

DESERT SIGN POSTS.

WILL AID IN SAVING LOST TRAVELERS IN THE WEST.

Trails Over California and Nevada Wastes Are to Be Marked for Guidance of Prospectors.

Through appropriations made by the Legislature of California and Nevada, sign posts are to be erected in the great Pacific slope desert. Not only will they point out the trails over the vast expanse of sagebrush and sand, but to springs and water holes as well. No more humane undertaking could be planned, nor one more likely to relieve terrible suffering and ward off horrible death.

Of late years many stories of tragedy have come out of this dreary desert, because an increasing number of men have risked its dangers in search for gold fields supposed to exist somewhere in the wastes.

People of the ten border counties are now making expeditions into the desert, getting data as to trails, springs, etc. Holes will be dug, sign posts planted and water holes cleaned out and marked. The torrid plain of sand that spread over southern Nevada and southeastern California has claimed many victims, and many other prospectors have had narrow escapes from death there.

Last July, while James R. McRae was crossing the Death Valley region, his horse died of heat and thirst. He headed on foot for the nearest spring, and after a terrible struggle reached it.

September 4 a party of prospectors brought Thomas Newton, crazed and nearly dying, into Goldfield. They had buried Newton's companion, William Peterson, nine miles out in the desert.

The two men had started out to prospect for the supposed fabulous gold diggings in Death Valley, where Scott, the eccentric miner of southern California, is said to have found his gold mines. Losing their way and exhausting their supply of water, the men wandered, bewildered, through the desert. Peterson died at the end of three days, and Newton became insane. When found he was naked and leaping about like a frog in the blazing sun.

Somewhere in the solitudes of Death Valley lie the bones of Earl Weller and E. M. Titus. They started out one summer morning, accompanied by John Mullin, with two horses and 19 burros. Soon after getting into the desert they lost their way, and at the end of five days the horses started dead. Titus led the others and started out in a blind search for a water hole.

Weller and Mullin remained, and by digging got a small supply of water each day for themselves, but none for the burros. The animals died one by one. Filling three canteens with water, Weller started out to find Titus. He never returned. Fifteen days later Mullin was found delirious and almost dead in camp.

Such instances might be continued almost indefinitely. The most terrible tales told by prospectors who have been rescued would be surpassed in horror by many others, no doubt, but those tales will never be told, because the bones of the victims lie in the sand and blazing sun somewhere in the deadly desert.

THE ARMY OF TEACHERS.

Number of Men and Women Engaged in the Schools of America.

The army of education in the United States is made up of 450,000 teachers, of whom 120,000 are men and 330,000 women. The overwhelming majority of the teachers are natives of the United States, less than 20,000 having been born abroad—one in fifteen.

Most of the male teachers are between the years of 25 and 35. The majority of the women teachers are between 15 and 25.

There are 2,200 male teachers over 65. There are less than 1,500 female teachers over 65. Three times as many female as male teachers are put down as "age unknown."

There are 21,000 colored teachers in the United States, thus divided between the two sexes: 7,700 men and 13,300 women. There are 500 Indian teachers in the Indian schools of the United States—240 men and 260 women.

The average age of teachers in the United States is higher than in England and lower than in Germany. The proportion of very youthful teachers is much greater in the country than in the city districts.

The largest proportion of male teachers is to be found in West Virginia, where they number 50 per cent. of the total. The largest proportion of women is to be found in Vermont, where they form 90 per cent. of the whole number. The standard of education is very much higher in Vermont than it is in West Virginia.

The number of teachers in the United States has increased greatly in recent years. In 1871 there were 125,000; in 1880, 225,000; in 1890, 340,000, and it is at present 450,000.

Mikado Decorates Woman. The emperor of Japan has just conferred the highest decoration available for women—the sixth class of the Order of the Crown—on Mrs. Teresa Richardson, whose new book, soon to be published, "In Japanese Hospitals During War Time," gives a graphic account of her own experiences during the war, and is written at the request of the Japanese authorities.

ENGLISH WOMEN UNTIDY.

Oriental Artist Declares Their Gait Ungainly and Their Figures Out of Poise.

London.—Yoshio Markino, a Japanese artist at present in this country, deprecates the ungainly carriage of the Englishwoman.

The London ladies have such nice faces and such pretty figures. How sad it is that they carry themselves so badly! "I walk up and down this great city," he continued. "I notice that the ladies are so awkward. Their arms are huddled up, their elbows are too much in evidence, the skirts are caught up untidily by one hand, throwing the whole figure out of poise."

"I believe the reason is that everybody in this country is too active, too much in a hurry—not only the men who work, but the women also. How long can one be graceful under these circumstances? The women of my country are so happy and peaceful. They are never in haste."

As to dress, Mr. Markino said: "The ladies of England are too fond of fashion. They copy the ladies of France. What will suit a Frenchwoman will never suit the Englishwoman. I do not like these short sleeves. They are out of place. I see a smart girl with a short sleeve. She seems to say to me: 'See, now, I am ready to do the scrubbing.'"

Another point which astounds him is the assurance of the English girl. "She walks along with her head in the air, so haughty," Mr. Markino said. "She is afraid of nothing. In our country to do so would not be modest. Our women go always with eyes cast to the ground. They are content to be women. They do not care to be 'masculines.'"

ODD POINT IN AUTO CASE.

Relatives of Victim Hold Motorist Who Raised Dust Partly to Blame for Accident.

Paris.—A curious point in an action against a motor car driver came before the judges of the French chamber. It was a question as to whether a chauffeur who had raised dust could be proceeded against for homicide for carelessness.

On May 1 last an automobile passed a cyclist on the road between Melun and Paris. The car raised a cloud of dust, with the result that the cyclist could not see his way. His machine swerved, and he was overtaken by another motor car, which knocked him down and killed him.

Could the driver of the first car, which had raised a cloud of dust, be held responsible for the accident caused by the second car? The case came before the Corbell court, which imposed a fine of \$200 on the driver of the second car, besides compelling him to pay \$600 compensation. But the driver of the car which caused the dust to fly was acquitted, and his claim for \$40 for being unjustly prosecuted was allowed against the family of the cyclist who was killed. This decision was appealed against.

BODY GIVEN TO COLLEGE.

Aged Convict's Request Carried Out by Prison Authorities at Michigan City, Ind.

Michigan City, Ind.—The body of the dead life convict, James Blackwood, who was the oldest inmate of the state prison, was taken to the Valparaiso college for dissection by the medical department.

Blackwood died in the prison hospital after serving 18 years behind the prison bars. He had been here since the transfer from Jeffersonville in 1897.

As Blackwood was dying there stood beside his cot James L. Myers, the murderer who was given a pardon by Gov. Hanly. Myers was found praying for the dying convict when the glad tidings of the pardon came to his ears.

Blackwood served 18 years for a murder in Clay county in 1887. All that remains of his family is a son residing in Texas. The son was notified after death, but made no reply.

The crime for which James Blackwood was sentenced occurred while a party was returning from a dance in Benwood, Clay county, to Cardonia. Blackwood quarreled with his wife. In the fight which followed the woman was knocked down and sustained four broken ribs. She was wrapped in a bundle of straw and left by the roadside, where she was found in the morning. She died soon after. Blackwood pleaded guilty and was sentenced by the late Judge Coffey, of Brazil.

Steamboat Ran Into Gester. Capt. Bally Reed, master of the river steamer Harry Randall, reports a singular occurrence that happened on the trip of his steamer up the Potomac river the other night. Capt. Reed says that the attention of the men in the pilot house was attracted to a singular noise in the air over the steamer, as if she were passing through a sock of big birds. Turning on the searchlight, it was discovered that a large flock of wild geese, flying low, had run afoul of the steamer, and, blinded by the rays of the searchlight, were flying wildly about the smoke-stack. Several of the big birds struck the stack, but fell into the water, where they could not be recovered in the darkness. The men on the steamer fired on the geese, but failed to bring any home, though they claim they shot several.

Economy Comes First. Young John D. Rockefeller declares in favor of marriage and economy. With most young men it is a matter of economy first of all, and marriage afterward, if possible.

MOUSE MARKET BRISK.

CATS ALSO WANTED AT LOGANS-PORT, IND.

Demand for Motive Power in Drug Store Window Starts Novel Industry for Small Boys—Quotations Fluctuate.

Logansport, Ind.—Mice and cat quotations are likely to be features of local market reports if fluctuations continue as sharp as they have been here for two or three days.

The mouse market took an unexpected upward start the other day, but on account of liberal receipts later a bear movement followed. Cats were brisk and kittens lively. Rangy looking rats were a drug on the market, and only prime mice are wanted at any price. The price of cats is rising, however, and the supply, while large, is unequal to the demand.

Home Closson & Co., a drug firm, are holding up the mouse market. The cats are being bought by tenants of the building he occupies. The demand for both grew out of an idea matured with intent to cut down electric power bills.

Closson is the Armour of the mouse business. He used an electric fan in his show window to keep it from frosting over. The current cost money. Closson figured out that a mouse on a treadmill would do the same work as a \$500,000 municipal electric plant. He rigged up an endless belt, baited with cheese.

But the mice seemed to have heard of his plan to put them to work. They became as scarce as snakes in Ireland. Closson put a sign in his window: WANTED: Healthy, Able-Bodied Mice to Work for Their Living. Will Pay One Cent Apiece.

Then he awaited results. Nothing materialized. The next day a voice over the telephone asked: "What are you paying for mice to-day?" "I'll give you five cents apiece," replied Closson. In due time a small boy, with 37 mice appeared and departed with \$1.85. The mice began their endless grind upgrade toward the never attainable cheese. Closson geared the fan to the mouse motor and disconnected the electricity.

The mice were non-union. They worked all day and half the night trying to reach two cents' worth of cheese. Then they fell exhausted. Closson's fan stopped; the windows began to frost over, and the sign was changed to read "Five cents apiece."

All the small boys in Cass county, seemed to have been holding off for an advance. They arrived with enough mice to keep the fan working in quadruple shifts for years, day and night. The price of mice fell in proportion. Closson would buy only "selected stock." The rest were turned loose by the boys, who preferred this to taking them back to the fodder stacks where they had been captured.

Simultaneously there came protests from adjoining bakeries and flats. One man in a hall bedroom hung out a sign offering to pay 30 cents each for cats that would rid his premises of the cast-off mice and those that had begun to gnaw their way out of Closson's cage.

A procession of small boys lugging reluctant tabbies passed up the stairs until the cat market developed a bear tendency. The neighbors of the "cat buyer of finance" picked up bargains in mousers all the way from a quarter to a dime.

The day's trading closed with markets firm on both cats and mice, and with non-union workers still toiling to reach the top of the treadmill—and, incidentally, keeping the frost from the store windows.

HAS PENCIL IN HER BRAIN.

Little Girl Lives with Skull Pierced by Slate—Fired from Pistol.

Atlantic City, N. J.—Surgeons are puzzled and interested with the vitality shown by Bessie Ang, the 13-year-old patient in the city hospital, who lives with a slate pencil imbedded in the lower part of the brain. The physicians called a consultation and carefully examined the child, with the intention of performing an operation, but it is such an unusual case and requires such a delicate and difficult operation, with but a small chance of saving her life, that they hesitate.

The child gains consciousness frequently, and manages to occasionally recognize some of her relatives or friends who call to see her. A sad Christmas was passed by her mother who called to see her and spent several hours beside the suffering daughter. She came to her senses for a few moments and made an effort to speak, but failed. Death, say the physicians, may ensue at any moment. John Adams, the lad who fired the pencil from a pistol into the girl's head, is still in the custody of his parents.

Give Young Man a Chance. The Enid (Okla.) Wave has advocated the teaching of grating in the public schools so that a young man will have an equal show with the old man. Not knowing the ropes and rules of success of the modern art of grating, the young man just out of school has no chance with the old man.

Humor Is Harmful. An English publication says Mark Twain's humor is harmful. The English mind finds itself unable to give Mark because it took him seri-ously when he confessed that he had wept bitter tears over the grave of Adam.

ANNUAL TREK OF CARIBOU.

Impressive Sight Which Is Witnessed in Newfoundland Late in the Fall.

The great autumn trek of the caribou is just over, says a recent report. In the third week of November the vanguard of the deer was leisurely making its way south, feeding as it went, its line extending for some miles in depth.

Whenever a watercourse went even approximately in the same direction numbers of the deer took its base for their road. Perhaps this was in consequence of inherited fear of being chased by animals following by scent. Or it is possible that the abundance of food supplies in the way of fern grass and the moss on the submerged bowlders and banks tempted them.

To a sportsman it was an impressive sight to see these handsome creatures, many of them with their neck markings as white and as perfect as white cravats could be, all heading in the same direction and traveling in simple obedience to a primal law. The fawns were fat and frolicsome and were in many instances fully half as tall as their mothers. The parents had their horns fully developed, of a rich brown at the base, shaded to a light drab at the tips.

The long, loose hoofs clattered nobly whenever the animals moved briskly. When, as was often the case, 50 or 60 of the animals went by together, the rattling of their feet gave out a curious sound, unlike anything else in nature's world.

The writer saw hundreds of them passing one day over the Topalls, as the highest mountain ridge on the island is called. There is very little shelter there, as, owing to the altitude, the trees are dwarfed, but little if any cover is needed by the hunter at such times, provided the direction of the wind is carefully noted.

More than ever was it made clear upon this expedition that the caribou does not rely particularly upon its eyesight, but places its main dependence upon its sense of smell. For hours the animals sauntered along, many of them almost within touch, dozens of them in full sight of their human observers.

About the headwaters of the Harry river the caribou appear to herd more closely than elsewhere, and it was here that 500 caribou were actually counted at one time, no notice being taken of fawns. Many of them had from 30 to 40 points on their horns, and when several were close together they appeared to be peeping out from under a dry thicket of dead branches.

THE DUKE WAS FAR-SEEING.

Argument of Wellington Settled Site of the Houses of Parliament.

Modern history of England tells of moments almost as exciting as those now being witnessed in Russia. Wellington once declared that the most exciting moment of his life was not in any of his great battles, but that in which he had to forbid William IV. to attend a public banquet in the city during a time of great national excitement.

Of the millions of people who every year see our houses of parliament, says the St. James' Gazette, how many imagine that their position was determined by strategic considerations? No one nowadays can think of the palace of Westminster in any other position than that which it occupies. But when the old houses were burned down and the task of rebuilding faced, there was a proposition to establish them on or near the site of St. James' palace. Wellington resolutely put down his foot on the proposal.

The site suggested, its advocates pointed out, would be better as regards centrality and convenience than the other. But to the argument of the duke there could then be no answer. "With a vast and growing population, such as yours in London," he said, "you must never make it possible that you can be surrounded. You must build your houses of parliament near the river, so that the means of ingress and egress are safe, and that the populace cannot exact their demands by sitting down around you."

Sir William Fraser, in whose memoirs the story is recalled, mentioned it to Napoleon III. just before the death of the latter. "What wisdom!" he said—"what wisdom!" and it set him musing upon the different turn which the history of France might have taken if in other ways as great precautions had been observed in his own case.

His Nuggets Were Safe. "I'm Black Jack," he said, as he flung himself into the Palace hotel early yesterday morning. "and I want to sleep here. I'm just down from Alaska," he added, as he scrawled his name across the page of the hotel register. Then he slammed a poke of nuggets in front of the clerk and admonished the latter to take care of them, after which the bell-boy escorted him to his room. Last evening "Black Jack" was shaky and also anxious about his nuggets, and approaching the clerk said in a whisper: "Say, have you seen any rocks around this dump? I've lost some somewhere, and am worrying a little."

"Is this what you are looking for?" answered the clerk, dragging the poke from the safe and placing it before Jack's hungry eyes. "It is," said Jack, as he seized the poke. "Let's go and have a drink." The poke is now reposing in a bank, and "Black Jack" feels safer.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

RICH FOR A MONTH.

SUDDENLY ACQUIRED WEALTH QUICKLY SQUANDERED.

People Unaccustomed to Large Sums of Money Almost Always Plunge Into Reckless Extravagance.

The sudden acquisition of unaccustomed wealth is responsible for many strange freaks on the part of the newly enriched, says London Tit-Bits. Thus, a Durham collier, after inheriting the sum of £20,000 from an uncle who had emigrated to Australia, purchased a male and female elephant from a traveling menagerie, had a large and gaudy carriage built, to which he harnessed them, and then drove out with his wife and children till stopped by the police. He spent his money in six months chiefly at race meetings, and is now once more a humble collier, glad of the comparatively scanty wage that he receives each week from the clerk in the pay shed.

The case of a once popular French novelist is still remembered in Parisian literary circles. Reaping a harvest from two or three capital books that took all Paris by storm, the author purchased a palace in Italy, a villa on the Riviera, a castle in Scotland and a town house on the Champs Elysees. It seemed his ambition to possess as many residences as a prince of the blood. Although all these properties were heavily mortgaged, the smash came within a year, and the novelist, loaded with debts that he never would be able to repay, calmly disappeared, and was afterward recognized as an Arab trader and lord of many caravans plying between Harar and Jibuti.

The novelist, who had adopted a suitable Arab name, stood high in the favor of Emperor Menelik. Consumption cut short a career that for variety and adventure far exceeded any romance that the novelist himself had ever penned.

Another "freak capitalist" was a Spanish lady of Bandoz, who winning £40,000 in the Manila lottery, collected the money and set out secretly for Paris, leaving her husband and children in complete darkness as to her whereabouts.

Eight months later she returned to her home penniless, but accompanied by 30 huge trunks, the contents of which accounted for the vanished thousands. On arriving in Paris she had apparently set about spending her money with a will. Clothes of every description and artificial aids to beauty had eaten up the whole of her fortune. Dresses, costly underwear, corsets, boots, gloves and hats, all marked with the names of the most fashionable makers, represented three-fourths of her purchases. In the remaining trunks were cosmetics, false hair, figure improvers, face creams, chin straps, cures for obesity—in short, every kind of article advertised by "beauty specialists" and the quacks who abound in all big cities. Beyond being the best dressed woman in Bandoz for several seasons she had reaped little benefit from her good fortune.

More extravagant still was the Russian gentleman who gambled away an inheritance of 6,000,000 rubles (£600,000) within a year, and was only saved from complete disaster by the odd chance that he had "spered his bedroom wall with hundred ruble notes. He ended by giving Russian lessons for a small fee in Paris.

The exploits of the late marquis of Anglesey are paralleled and exceeded by those of the son of a wealthy Hungarian sugar refiner. The young man not only had a replica of the Roman Colosseum erected on one of his estates, but would himself descend into the arena, in imitation of the emperors of old. Dressed as a gladiator and armed only with the short Roman thrusting sword, he would engage lions, tigers and bears in single combat, often paying as much as £1,000 for the specimen that furnished him and his friends with a half hour's entertainment.

The Hungarian authorities put a stop to these savage exhibitions, and while the remainder of his wealth lasted he had to content himself with an ordinary circus. He died dramatically, when on the verge of being declared a bankrupt, by taking poison at the close of a farewell feast, to which he had invited his neighbors and tenants.

Slow Horses. It was during mess hour at a sawmill camp that the slowness of horses came up for discussion. "There's Kelly's old gray, you couldn't whip her into a trot," said one. "Johnson's black mare will beat her; she refuses to help herself to the barley at night, for most times she isn't through eating her dinner," said another.

"Old Water's spindle-shank takes the prize," put in a third; "she's double-jointed in the knees—she walks both ways at once."

"I stood out on the road," drolled Shepard, coming in late for his dinner. "for 20 minutes talking to Myers; and all that time his bay mare never stopped."—San Francisco Chronicle.

Discovered the Thief. An English country clergyman detected a thief in the following astute manner. A laborer had informed him that a sack of potatoes had been stolen from his garden. "Well, well," said the minister, "I'll see to it after services." He preached on the eighth commandment, and ended thus: "And now I have a sad tale to tell. One of our neighbors has missed a sack of potatoes from his garden, and the thief is even now sitting among you. Has he a feather on his head?" At once a man in the congregation was seen to put his hand surreptitiously to the top of his head.

STEALS OCEAN'S SECRETS.

De Plury, Who Has Descended to Greater Depths Than Any Diver, Tells of Sights.

Paris.—A young naval engineer named De Plury, diving in connection with the examination now going on of the French vessel sunk near Saigon, has made remarkable discoveries concerning the inhabitants of the ocean at a greater depth than has ever before been reached.

De Plury's daring has been made possible by his accoutrements—an invention of his own—which are armored with metal plates, while by a chemical arrangement respiration becomes automatic. At a depth of 1,094 yards De Plury declares that all submarine monsters change in shape because of the enormous pressure of the water. If taken to the surface, their size is quadrupled like a rubber bag inflated by air. Bodies that sink to these deeper levels have every bone broken. The creatures that circle about them are all carnivorous, and to see them feeding is insupportable horror.

When 162 feet below the surface the diver says he must go through masses of seaweed that envelop and would drag him down. Beneath this weed snake-like creatures and fish resembling dolphins surrounded him, and not the least of his adversaries were the giant crabs with tough shells and hideous claws.

At 30 feet below the surface De Plury gets odd effects in light. Seen through the pale, moving water, it assumes strange rainbow hues. At a depth of 129 feet the sandy bottom of the sea in intense sunlight looked like molten gold. Below 200 feet darkness commences, and at 327 pitchy darkness surrounds one that must be illuminated to make moving safe. Electric lamps of 10,000 candle-power are used by De Plury.

The diver says that at a certain depth bodies are kept in a state of preservation, but when touched drop away like powder.

He tells gruesome tales of the wrecks he has visited among them the treasure ship that was taking Napoleon's gold to Holland in 1808. One hundred million of gold sank at that time, and little more than half has been recovered.

SWEDEN A MEDICAL WONDER.

Man Whose Main Diet Is Apples Paddles Canoe from Stockholm to Paris.

Paris.—Medical men now are occupied with the case of Gustav Nordin, a hardy Swede, who paddled his own canoe from Stockholm to Paris and reached here in robust health after the long voyage during which he lived on apples, milk, water and bread.

The Swede states that he undertook the dangerous and arduous voyage to show what could be done by a man who has given up meat, tea, coffee, wine, beer, spirits and tobacco. He prides himself on eclipsing vegetarians and returning to the system that is termed natural alimentation.

Nordin agreed to allow the doctors to draw some blood from his legs and arms for the purpose of analysis. He states that when in America at the age of 15 he found he could not eat ordinary food and was suffering, so he began a diet of fruit, principally apples, on which he thrived and became the robust person he is to-day.

GIVES CASH FOR HER PETS.

Actress Bequeaths \$15,000 for Care of Animals at Death—Were Her Only Companions.

New York.—The fact that Cecilia A. Wolsey, who was formerly a performer on the vaudeville stage under the name of Lillian Western, bequeathed \$15,000 for the care of her dog, parrot and a cage of love birds, became known when her will was filed. Harriet E. Gates, a friend of the dead woman, is charged with the care of the animals, and Miss Wolsey's will provides that she shall have the use of the \$15,000 for that purpose. After the death of Mrs. Gates the will stipulates that the remainder of the money shall go to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to care for Miss Wolsey's pets if they outlive Mrs. Gates, and if not, to care for other homeless animals.

Miss Wolsey was a "musical specialist" of the vaudeville stage and retired from it a year ago, having only her pets as companions.

WILL FORCE HENS TO LAY.

Scientist Has Plan to Make Them Produce Eggs Willy-Nilly—Conducts Experiments.

Berkeley, Cal.—Within a short time hens will lay eggs according to programs, whether they want to or not, instead of refusing to work for so long a season every year that the price of eggs mounts up to famine rates, if the plans of Prof. Jaffa, nutrition expert at the state university, don't go astray. Prof. Jaffa conducted numerous experiments. He has announced that his researches have justified his belief that he would be able to control the moulting period of hens, which normally begins in the middle of the summer and continues into September, October or November.

Whisky Shipped in Apple Barrel. The United States customs officials have made an important seizure at Newport, at the office of an express company. A barrel supposed to contain apples from Quebec, was opened and found to contain 32 quarts of sealed Canadian whisky. A layer of apples covered the bottles.