

READ POETRY ANNULS WILL

Testator's Mind Declared Unsound Because of Lame Lines—Case to Be Appealed.

Alton, Ill.—Because J. B. Gould wrote poor poetry and signed his name to it a jury at Alton set aside his will and decided that he was incapable of devising his property.

The case has attracted considerable attention in Illinois on account of the prominence of the people involved. When Mr. Gould died his will was read, and it was found that he had given all the real estate of which he was possessed to Mayor Ed. Beall and the latter's son, J. W. Beall.

The heirs of the dead man protested and carried the matter into the courts. They alleged that the Bealls had exercised undue influence over the decedent and that his mind was not clear at the time he signed his name to the document.

When the case came up in the courts at Alton the witnesses for the heirs testified that they were of the opinion Mr. Gould was of sound mind. Judgment from the character of the poetry which he had been signing his name and having published in the papers.

The case was hard fought and the jury wrangled over a verdict for 24 hours before it reached a decision. It was decided that the will should be set aside, the jury agreeing with the heirs that the quality of the alleged poetry stamped the decedent as a man of unsound mind.

When informed of the verdict Mayor Beall said he would appeal the case to the supreme court. He contended that the poetry was not so bad as some had read and he indignantly denies that either he or his son exercised undue influence over Mr. Gould.

RAILROAD CAPITALIZATION.

Government Statistics Show That Investment Per Mile Has Grown to \$64,265.

Washington, D. C.—A special statistical report of the interstate commerce commission shows that railway capitalization has very rapidly increased during the last few years. The total capitalization for the year ending June 30, 1893, was \$9,894,625,239, or \$59,729 per mile. Three years later it increased to \$10,566,865,771, or \$59,169 per mile, while in 1904 it had grown to \$13,213,124,679, or \$64,265 per mile.

An improvement likewise is noted in the dividend paying ability of railway stocks. In 1893 the per cent of stock paying dividends was 38.76 on \$1,809,600,846, or an average rate of 2.13 per cent of stock paying dividend paying stock. In 1904 the per cent of stock paying dividends was 37.47 on \$3,643,427,319, or an average rate paid on dividend paying stock of 2.99 per cent. The amount paid in dividends in 1904 was \$21,941,949.

As regards freight rates, the statistics show that estimating the amount of freight revenue at the average rate of 55.2 cents per ton, the rate of 1899, the amount of freight revenue for the year ending June 30, 1904 was \$1,247,024,005.

HAS SIX PUPILS; ONCE 55.

Teacher's Enforcement of Vaccination Law Breaks Up School at Brogueville, Pa.

York, Pa.—The attendance at the public school at Brogueville, in the southern part of York county, has been reduced from 55 to six pupils. This is due to the attempt of Dr. Dixon to enforce the vaccination laws in York county.

The teacher, Miss Iceline Doran, was threatened with the revocation of her certificate if she permitted students to attend school without being vaccinated, and accordingly refused admittance to all but six. This has demoralized the school and the teacher is surrounded by empty benches.

Many of the patrons of the school blame Miss Doran, while others are very bitter against the health officer. They declare that the school may suspend before they send their children back again.

POTATO EYES ARE MAILED.

Method That Is Being Adopted by the Seedsmen—Cheap, with Results Sure.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Many of the seedsmen will, this spring, mail potato eyes put up in plaster, so that they will reach planters in good shape. The eyes are taken out of the tubers with a knife made expressly for that purpose, which carries a pretty good sized piece of the potato. They are quite sure to grow, and make a fair crop, regardless of the small beginning. This is a cheap means of getting started in new varieties or of obtaining pure stock from some of the standard varieties.

One hundred eyes, assorted to include a half dozen sorts, may be ordered packed in one box. These will cost about one dollar, with charges prepaid. The cost is hardly worth mentioning when compared to the advantage of having some pure stock of known varieties. They are not mailed until danger of freezing is past.

Will of Three Words Is Valid.

The shortest will on record was declared valid by the probate division of the London court of chancery. The testator, who was stricken with paralysis and had asked for a piece of paper and written, "All to mother," meaning his wife, whom the courts have now declared entitled to his large estate.

FINDS CAMEL REMAINS

EXPLORATION OF CAVES UNDER THE MAMMALIAN.

During "Quaternary" Period Animals Are Declared to Have Been Plentiful—Proves a New Source of Information.

Berkeley, Cal.—In a geological bulletin issued by the University of California there is described absolutely new mammalian remains found during the exploration in the "Quaternary" caves of northern California during the last three years. The writer is William J. Sinclair, a young scientist, who spent one summer in excavating the Potter Creek cave in Shasta county. The specimens studied were most of them obtained from this cave, although much new material was also found in Mercer's cave, situated near the town of Murphy, in Calaveras county. The fossils are not complete, but the bones are well preserved in the limestone, and their study has been a comparatively easy task.

Perhaps the most interesting discovery, from a popular standpoint, is that of camel's teeth. Sinclair, in speaking of his find, says: "Camels were abundant in California during the Quaternary period, but they did not play a very important part in the fauna of the region about the Potter Creek cave. Three molars of a camel were found in this cave, but their fragmentary condition makes it impossible to determine their genera."

Sinclair states in the text of his report that the cave explorations conducted by the department of anthropology of the state university have opened to the paleontologists a new source of information regarding the Quaternary vertebrate fauna of this state. While occasional scattered teeth and bones from valley alluvium, clay beds, stream gravels and asphaltum deposits of the Quaternary age occur in various mammalian species, it has been impossible to group them into a fauna which might be regarded as a chronologic unit, owing to more or less variation in the age of these beds.

The agencies involved in the accumulation of most of the bone bearing deposits have proved destructive to all but the larger forms. On the contrary, the caves, having acted to a greater or less extent as receptacles for the accumulation of surface material, afford a more complete faunal record, as the condition governing preservation are more favorable.

Besides the remains of camels, above mentioned, Sinclair found a large number of species of the Quaternary mammals. The greater number of the species were found at the Potter Creek cave, but some new material was also secured from the Mercer cave, situated near the town of Murphy in Calaveras county.

A list of the species found and described by Mr. Sinclair in the bulletin is as follows: Thomomys microtom, closely resembling the Thomomys mazama, Potter Creek cave, Shasta county; Apidionta major fossila, numerous lower jaws found in Potter Creek cave; Tenomys sepiama, somewhat resembling the Tenomys clarens, Potter Creek cave; Platygona, three specimens found in Potter Creek cave; Eucatherium collinum, Potter Creek cave.

HELD UP AT THE ALTAR.

Groom Has to Pay Claims of Father-in-Law and Board Bill of the Bride.

Trenton, N. J.—An Italian wedding here was interrupted in a remarkable manner when the bride's father insisted on holding up the ceremony until the bridegroom had paid \$50 he had promised the parent of his prospective wife. The parties were Miss Mary Cerone, daughter of Angelo Cerone, and Pasquale Miller. The wedding procession had marched in and Squire Manfred Naar commenced the ceremony.

Everything progressed smoothly until the officiating squire asked the blushing bride if she would have Pasquale for better or worse and she timidly said "Yes." Then Papa Cerone interposed and demanded that the ceremony be stopped until the smiling Pasquale had paid him \$50 promised for the father's consent. The bridegroom handed over the \$50 and the ceremony proceeded.

Then Mrs. Berta Sanderson demanded \$52 the bride owed for board. With ill-concealed grace Pasquale went down in his pocket and paid the second claim. Then the ceremony was allowed to proceed.

Hear Taft's Speech by Phone.

The televent, James F. Land's device for use in connection with telephones, was given a trial in Detroit and Grand Rapids, Mich., and a number of guests of Dudley E. Waters gathered in a Grand Rapids office and heard the speech delivered by Secretary of War W. H. Taft before the board of commerce in Detroit. A transmitter was placed in front of the secretary in Detroit, and each of the auditors wore on his head a headband and receiver such as is used by telephone operators. The entire speech was heard perfectly.

May Toss Coin for Office.

John J. Williams, of Nanticoke, Pa., one of the candidates for the office of tax collector, has proposed to Richard E. Jones, his rival, to toss a coin, draw lots, or adopt any fair way to determine which shall withdraw from the fight. Jones has replied that he is willing to have each man select six others, the jury of 12 to determine which shall remain in the field.

THE OLDEST EX-GOVERNOR

Frederick Holbrook of Vermont Is 93 Years of Age—Is Called "Grand Old Man."

Brattleboro, Vt.—Vermont's "grand old man," former Gov. Frederick Holbrook, has reached his ninety-third birthday, and his personal friends and the public united in sending congratulations upon this anniversary. It was planned that Gov. Bell and all the ex-governors of the state should visit the old war governor at his home in Brattleboro at that time, but upon conferring with him and his advising physician the conclusion was reluctantly reached that it was not best, for although his mental vision is undimmed and his physical health is remarkable for a man of his years, the excitement attending such an occasion would be very trying to him. Former Gov. Carroll S. Page says that "it may interest you to know that I wrote to the governors of all the states, inquiring as to the number, age, etc., of their ex-governors, and the replies received show that ex-Gov. Holbrook is the oldest living governor or ex-governor in the United States. I think he may with propriety be designated as Vermont's 'Grand Old Man.'" Ex-Gov. Holbrook, who was placed in the gubernatorial chair of Vermont in 1861, being elected to that office of grave responsibility by a gratifying majority in one of the darkest hours of our national history, proved himself to be the man of the hour and the place. His courage was unflinching, his hope and cheer unflinching.

SHUNS WOMEN TILL DEATH

Former College Instructor Declares They Can Never Be Trusted—Possesses Unique Record.

Des Moines, Ia.—Ed Upton, at one time an instructor in Wabash college at Crawfordsville, Ind., and a graduate of that institution, was found dead in the slum district of Des Moines, death being due to drink and exposure. For 25 years he had shunned the companionship of women and it is said had not conversed a total of 30 minutes in that time with the other sex, never speaking to the wife of the man with whom he boarded. He explained his aversion to the sex by saying: "A woman can't be trusted out of sight. I never knew one yet who would not double-cross simply for the pleasure of making an idiot of her friends."

He talked little about his belief, but during an illness a few years ago A. P. Kelly, with whom he resided, inspected his trunk and found out something of his past, and Upton finally confessed his career to him. He said that he had been fitted by one of his pupils in Crawfordsville on the eve of their marriage; that he had immediately resigned and started west. For a time he made money here and once owned a half interest in valuable coal mines, but he started drinking and lost all.

About three years ago he received word of the death of his former sweetheart and had not been sober since, except when unable to beg money or liquor. He would never tell where his parents or family lived.

DEFRAUDS BY PHONOGRAPH

Son of Wealthy Hungarian Held for Forgery After Court Upheld Claim to Estate.

Vienna.—Alois Szabo, the son of a wealthy peasant of Szegedin, Hungary, who died recently, has been arrested for forging a will by means of a phonograph.

Shortly before the death of the father the servants were called into his room and heard a voice proceeding from the bed say: "I leave all my property to my eldest son, Alois, and my other children are to get nothing." As a verbal statement made by a testator when on the point of death in the presence of witnesses constitutes a valid will in Hungary, this disposition of the peasant's property was upheld in the courts.

A few days ago, however, Alois mistress, with whom he had quarreled, informed the police that the voice the servants heard was not that of his father, but that Alois had spoken the words into a phonograph. He had placed the instrument under the father's bed, and when the old man had lost consciousness called the servants in and set it going.

UNDERGOES 32 OPERATIONS

Man Has Pieces of Leg Taken Off at Odd Intervals for the Past Fourteen Years—Recovery Promised.

New York.—Charles Rorain submitted in the German hospital at Newark, N. J., to the thirty-second operation that has been performed on one of his legs within 14 years. The 31 preceding operations had taken away almost all of his leg, and the surgeons found only a stump.

Besides losing his leg, the operations have cost Rorain four years time in the hospital. Most of the operations have been due to Rorain's eagerness to leave the hospital as they were performed, affording no time for them to heal properly. Rorain hurt his foot in an elevator 14 years ago. The first operation cost him only a part of his foot. The surgeons say he will be fully cured in a month.

Wife Sutor at the Altar.

With the clergyman ready to read the marriage ceremony and in the presence of the invited guests, Miss Clara Kewelsberger refused to wed Will Kern at Sterling, Ill. It is reported that she will soon marry another man.

TO DRAIN LAKE ZUMPANGO

For Centuries Body of Water Had Menaced Mexico's Capital with Floods.

City of Mexico.—Plans are on foot for the complete drainage of Lake Zumpango, which is seven miles long and four miles wide, situated in the valley of Mexico, adjacent to this city. This lake in the times of the Aztecs and when Cortez made his conquest of Mexico, was a large body of water and in times of floods menaced the city. History relates that Cortez carried on his onslaught upon the capital of Montezuma by means of fleets of vessels which he operated upon the waters of this lake. In the more recent years a great system of drainage has been established, which has served to relieve the lake of its surplus water.

It is now planned to completely efface the lake and convert its fertile bottom into farms. Thus, after centuries, and through the combined aid of earthquakes, the work of the early aborigines of the country and the science and skill of modern engineers, what was probably according to geologists, one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, hanging above the clouds at an altitude of nearly 8,000 feet above the sea level, is to become a green valley and one of the world's richest garden spots.

Zumpango is about 30 miles to the north of the City of Mexico. It is surrounded by prosperous villages and green corn milpas, that have encroached upon its territory as the waters have receded. Its level is considerably higher than that of the City of Mexico. In former years it and the other four lakes of the valley were responsible for a periodical inundation of old Tenochtitlan.

FELINES BECOME A MENACE

Cats Swarm Over Markets in Paris and Public Fears a Plague from Disease They Carry.

Paris.—Cats in London are often a nuisance to the householder when they fight upon the roof in the middle of the night, but in Paris, especially near the Halles Centrales, they are said to have become a public danger. It appears that these animals swarm in thousands all over the markets, and as most of them are mangy and otherwise diseased, it is feared that they will contaminate the goods set out for sale, so the police have issued an edict that all the stray cats are to be captured and put into a lethal chamber, and as a consequence the kind-hearted market women have adopted many of the cats and now claim them as their own property. But M. Guichard, the police inspector in charge of the markets, will hear of no mercy and the offending animals are to be slaughtered without delay. The police are to surround the market at night and to carry sacks in which to put the captured cats. What is to be done if the cats escape on to the roofs is not stated.

STOMACH A BAROMETER.

Pittsburg Knows It Is Going to Snow When Its Mayor Complains of Pain.

Pittsburg, Pa.—"When Mayor William B. Hays has stomach ache, get out your snow shovels!" This is the latest idea in weather indications and Pittsburg has it. The mayor was complaining of pains in his alimentary reservoir, and when asked to diagnose his case, he said:

"It is going to snow. That's what's the matter. I never fail to forecast a fall of snow when I feel like I do today. Just before snow falls these pains in my back and stomach make themselves known, and they remain with me till the snow begins to fall, when they disappear."

"I can predict snow as surely as I can predict death and taxes. The pains I have to-day are the forerunner of snow, and it will surely come, and then I will be all right again."

Steals; Pays After 34 Years.

E. P. Ashbrook, aged 90 years, of Mansfield, O., is in receipt of "conscience money" in unusual circumstances. Thirty-four years ago Mr. Ashbrook was operating a woolen mill at Mattoon, Ill., and among his employees was a girl about ten years of age. She is now married and living at Peoria, Ill. Mr. Ashbrook has just received a letter from her in which she incloses four dollars, and says it is the first installment of weekly payments she will make until she restores to him all the money she stole from him while in his employ. Mr. Ashbrook knew nothing about any money being stolen from him.

Arithmetic Case in Ohio.

A peculiar suit is on trial in Justice Monnett's court, says the Bucyrus correspondent of the Cleveland Leader. William Holmes and A. J. Wisman are parties to the suit, which hinges on the number of cubic inches in a bushel. Wisman sold a lot of corn in crib to Holmes and figured 1,944 cubic inches to the bushel, which is the number given by a textbook in common use. Holmes maintains there are 2,150 cubic inches in a regulation bushel, and as authority cites Ray's arithmetic, which was the corner stone of all country school educations. Elevator men and school teachers have been subpoenaed as witnesses.

New Christmas Novelty.

Natives of Guam, according to mail correspondence just received, had a Christmas tree but did not know what to do with it, so they paraded it through the streets on a mule cart.

THIRD SET OF TEETH AT 94

Unusual Case of "Grandpa" Fox Is a Puzzle to the Dentists of Omaha.

Omaha, Neb.—To be cutting a third set of teeth while the second set is fairly well preserved is a record of which but few men can boast. This is what is happening to J. H. Fox, who boards at the Old People's home.

"Grandpa" Fox is 94 years of age. All his life he has been hale and hearty and blessed with exceptionally good teeth, double though they were. "I have never had no dentist workin' in my mouth," he says. "I mind havin' the toothache pretty bad many years ago. A man I knew gave me some stuff to put in 'em, and finally the ache quit, and they never bothered me again."

There are five new teeth, and they are all incisors. They are coming in between the old double anteriors and peer forth like rice grains among the older teeth. The cutting of them does not seem to affect him in any way. For two years they have been coming, one at a time.

"Well, I guess I'm cutting another tooth. I expect I'll have a full new set of nice home-grown teeth soon," he says to the other boarders cheerfully when they guy him and call him the "baby" of the establishment on account of his new teeth. "You don't catch me fooling around with any of these boughen teeth like the rest of you year."

Every indication would tend to show that "Grandpa" Fox will continue to grow new teeth as fast as his old ones drop out. They push through the gums wherever they can find a place to grow.

Dentists who have seen Mr. Fox and his third set of teeth declare it a rare case. The double teeth they explain by saying that the anteriors are frequently brittle and easily worn away. In this case nature keeps throwing out accumulations and incrustations, which build up the teeth into the semblance of double teeth. Mr. Fox, however, insists that every one of his teeth came in double.

STOPS COUPLE; WEDS GIRL

Plains Belks Rival—Forgives and Marries Sweetheart of His Choice.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Caught by an angry sweetheart just as he was about to elope with another girl, Joseph L. Berry decided that, after all, he did love the fair captor better than he thought, and so he made Miss Mabel Kingsley his bride.

The other girl, Miss Lela Paddock, was employed at the local telephone exchange and it was her sweet voice which first caused him to turn from Miss Kingsley, to whom he had been engaged for several years, and who was the choice of his parents.

Berry and Miss Paddock decided to elope, and the young woman went to Sheridan, Ind., where he was to meet her. The young man let a few friends into his secret, and they were at the station to bid him farewell.

Just as he was about to board a car Miss Kingsley appeared, and with her Berry's father, who told his son that if there was going to be a wedding, Miss Kingsley would be the bride. Then Miss Kingsley, weeping, threw her arms about her sweetheart's neck—and that ended it.

Berry, Sr. hunted up a clergyman before the young man could change his mind, and the wedding bells rang out.

DEVIL SEIZED FOR A DEBT.

Detroit Arraigned Famous Statue of Satan Dragg'd Away Into Captivity to Satisfy Creditor.

Detroit.—Lugged away in an old cart Herman Henz' statue of the devil now is being guarded by a constable. The image was set up two months ago by Henz and created a sensation. Henz is not a believer in the deity, and wrought the statue to symbolize his belief as to the future.

The other day a constable with a writ of replevin called at the home of the old German stonemason and levied on the idol. The owner resisted the demand of the officer, and he and his family tried to save the statue from capture, even going so far as to bring a sledgehammer to smash it to bits.

The constable and his assistants were successful in removing the statue, and thus made return on the writ that was sworn out by Warren West, of Ypsilanti on a claim of \$51.40 for labor, part of which was performed on "Beelzebub."

Wife May Keep Bing.

The question of a wife's right to retain her wedding ring after love has grown cold and she and her husband have separated has been decided by Justice Mackelfresh, in Cincinnati, in favor of the woman. This point was raised in a suit filed by William Kleeman against his wife, Isabella, to recover household effects and wedding presents which he alleged his wife refused to give up. One of the presents was the wedding ring. Judge Mackelfresh decided that Kleeman was entitled to the household effects, but said Mrs. Kleeman could keep the ring, two gins, two carriages and a pair of opera glasses.

Even Statues Catch Cold.

Just as congress is considering changing the date of inauguration, the superintendent of the capital comes with a request that Greenough's statue of Washington be brought in out of the wet and cold. The climate of the District of Columbia seems to be as trying to dead and gone statesmen as to those of the present.

STUDIED HER CUSTOMERS.

Immigrant Girl Who Developed a Faculty Which Brought Her Success.

I know of a girl who entered a store three years ago, when she had been in America only six months. She was not attractive, but she developed the remarkable ability of remembering everybody who came up to her counter, and often managed to get their names. They were surprised, says a writer in Success Magazine, when they came up to hear her call them by name. She not only remembered their names and faces, but she also studied their peculiar tastes, and remembered what they liked and what they disliked.

The clerks who had been there a long time made fun of this girl, and expressed their surprise that an immigrant should be taken into the store. Some of the best customers at first refused to allow her to wait on them.

Her unattractiveness, and the consciousness that she was a newcomer, that she had been in this country only a few months, seemed to spur her on, and while the other clerks were idling, joking and laughing with customers, she was studying the situation, watching everybody, getting every bit of information she could, and she resolved to lift herself to a position where the others would admire rather than criticize her.

In one year from the time she entered the store, this young lady was receiving the largest salary in her department, had charge of one of the stocks, and was even entrusted with part of the buying in one year, this girl put to shame the American girls who had been in the establishment for years. While others were complaining that there was "no chance" to get up, that the heads were chosen by favoritism, this young immigrant was finding her opportunity at her first counter.

WITHOUT DIRT OR NOISE.

Cities Which Are Run by Electrical Power Have This Great Advantage.

As one by one we see the old steam plants in our large buildings discarded, we begin to approach the realization of the ideal electric city, says the Technical World. The tourist, when stopping in the city of Niagara Falls, notwithstanding the immense manufacturing industries which have grown up there within the last few years, will see almost no chimneys delivering their smoky contribution to the otherwise clear atmosphere. Here every steam plant has been shut down, with the exception of one or two small plants in which it is necessary to use steam in the treatment of wood pulp for the manufacture of paper. In these mills the power processes are performed either by the direct agency of water power or by electric power through the agency of motors.

The visitor to some of the model factories recently built will wonder how it has become possible to preserve the absolute cleanliness that is found on every floor and in every department. He will find that small electric motors have displaced the old systems of shafting and belts, with their connections from floor to floor, their rasping noise and vibration, and their accompanying dust and dirt. The result is the ideal workshop. Electricity gives the most perfect lighting, the most perfect source of power, and the most easily manipulated form of heating, whether in the factory, the office or the home.

Lucky Calamity.

As time passes it becomes more and more evident that the big fire of two years ago was a lucky calamity for Baltimore. In two days it cleared away acres and acres of ancient, tumble-down buildings that in the ordinary course of events might have obstructed the progress of the city for years. It awakened enterprise; it opened the way for new ideas and new men; it aroused the city to the need for a general municipal house-cleaning and it provided an opportunity to widen narrow streets, to improve useless docks and to do other things. True enough, a great many Baltimoreans were ruined by the fire and their fate excites sympathy, but a great many more in the two years that have passed have profited. To-day Baltimore is the better for the terrible Sunday—more alert, more modern, more prosperous and more progressive.—Baltimore Herald.

Japanese Good Miners.

The Japanese miner is called the best laborer, considering his price, in the world. The Jap also makes a good assayer or surveyor. There are mine workings of all grades and kinds in the little empire of Japan. Owing to the small amount and superficial nature of the development as yet carried out, little is known about its gold mining, but hopeful views are expressed for the future. The gold producing parts of the empire are Honshu, Kyushu, Hokkaido and Formosa. The alluvial mines are in Hokkaido, but it is in the mining of deposits other than placers that the bulk of the future supply of Japan is expected. The requirements of the mining authorities are not exacting, and the area of land allowed to be taken up ranges from two and a half to 500 acres.

Sent Quarter Through Mail.

The most peculiar piece of mail that has ever come to an Alabama post office, so far as known, reached the New Decatur post office a few days ago. It was a silver quarter of a dollar with a small piece of paper pasted on each side. On one side was written the address and on the other a few words. The quarter was tied in the center of a bundle of letters when it arrived. It had traveled many miles and was delivered safely to the one for whom it was intended.—Nashville American.