Alaska, are Mount Whitney, California, 14,998 feet; Blanca Peak, Colorado, 14,464 feet, and Cerro Blanco, New Mexico, 14,269 feet. It is claimed that Mount Rainier, Washington, is 14,500 feet high. Of military salutes, raising the right hand to the head is generally believed to have originated from the days of the tournament, when the knights fled past the throne of the queen of beauty, and, by way of compliment, raised their hands to their brows to imply that her beauty was too dazzling for unshaded eyes to gaze upon. The officer's salute with the sword has a double meaning. The first position, with the hilt opposite the lips, is a repetition of the crusader's action in kissing the cross hilt of his sword in token of faith and fealty, while lowering the point afterward implies either submission or friendship, meaning in either case that it is no longer necessary to stand on guard. THE UNMARRIED MILLIONS. According to the Census There Are One-Third More Bachelors Than Spinsters in the United States. The fate of the unsophisticated man who declared in a public address that there were "100,000 superfluous women in Massachusetts" has never been definitely ascertained. It is known, however, that this was his concluding public declaration on that subject, says the New York Sun. Without the fear of his fate, another computer came forward recently to declare that the proportion of unmarried girls and women was increasing. As a matter of fact, it is steadily diminishing in the United States, and, as a veteran advocate of the extension of the legal rights of women has pointed out, there are now in the United States 2,500,000 more single men of marriageable age than there are single women; the official figures being as follows: Unmarried men, 10,448,153; unmarried girls and women, 7,973,119. The male population of the United States, through the excess of male immigration, and the higher male birth rate, is more than a million in excess of the female. The span of life is, on the average, longer for a woman than for a man and the marriageable age for women is several years younger than the average for men. As a consequence of this the number of widows is very largely in excess of the number of widowers, the figures being 2,700,000 and 1,200,000 respectively. There are more divorced women who have not remarried than there are divorced men, and for all these reasons the number of single men of marriageable age is larger than the number of single women. In New York it is 240,000, in Pennsylvania 180,000, in Ohio 130,000, in Illinois 200,000, in California 150,000, in Texas 150,000 and in Kansas 75,000. In Massachusetts the number of unmarried men exceeds the number of unmarried women by only a few thousand. In Utah there are 35,000 unmarried men and 23,000 unmarried women of marriageable age. In Washington, the capital, the number of single men is 42,000 and of single women the same. King Edward "The Silver King." The fall in the price of silver still leaves the king the possessor of an enormous fortune in the plate he has inherited from his mother, both at Buckingham palace and at Windsor castle. The late queen had the great preponderance of her plate at Windsor, whereas during the present reign Buckingham palace will probably be the more plentifully supplied. No valuation has had to be made for probate duty, for the king does not pay the king's taxes, any more than the speaker of the third estate speaks. Not long ago, however, an inventory was made at Windsor castle, with the result that the plate, most of it silver, some of it gold, and a portion of it, such as a metal peacock and other ornaments, set with gems, was appraised at a sum far in excess of a million pounds. Edward VII., who has made considerable additions to the collection by the transfer of his own plate from Marlborough house, may well be alluded to among connoisseurs as "the Silver King."—London Chronicle. Entertaining. Mr. Manning—I should think you would hesitate about hiring that girl, Miriam; she has been discharged from no less than 20 families during the year. Mrs. Manning—Just think how entertaining she will be. Why, I'd have her if I were obliged to pay her double wages.—Boston Transcript.

GAS THE CHEAPEST.

Hotel Keepers Say That Method of Suicide Is Least Troublesome. More Violent Means Resorted To by Some Works Injury to Furniture and Causes Pecuniary Loss. Gas for the generation of heat, light and power is one of the marketable commodities of Chicago, but gas for the purpose of suicide has never been listed among the revenue producing stocks of the local monopoly. That it cuts a figure in dividends, however, hardly will be doubted. Several of the obscure small hotels in the downtown district have occasion to read the gas meters with protruding eyes, and yet when everything has been reckoned with in the case of a shutting off of mortality by means of a gas jet it is cheaper and quieter for the house, whether or not the discount is taken advantage of before the 15th of the month, says the Chicago Tribune. "Three or four people a year come in here to quit," said the clerk of a Madison street place which has seen its sunny side, "but it's a pretty job at the best, but in the main we prefer the use of the gas jets. Luckily they are more popular than is almost any other means of egress; they don't mess things up nearly so bad as the pistol or the knife. "For instance, you take a big man who wishes to shuffle off his coil by cutting his throat or his wrists, or by shooting himself in the head. There's a mess for you. Frequently we have had men and women take the best room in the house to die in, and on one occasion the bullet that finished one fellow went through a mirror on a \$50 dresser. "There's no such drawback to gas. While it is possible for us to have \$30 worth of furniture and carpets ruined by a suicide who goes by a violent route, we figure that any reasonable man or woman may die in the house at a cost not to exceed one dollar to the house. Our rooms average about 1,000 cubic feet of air each and ordinarily have two gas jets burning four feet on an hour. Within seven hours we can count upon finding a suicide who takes the gas route, and with two jets throwing off four feet each for seven hours we have the total of 56 feet. This is dirt cheap, being 5.6 cents for the job. When one compares this with the things possible in the case of a desperate man with a revolver, even 1,000 feet of wasted gas is nothing." It is not so much in the hotels as in the tenements and cottages that the gas company becomes an interested party to asphyxiations. In the hotels the landlord becomes responsible for the readings of the gas meters, and the company has its strength in the assumption that its jurisdiction ends with the meter. However the joke writer may joke, only gas passing through a meter can move the dial fingers, and as these fingers indicate, so the landlord must pay. In South Chicago the other day the gas company had an experience with a family of suicides in which the profits from the hotel form of asphyxiation were cut into heavily. A man and his wife had concluded to die and had turned on every available gas jet in the cottage, and these are supposed to have been wide open for at least five days before the smell of gas in the streets attracted the attention of the neighbors. In this particular case it is estimated that the killing of the man and his wife cost the gas company at least ten dollars' worth of gas. In a general way gas has become popular as an agency in suicide. It is a handy means to the end, its one drawback being its uncertainty, for while other means of asphyxiation, such as hanging and drowning, may lend themselves to secrecy, the opening of the gas jet may serve to notify half a dozen noses within its searching range. Then, too, long after the victim of gas seemingly has passed to the other side of things, a busy doctor may bring him back to all the old worries from which the victim had tried to flee. There is little after effect from the condition. The worst feature is the disarrangement of the stomach, extreme nausea, following the poisoning of the system. Frequently men in the construction department of the gas company are knocked out by the commercial product dispensed by them, and they seldom experience any unpleasant after effects. With relation to suicides, the gas companies occupy anomalous positions. If it be ever known where a man bought a revolver with which he kills himself, the man selling him the weapon most frequently is called in to give testimony regarding the sale; with the gas companies, however, they take a position behind the gas meter, claiming to have no authority beyond that of industrial mechanical contrivance. Poor Lo as a Workingman. The westward march of civilized labor has effected no change more remarkable than the conversion of the hitherto lazy, shiftless Indian "buck" into a workingman at \$1.50 a day. Large gangs of them are now employed by a western railroad in track laying, and they seem to like the work better than prancing around on ponies, decked out with feathers and war paint. Perhaps the strangest part of the new condition is the fact that it is the men and not the women that are doing the work, a complete reversal of the old way. Thus has the long-suffering squaw been emancipated.—Chicago Chronicle.

TOO SWIFT A PACE.

Increase of Insanity and Crime as a Result of Extravagant Habits and Dissipation. Some startling conclusions are set forth in a report drawn up by Dr. Arthur McDonald, specialist to the United States bureau of education, for the information of congress. One of them is that "within the last 30 or 40 years there has been an increase, relative to population, in crime, suicide, insanity and other forms of abnormality." In giving his opinion of some of the causes for this increase, says a Washington report, Dr. McDonald says: "The rapid development of society, as we have suggested, is possibly one of the main causes of the increase of crime and abnormality; it includes a great number of new inventions, increased opportunities for travel and the enterprise of the press enabling us to read all the news of the world at breakfast. It was quite otherwise 50 years ago. "This haste of civilization puts an abnormal strain upon the nervous system as compared with the muscular system. Thus the electric car, automobile and the telephone tend to make people exercise less and think more. A reaction has set in already through the development of systems of physical culture. The less cost of living and the increase of wealth, with the luxuries of the table, have tended to overeating, which, in connection with lack of exercise, has had its evil effects and doubtless produced an additional reaction on the nervous system. When the nerves are unstrung by overpressure the will may become weak, depression and pessimism set in and loss of self-control follow with its consequent abnormal actions leading on to crime and other social evils. "In the statistics of crime some special points may be noted. The youth, as compared with adults, have committed more crimes as society has developed. Suicide among children has greatly increased; this might be regarded as a symptom of diseased precocity. "The recent rapid development of women by entering more and more into the work of men—a transition involving great strain—seems to have some unwelcome accompaniments. In Vienna, for instance, general paralysis, a man's disease, is increasing among women. In Belgium insanity and suicide have been growing relatively faster in women than in men. In Austria it has been found that the criminal influx into cities is relatively greater in women than in men and the effects of heredity are greater upon women than upon men. "If we shake the tree the bad apples fall first. So, in periods of rush and strain, the weaknesses of human nature become more apparent. But this increase in evil may be only a temporary one, due to the necessary pressure of adaptability to modern civilization. The increase in crime, for instance, is not necessarily a proof that the world is growing worse. Periods of decline in history show that the world does not grow better in a straight line upward." ORGANS FOR PRIVATE HOUSES Built with Electrical Contrivance by Which They Can Be Played from Distant Rooms. In the homes of many wealthy New Yorkers there are not alone pianos which have cost fortunes to construct and decorate, but also organs with electric attachments so that they can be played from any part of the house, says the New York Times. The large pipes are richly decorated and are painted often by well-known artists. The development in church organs also has been marked. The largest one in the country, and perhaps the most expensive one, is in the A. T. Stewart Memorial church, at Garden City, L. I. William C. Whitney has an enormous organ which was built especially for him in California, and was set in a wall while the house was being built. The Vanderbilt home also has an instrument with electrical attachment so that it can be played from any of several rooms of the big mansion at Fifth avenue and Fifty-seventh street. Electricity has been the real force which has made the organ again popular. One can now invite the music to the house and conduct a complete religious service there, the organ being furnished with electrical attachments similar to those which have been placed on the piano and which make it possible for almost anyone to operate the instrument. If one be so disposed he can be bed and play the organ. The keys are placed before him with one row to the left hand and another for the right which is an invention also new to the industry. The keyboard is attached to the organ wherever the latter may be situated in the house. But the organs which are in the homes of the very rich compare little in size and expense with those that are placed in churches all over the world. The too, have electrical attachments, and the work of the organist is greatly reduced. His Status. "Myer—What kind of a feller is that man Biggerton, anyway? Geyer—Oh, he's the kind of man you think when he's in Europe that everything goes wrong in America.—Chicago Daily News. Saved That Institution. "I'm grateful to Mr. Chumpleigh for sending me his photograph." "Why, I thought you hated him." "Yes, but just think, he might have bought it."—Town and Country.