

FINGERS FOR SEALS

ATTORNEY WOULD LEGALIZE THUMB PRINTS.

Bill Will Be Introduced Into New York Legislature Giving System a Legal Standing—No Two Imprints Alike.

New York.—Prosecuting an examination of finger tips which he has carried on for 20 years and in the course of which he has satisfied himself that no two tips are alike, Francis R. Fast, a corporation lawyer, advertised recently \$200 for finger prints an inch long which were alike and made by members of the same family.

Recently an imprint of a finger tip in place of a seal, to establish undeniably the identity of the maker of a will, was taken as evidence by Mr. Fast in an important will contest. He will present a bill in the next session of congress and the state legislature to legalize finger imprints and give them the weight a seal now possesses.

Discussing his plan to give a legal status to finger tips, Mr. Fast said the seal, which formerly was an indubitable attestation of a document, was fast passing into disuse.

"I suggest," he said, "that as a guarantee of genuineness every person choose one of his ten fingers—which I shall call my 'ego' fingers—and place an impression of its tip after his signature, especially on documents requiring a seal by law. In that case the impression should be made after the seal, and in addition to it."

"Not alone are the lines of each of every person's ten fingers different, but the 10,000 finger tips of a thousand persons all vary. Thus, the impression of a man's finger tip would be incontrovertible evidence that he was present when a document was signed."

"Just as every person usually adopts a uniform signature to sign checks, so also should he adopt one certain finger for an imprint after his signature, and he should leave a duplicate of the impression with the bank for its guidance."

"In drawing wills or equally important papers, I ask my clients to leave in their safe or in the care of a confidential person, duplicate impressions of their ten fingers and a declaration as to which finger was used for the invariable imprint after their signatures."

"ARABIAN NIGHTS" PALACE

Maharajah's House of Blue and White Marble, with Its \$25,000 Kitchen, Located in India.

London.—There is now rising in the northwest Punjab a royal palace which for beauty and splendor will eclipse any similar building in India, the country already so rich in monumental treasures.

It is the new winter palace of his highness the maharajah of Kapurthala, and its total cost, it is anticipated, will not be far short of \$1,000,000.

"It will be a dream in blue and white marble," was the terse, but picturesque, description given of the building by a gentleman intimately connected with its construction, "and the designers," he added, "might as well have based their plans upon the gorgeous palaces which appear only in the pages of the 'Arabian Nights.'"

Despite the famous speech of Lord Curzon in which he deplored the fact that Tottenham court road art was ousting native art in the palaces of Indian rulers, the new building will almost throughout be decorated in European style.

All round this vast palace of delight will run a spacious veranda with marble floors, supported by blue Canadian marble columns, and the entrance hall will be paved with blue and white marble, the colors of the maharajah. There will be 14 staterooms, many of them overlooking a beautiful courtyard and gardens, where fountains will play among the foliage.

The durbar hall alone of all the chambers will be decorated in Indian style. Adjoining it will be the state salon, in the style of Louis XIV., and the English dining room of Charles II. period.

ENRICHED BY HAND ORGAN

Italian and Wife Show Wealth When Warned Off Gotham Streets.

New York.—Villa Mazachia and his wife, poorly dressed Italians, were arrested here and taken before the Jefferson market police court for playing a hand organ.

After their case was heard they were ordered off the streets.

"Only on condition that you quit making your living in this way in New York will I allow you to go free," said the magistrate.

"We'll never play again, in New York or anywhere else," said Mrs. Mazachia. "See, we are rich!" she exclaimed, as she handed the magistrate a pamphlet on a bank. It showed deposits of more than \$10,000.

Mazachia declared to the astonished judge and court attendants that this money represented the profits from playing the hand organ in New York for five years. He said they would be independently rich in Italy.

They will sail to Italy on the first boat.

A Hot Race.

A machine has been invented that will manufacture 40 pies a minute. Now let the dyspeptic tablet manufacturer see what he can do to keep up with the times.

BLAME WOMEN FOR INSANE

London Physician Says Growth of Insanity Among English Is Due to Neglect of Fair Sex.

London.—The neglect by women of their proper role in life, their adoption of mental occupations in place of their domestic duties, improper methods of education, and the migration from the country to the town were among the main reasons adduced by Dr. T. Bulkeley Hyslop, physician to the Bethlehem hospital, in an address which he delivered before the British Medical association at Leicester for the alarming growth of insanity in the British race.

"When we come to take actual survey of the present position of our people," said Dr. Hyslop, "we see that a remarkable transformation has taken place. We have passed from the natural state to an artificial one of brain activity with all its attendant evils. Our system of education is, in fact, responsible for improving the population off the face of the country district."

"Ever since the passing of the education act of 1870 we have been striving after the unattainable. The brain tax on the rising generation has become more and more irksome, and the sum of pauperism, overcrowding, and insanity, has increased by leaps and bounds for beyond anything ever before known in the history of the empire, and to-day we are faced with the question whether the mental and physical health of the rising generation is not of more importance than the mere accumulation of knowledge."

On the one hand we were faced by the problem of overeducation, and on the other hand the fixing by the trade unions of the standard of energy according to the capacity of the very worst was doing a great deal to injure the physical condition of the people.

NO ANCESTRAL HAIRBRUSH

New Secretary of the Navy Declines Offer to Sell Him Toilet Article Used by Emperor Napoleon.

Washington.—Charles Jerome Bonaparte, the new secretary of the navy, has refused to purchase a hairbrush said to have been used in arranging the locks of his granduncle, the great Napoleon.

The relic was offered to Mr. Bonaparte by a man now living in New York, whose grandfather was a barber in the French army during the Italian campaigns. This tonsorial expert left the brush to his descendants with the legend that it had often been called into service in dressing the hair of the "Little Corporal." The New Yorker also stated his willingness to sell a colored plaster bust of Napoleon.

Both offers were declined with thanks by Mr. Bonaparte, who has never "gone in" for a collection of Napoleonic souvenirs. A similar reply was given the other day to a letter which came from Holland asking the secretary to buy a miniature of the emperor said to have been painted from life. The price of the memento would have absorbed Mr. Bonaparte's salary for one year. He makes it a rule never to purchase such things, no matter how little or how much is asked for them.

Mr. and Mrs. Bonaparte will spend the greater part of the summer in the Berkshire Hills. The secretary will leave there the latter part of this month for Lake George to attend the meeting of the council of the National Civil Service Reform League, of which he is chairman. Owing to his duties as a member of the cabinet he has been compelled to relinquish his position as chairman of the council, and a successor will be elected.

OYSTER WAR BREAKS OUT.

Trouble Between Fishermen in New York Waters May Affect the Supply.

New York.—An oyster war of such magnitude as to affect the local supply for the season opening next month, unless it is promptly settled, has broken out between independent fishermen in New York waters and a combination of wealthy oyster men, who, it is declared, not only control the planted beds of the state, but are trying to get those of natural growth. The fishermen have organized a protective association, and began proceedings recently to prevent the lease or sale at nominal figures of any oyster or clam beds of natural growth to the members of the alleged combination.

In 1887 the legislature passed a law to stimulate the cultivation of oysters, providing for the sale of all available lands under water fit for shellfish cultivation, but expressly preserving for the people of the state all the natural beds. It is alleged by the small fishermen that for about 25 cents an acre the large planters acquired all the available lands under water near this city and began to encroach upon the natural beds.

Genuine "Woman Hater."

Isaac Perry, the oldest and most eccentric man in Clark county, Indiana, known throughout the state as a "woman hater," has nearly completed preparations for his own burial. He has determined that no woman shall see his body laid to rest, the interment of his remains being made secretly, if necessary, in order to prevent the attendance of women. He is more than 97 years old. He has had a monument completed for his tomb.

Washing Without Soap.

Clothes washing by electricity, without soap, is the idea of a Hungarian. The stream of electrified water is claimed to remove all spots and dirt, and the 300 garments held by the machine are washed in less than 15 minutes.

FAMILY IN BOX CAR.

TRAVEL AS "HOBOES" BACK TO INDIANA HOME.

Entire Outfit Makes Successful Trip from Kansas to Hoosier State—Journey Accomplished at a Small Cost.

Muncie, Ind.—It was a rough journey, but John H. Clarke, his wife and three children, the latest aged 16, had not money enough to travel in any other way.

A month ago Clarke and his family were in Kansas, near the Colorado line. Now they are back in Muncie among their friends, and the trip of more than 1,000 miles from Holly, Kan., to Indianapolis cost him just \$5.50, or \$1.10 for each individual of the party.

For 15 years Clarke worked in the freight house of one of the railroads entering Muncie. He tired of "trucking freight" and determined to try farming. He invested all his savings in a farm in the Sunflower state, went broke, or nearly so, and with just \$40 in his pocket determined to come back to Indiana. He has arrived and has still with him most of the \$40.

It was in a car of grain that Clarke was determined to make his eastern trip. Into it he moved his family, their few possessions, a big jug of fresh water and a quantity of cooked food. After instructing his wife how to work the bolt, he went back to the elevator to wait until the agent should make his rounds.

When that official came out to close and seal the car, Clarke and a friend went with him to assist in the work. The agent, glad of the help, contented himself with the elevator man's statement that the car was all right. Then the agent sealed it, and went back to his office. When all was quiet Clarke joined his family through the end door. Early in the night an eastbound train picked up the car, and while the big engine put the long Kansas miles behind the Clarkes spread their blankets on the corn and slept in peace and security.

Several times en route Clarke emerged from the car and laid in a fresh supply of provisions and water. This he managed well, and not until the car was nearing Indianapolis did anyone suspect he and family occupied it. The last day of the trip was a hot one, and to let in a little fresh air, Clarke opened the end door. As he did so he looked up, and there, sitting on a brake wheel, was a brakeman looking down at him. It would do no good to close the door, for he had been seen. The best way was to trust to luck—and the brakeman.

The latter came down and looked over the passengers. He saw a comely middle-aged woman, two pretty, bright-eyed girls and a boy in knickerbockers. It almost took his breath away. He had often found tramps, but never before a whole family. He saw the big basket that had held the provisions, now nearly empty, and a huge jug of water partly buried in the corn.

While the trainman looked about Clarke told his story. The brakeman, being a good fellow, not only condoned the offense, but volunteered help.

He found the car was routed on east by way of Cincinnati, and as that would take them still further from their destination, the Clarkes decided to unload at Indianapolis, where they bought tickets to Muncie, and traveled in a regular passenger coach.

ICELAND HAS A WIRELESS.

The Northern Island in Communication with the World at Last Through Marconi System.

Copenhagen.—The people of Iceland are more than delighted with the new wireless, telegraph service which has just been opened between this city and Reykjavik, though they are still unable to understand how it is possible that news of what is happening in the mother country hundreds of miles away can reach them through the air.

Before this service was opened the inhabitants of this island received news from the outside world about once a month, and many sensational news stories reached them long after they had been forgotten in the other countries, which has occasionally caused amusing things to happen. Thus at the time of the coronation of King Edward several British and one Danish men-of-war celebrated the event with much champagne and firing of guns, not knowing that the ceremonies had been postponed because of the king's illness.

The government is now keeping the Icelanders pretty well supplied with news, and among the things which they have been told of which they would otherwise be in ignorance at the present time, was the death of John Hay, the mutiny of the Kniaz Potemkin and the Norwegian revolution.

Would Skin Wife-Beaters.

Magistrate O'Reilly, in the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Myrtle Avenue court, expressed his views freely regarding wife-beaters. Turning to George J. Haggerty, who was charged by his wife, Mary Haggerty, 30 years old, with assault in the third degree, he said: "Haggerty, if there was any way of taking the skin off you before you go, I'd do so, you brute of a wife-beater." Haggerty said he was not a drinking man, and did not remember striking his wife. He was held in \$300 bail for the court of special sessions.

Preventive for Thieves.

An English burglar says thieves, who are always very superstitious, will never rob a house in which a cross-eyed servant is employed. Save your cross-eyed servant.

FIND A RED MARBLE MINE.

Through Direction of Princess, Source of Wealth Is Unearthed in Canada.

London.—Owing to her notable commercial instinct, the princess of Wales has caused a mining discovery to be made in Canada which appears likely to prove of world-wide importance.

While on her tour in Canada with the prince of Wales, then duke of Cornwall, four years ago, her royal highness was presented with a collection of precious stones, etc., from all parts of the dominion.

The princess specially admired certain specimens of colored marble, including a very rare variety known as sodonite, which is of a very rich blue color. On her return to England she entrusted the collection to Charles C. Allom, who was engaged upon the designs for the decoration of Marlborough house.

"Why cannot more be found?" asked the princess, who went on to say that she felt that the stones, if existing in sufficient quantities, would be of immense value for decorative purposes.

Mr. Allom made inquiries as to the likelihood of the marble existing in workable quantities in Canada, and with success such that he has just returned from Canada and brought with him a collection of specimens of the rough marble, which range in hue from delicate mouse-gray to blood-red, with all possible shades of green and blue. There has also been discovered a quarry of statuary marble which is of the greatest importance, as the world's supply is at present limited to the quarries of Carrara in Italy and Vermont in the United States, which both belong to the same owner.

For the frieze of Pierpont Morgan's palatial new library at New York, it is said, Stanford White, the architect, has ordered a supply of the finest blue marble from Canada, which will probably cost \$15 a foot.

MOON AS HOME OF MOSES

Theory of Creation Has Doughtnut Basis—Declares Earth Spun Through Hole in Comet.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—A Brooklyn man, Constantine McKeever, has evolved a new theory of creation which he solemnly asserts, in lectures he is giving at Kensington, is the only correct one. Briefly put, this remarkable theory is as follows, or something like it: Away back in the dim past a hobo of a comet, shaped, according to McKeever, like a doughnut, with a hole in the middle, butted into the then existing world. Now comes the solution. It caused the famous deluge.

The earth shot up through the hole in the doughnut. All living things were annihilated, except those near water. They were cooled off by the resulting vapor, but some got burned and become negroes.

Not satisfied with pushing its "nose" through the doughnut, the earth started on a record-breaking dash for the sun. Some earths that went through the process earlier have overtaken the fugitive, and are now flattening themselves out in vain endeavors to push right through. Those are the sun spots.

When the earth got well past the doughnut, the people began to scamper down to the south pole. Meanwhile the comet was creating a new world out of the "envelopes" of fire that shot off continually and the living beings got aboard this earth from the other, which was halted in its mad sprint.

World No. 1 went right on again, and, lo and behold! she now shines nightly as Luna, the moon.

What is the conclusion? Why, Moses lived on the moon. So did the rest of the bunch. It was not the moon then, but now it is. Mr. McKeever offers to pay \$100 to anyone who can disprove his theory.

GIRLS WORRY A GOVERNOR

Is Made Victim of Practical Joke by Fan-Loving Maids During Legislative Session.

Cleveland, O.—Gov. Herrick was the victim of a practical joke at Cedar Point during the legislative reunion recently which has just leaked out.

Several Columbus men were guests at the hotel. Their feminine friends decided to play a joke on them. They acquired the key to the men's room. Hard knots were tied in every article of wearing apparel, suit cases were opened and the contents scattered over the floors; furniture and chairs piled on the radiators, and altogether the apartment made to look as though it had been struck by a good-sized and healthy cyclone.

Meanwhile Gov. Herrick came home from the legislative banquet at two o'clock in the morning, or thereabouts, and prepared to retire. His room was in an uproar, his pajamas were not serviceable and his bed was disarranged. Indignant and surprised Gov. Herrick went to the hotel clerk and demanded an explanation, which could not be furnished. The girls had entered the wrong room.

His Heart on Right Side.

When Malcolm Rose, a landscape gardener, was placed on the operating table at the Los Angeles county hospital to undergo an operation for the removal of a growth from his neck, it was discovered by the surgeons that the patient's heart, instead of being in a normal position on the left side of the body, was on the right side, nearly six inches from its proper place. The organ in every way, however, appeared normal.

MILLION IN A YEAR.

IMMIGRATION RECORD INTO COUNTRY IS BROKEN.

Influx Still Continues at Same Rapid Rate—Southern Europe Furnishes Most of Newcomers—Deceived Before Starting.

New York.—More than 1,000,000 immigrants from all the nations of the earth arrived in America and made this their place of residence during the fiscal year.

All records have been broken. The alien influx continues to-day in most astounding numbers. The forthcoming year, from present indications, will sweep over America's shores a tide of humanity equivalent to the population of all of the great cities of America, with the exception of Chicago and New York.

It is a statistical fact that with the present ratio of incoming foreigners continuing for five years, with the birth rate of American citizens added, the population of the United States at the next census, 1910, will be more than 90,000,000.

Ellis island alone received \$21,697 men, women and children. Southern Europe contributed nearly 75 per cent, or what would equal the population of the cities of Cleveland and Cincinnati combined.

Agents of the ocean steamship lines, despite the revelations following official investigations are still sowing the seeds of deception throughout Europe and luring the ignorant peasant to their ticket offices with their glowing stories of streets flowing with milk and honey.

The steamships brought to the port of New York during the year just ended 7,304 poor unfortunates, victims of corporate avarice and unscrupulous individual greed, who were returned into the dusty holds of the great liners. They were excluded because of physical disability, criminal tendencies, mental deficiencies, or because they might become public charges.

The proportion of men to women was two to one. The immigration officials say the increases from all nations were about in proportion to recent foregoing years. Sixty per cent came from Italy, Austria, Hungary. Vast numbers were destined to the big cities of the country, and there seemed to be a proportionate decrease to the northwest and the south.

An interesting development of the year, as showing an argument in favor of immigration, was that only 569 immigrants were deported because within five years they had become public charges. Out of 2,250,000 persons less than 600 failed to become assimilated and self-sustaining in their new home.

It has become a common occurrence for 6,000 immigrants to pass through the railed aisles of the Ellis island bureau in a single day. The Russian war has contributed a large number of refugees, but not as large as might be expected on account of the strict Russian border surveillance.

"The indications are that the forthcoming year will break the remarkable record just established," said Robert Watchorn, the new commissioner at Ellis island. "If the increase is in proportion, by June, 1906, we will have added 1,250,000 to our population from foreign countries."

AN OLD SWINDLING TRICK.

Supposed Prize Winners Send Bogus Agent Freight Money—Forced to Leave Berlin.

Berlin.—An old form of swindle has just been discovered here, with some slight touches of novelty. A self-styled representative of a gramophone company made known by well distributed advertisements in the provincial press that the writer of every tenth letter received by him concerning his business would receive a gramophone and a dozen records for nothing. This apparently was a unique method of exploiting his wares. But every letter was treated as a tenth, and ten times as many people got the pleasing news of their good luck as should have received it had the strict letter of the offer been adhered to.

Of course, at the same time, the sum of 50 cents was requested for freight and packing, and very many were the postal orders sent in return. The other day, however, the representative of the company was away when the postman called, and on going to the post office for his letters he failed to satisfy the officials, and they were withheld from him. He has now left Berlin, and the letters with money which arrive will have to be returned to their senders.

Would Wed One-Legged Man.

Being a cripple, with cork legs, and having to use two canes to get around, Eugene Merrill, of Attica, N. Y., met with a real affliction when his wife died several months ago, as he had to have some one care for him. As time went on he felt more and more the need of a helpmate. Recently he advertised in the Buffalo papers for a wife. Responses came thick and fast, and now Mr. Merrill has an embarrassment of riches in the matrimonial line in prospect. Up to date he has received 108 replies, and he is perplexed how to make a choice.

Goos to Poorhouse He Ruled.

John C. Christy, once county commissioner of Beaver county, Pa., and poor director, has just been sent, with his aged wife, to the poorhouse of which at one time he had charge. His once comfortable fortune was swept away by his indorsing notes for a supposed friend who proved false.

HISTORY OF AN ERROR.

Blunder That Escaped the Notice of an Army of Proofreaders and Editors.

A. B. wrote a certain paper for a popular journal. This paper went through certain successive stages during the process of production. At each step it received a new reading from the beginning to end. Thus:

1. It was written in MS. Then it was read through and in great part rewritten.

2. It was read through again when completed, and sent to be typewritten.

3. The typewriters read it through before sending it back.

4. The author corrected the typewritten MS. carefully and sent it in again.

5. It was then set up in type.

6. The author received a proof, which he read and corrected, sending it back for press.

7. The editor or the sub-editor read it finally and passed it for the magazine.

The paper thus had at least seven readings. Yet a blunder was passed, if the author made it—or committed, if he did not make it—of a most elementary description; one that leaps to the eyes; one that stands out of the page calling on everybody to spot it, correct it, put an end to it.

The blunder was simply this: A certain strike of workmen was spoken of as undertaken for "lower" wages. Instead of "higher." How the word "lower" got there—whether the author wrote it in the first instance, or the typewriter, or the compositor—it is impossible to say. Probably it was the author's mistake. A long succession of readings of the passage followed. Not one of the readers discovered the mistake.

ONLY ONE IN ODD BUSINESS

But One Man Who Knows How to Write Insurance on Flywheels.

Only one company issues flywheel insurance, because only one man can write it. He is monarch of all his inspectors survey; his right there is none to dispute, says Leslie's Magazine. Two years ago he was a professor in a small engineering college with some theories and figures of his own about flywheels.

His success is largely due to his own formula for flywheel insurance is almost pure mathematics. When a wheel is revolved at a high enough speed the centrifugal force exceeds the centripetal and the wheel flies apart. Solid cast iron explodes when the speed at the rim is roughly three times a minute. A thick rim explodes just as easily as a thin one of the same material. Wood explodes at a greater speed, joined iron at a less.

The underwriter allows a rim speed of a mile a minute—one-third the explosion rate, permits a two-foot pulley wheel 16 revolutions a second, while it keeps a 16-foot flywheel down to two. A jointed wheel is allowed still less. The underwriter has only to name the number of revolutions he authorizes, and to proportion his premium to the size of the wheel. The larger the wheel, of course, the more destructive its explosion.

EARLY CRICKET IN INDIA.

As Played in Seventeenth Century, the Game Would Hardly Be Recognized Now.

Cricket, which has now taken such a firm hold in India among both European and natives alike, has been played in the east very much longer than most people would imagine. In the New English dictionary, for example, there is a reference to a game taking place at Aleppo as early as the year 1676. As played in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, however, the sport would hardly be recognized by its votaries of the present day. Thus, one Clement Downing, the author of "A Compendious History of the Indian Wars" (published in 1737), describes his experiences of the game as practiced on the Cambay shore as follows: "Though all the country round was inhabited by the Culeys, we every day diverted ourselves with playing at cricket and other exercises, which they would come and be spectators of. But we never ventured to recreate ourselves in this method without having arms for ourselves and being guarded by some of our soldiers, lest the country should come down on us." Nowadays, fortunately, armed sentries are not required on Indian cricket-pitches.

Largest Street Cars.

The largest street cars in use in American cities are those of the St. Louis and Chicago lines, which are practically similar in over-all dimensions, although the Chicago cars, owing to their larger platforms, have a smaller seating capacity, namely, 44, compared with 52 for the St. Louis cars. The St. Louis cars are 46 feet over all, have three-foot platforms, and an over-all width of nine feet. The cross-seats, of which there are 20, are 32 inches wide. The aisles, of the same dimensions, are the largest in the country. Indianapolis' largest city cars are 44 feet 7 inches over all.

Romance of Immigration.

The pleasantest Ellis island report of the year is that of the 223 marriages which took place at the station in the six months ending June 30. This is a gain of 23 over the corresponding period of last year. The brides were girls whose lovers had come across first to prepare the way for them.