

SCARCITY OF CHINCHILLAS.

Danger of Extinction of the Valuable Fur-Bearing Animals.

Chosul Mansfield of Valparaiso writes that chinchilla skins, much prized and highly valued in the United States, England and European countries because of their beautiful color and fine quality of the fur, are a product of Bolivia and Chile only.

The chinchilla is a small animal that burrows in the ground, and resembles in general appearance a rat, except in the coat, which is a beautiful silken light gray fur. It is found in the Cordillera ranges of the Andes in Chile and Bolivia, the best quality coming from the latter country.

They are captured in various ways, but the most common method is to hunt them with dogs, the fox terrier being the most useful and skillful in their capture.

At the last session of the Chilean congress a bill was passed prohibiting the killing of chinchillas within a certain season and providing penalties for violation of the law.

SMALLPOX IS EXPENSIVE.

Disease That Costs the State of Pennsylvania a Great Deal of Money.

Retraction of the value of vaccination and the consequent necessity for laws compelling its acceptance by those who would not of their own free will seek its protection, would be unpardonable were it not for the numbers of the opposition, says American Medicine.

Finally, fearing for her life, she left him and came to this place to hide. She says that she was never married to him, although she was known as his wife, and declares that she will not go back to him.

\$10,000 A YEAR IS ENOUGH

Gov. Johnson Declares No Man Has Need for More—Speaks at Y. M. C. A.

Duluth, Minn.—"I do not believe that any man should have more than \$10,000 a year, for if he lives right he does not need any more," declared Gov. John A. Johnson in an address at the Lyceum theater.

Yerkes Once Mined Gold.

The late Charles T. Yerkes was a gold miner in his youth, having been sent by his father to manage what was known as the Dodge mine.

FIND RECORDS; GET ESTATE

Lawyer's Long Search for Divorce Decree Rewarded—Divorce Case Data Found.

Lafayette, Ind.—Among the old records, stained and yellow, in the Tippecanoe county clerk's office, Clerk Quincy Earl and his deputy, Mrs. Samuel Savage, have found papers, that will deprive Mrs. Nancy Reed of Frankfort of her right to the estate left by Marshall Fred Thompson, the Delphi murderer and suicide.

In the old records here was found the divorce case of Nancy E. Thompson vs. Marshall F. Thompson. It was also found that on November 16, 1865, an absolute divorce was granted Nancy Thompson upon the grounds of cruelty and desertion.

CATCH CLEVER BOY CROOK

Purchase of Auto on Credit Leads to His Downfall at Dresden.

Berlin.—A youth, 16 years of age, who has been arrested at Dresden, has had a remarkable career of swindling. He is an apprentice from a country town, and came to Berlin as Fröhner von Bredow.

When he bought a motor car on credit, however, his movements were watched, and the police, having obtained information concerning him, he was arrested just as he was leaving his hotel in his car.

HOLDS GIRL BY HYPNOTISM

Victim Starts Story of Her Suicide—Escapes, Found, Tells of Mortal Dread.

Connellsville, Pa.—Mrs. Edna Tinkey-Brown, aged 20, who was alleged to have committed suicide, and who has been searched for several days by her alleged husband, Harry Cassell, of Cleveland, O., has been found, alive and well, living at the home of relatives.

The girl admitted that it was herself who circulated the report that she had committed suicide, and that her object in doing so was to escape from Cassell, of whom, she declares, she is in mortal fear.

ESTABLISH A DOWER FUND

Unique Plan Promulgated by New Iowa Insurance Concern—Outline of Methods.

Des Moines, Ia.—The Iowa Marriage Dower Association is one of the strangest organizations to file articles of incorporation with the county recorder of Polk county.

MOVE WHEN NECESSARY

Business is creeping into the residence district occupied by the Vanderbilts, Sloanes and other New York notabilities.

TOO BUSY TO GET HUNGRY

A contemporary marvels that the Japanese had enough to eat while the war lasted and only began to starve with the restoration of peace.

GIVE HOME FOR IDLE

SEDAN, KAN., LOAFERS HAVE UNIQUE CLUB ROOM.

Town Builds Two-Story Band Stand and Gossipers in World's Problems Are Presented with Lower Room for Weighty Debates.

Sedan, Kan.—This probably is the only town in Kansas, and perhaps in the west, where official provision has been made for the town loafer.

When the oil business quickened the pace of the community things became different, and the village loafers received less attention from the busier strangers to them and they could no longer entertain the customers who tied up in fact it went from bad to worse for the group about the stove.

KAISER AS A DESIGNER.

He and His Family as Saints and Cherubs in Stained Glass and Brass.

The Kaiser has just designed a magnificent electrical candelabrum for a new church at Strassburg.

The metal work, of beaten brass, consists of seven huge branches in a highly complicated pattern.

In the new cathedral at Worms the stained glass windows contain figures of the Kaiser's seven children as cherubs.

PROUD OF THEIR BABIES.

Observing English Traveler Has a Good Opinion of Fathers in This Country.

"American fathers are the most affectionate in the world," said a traveled Englishman the other day. "I never heard any young married men talk with such affectionate pride about their babies.

NEW BOON TO BACHELORS

Hand Sewing-Machine That Mends Bents by Simply Turning a Crank.

"I have been wondering for some time," said the girl in the white shirt waist to a New York Press writer, "who uses all of those little hand sewing machines that we sell nowadays. Yesterday I found out. It is the men. I had noticed for several weeks that the masculine shoppers investing in those handy little contrivances far exceeded the feminine, but I set their ponderance down to good-natured obedience which impelled them to buy at their wives' or sisters' behest.

PLAN TO SAVE TREES

OKLAHOMA COTTONWOODS ARE THEME OF MEASURE.

Scheme to Preserve Them in Timber Park, to Be Maintained at Sole Expense of Indian Territory, Before Congress.

Alfne, Okla.—The bill recently introduced in congress by Delegate McGuire to make a territorial park out of the school section near Alfne, now known as Big Timber park, is intended to preserve the biggest trees in Oklahoma and a picturesque spot which was, when Oklahoma was still far out on the frontier, a favorite camping ground for Indians, trappers, hunters and military expeditions.

PUTS SAIL ON HIS SLEIGH.

Young Farmer Extricates Himself from Predicament by His Great Ingenuity.

Tolley, N. D.—A remarkable adventure befell a Tolley man recently. While the Tolley papers did not have a reporter on the spot, they secured and printed the story, but without those sidelights and highlights that the incident seems to demand.

SELLS A TOWN FOR \$6,000

Proprietor of Village of Solon, Ind., Transfers His Property to Hoosier Dealer.

Solon, Ind.—Orlando Ross is no longer proprietor of the town of Solon. For \$6,000 he sold it to William Dellinger, of Scottsburg, Ind.

SUIT OVER INCH OF LAND.

Owner Ordered to Court to Saw a Silver Off House to Make Up Deficiency.

San Francisco.—A silver one inch at one end and two inches at the other must be saved from the side of a house in Berkeley to satisfy a novel suit over an inch of land for which W. Mauch was asking \$2,000 of M. L. Wurts, a Berkeley real estate dealer.

CLUB OF DEAF WOMEN.

One of the most curious clubs on record has recently been formed by society women in Berlin.

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In this park there stands unrivaled the largest cottonwood tree known, and the biggest tree of any kind which is now growing in Oklahoma. It is not a tree that is impressive for its beauty, but primarily on account of its venerable appearance and its evident great age.

The tree's age is a question. At Topeka there is a cottonwood tree which is known to be over 60 years old and is three feet in diameter.

The Oklahoma giant is seven feet through and over 30 feet in girth. The frequent fires that swept the Oklahoma prairies before the advent of civilization have left their marks on its trunk, and the winds have frequently torn away great branches.

Considering the setbacks of this sort which it has experienced in its growth, it is estimated that the big tree must be at least 150 years old. Practically all of the south half of the section is covered with a heavy growth of timber, most of walnut and burr oak, with occasional mulberry, hackberry, cottonwood and elm trees.

No appropriation is asked from congress, the territory being willing to take charge of the park and provide the means for improvements and maintenance.

For many years a big G. A. R. reunion has been held in the park every year, and for this reason it was considered that the north part of the section, which is unwooded, should be set aside as a soldiers' home site, that provision also being included in the memorial adopted by the Oklahoma legislature.

TO BRIDGE ROYAL GORGE.

Top of Famous Colorado Wonder of Nature Will Be Crossed by Electric Railway Line.

Denver.—The highest railroad bridge in the world will be built across the top of the famous Royal Gorge, near Canon City, Col. It will be 2,500 feet above the hanging bridge of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad—so high in the air that the roaring of the Arkansas river below will not be heard—and the powerful stream will look like a thread of silver running between the frowning cliffs.

The structure will be erected in connection with the plans of F. S. Granger of San Jose, Cal., to establish an interurban system of electric railways in Fremont county from Canon City to Florence and the top of Royal Gorge. Construction began March 1, and it is expected that the line to the top of the gorge will be in operation this summer.

The Pike's Peak road is now the highest railroad in the world, but the proposed line, with its thrilling ride across the gorge, will surpass even the cog road. The cost of the interurban system will be \$500,000, and the suspension bridge spanning the chasm will cost \$100,000 additional.

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Five years ago Ross bought a crossroads store at Solon, paying \$100 for the stock. About all he had to sell was bacon, molasses and flour. In a short time he had everything to sell, from a needle to self-binding harvester machines.

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Michael Pattison, a young farmer near Tolley, was driving home in his sleigh across the prairie. The wind had beaten down the snow, the warm nights had melted the top layers and the cold nights had frozen them until there was a crust on the snow that would bear a man's weight. The horse, remembering the bar, was making rapid time for home when the sleigh went into a bank you may say and remained there. The horse and shafts went on home.

Pattison stood in the road, stamped his feet and cursed the luck. A fierce wind was blowing in the direction of home and he had about made up his mind that it would be fairly easy to walk the ten miles when an idea struck him. It was a life saver.

Pattison pulled the sleigh out of the rut and dragged it out on the prairie. The wind was so fierce that the sleigh would almost skid along of itself. But Pattison, with two slats and some wire, rigged up the lap robe as a sail, gave the craft a running start, jumped in and was at once stopping across the prairie like an iceboat. The only trouble was that there was no certain way to guide the craft. But Pattison hung one leg out behind and did some little steering with it. Fortunately the wind was in exactly the right quarter or it would have been necessary to do some lying about how Pattison "tacked."

The wind was right. The craft quickly overtook the astonished horse, who had now reduced himself to a trot, and soon left him hull down in the distance. In fact, the sleigh and occupant arrived home 20 minutes ahead of the brute and in snubbing up banged into the barn so hard that it frightened the cow.

When the hero of this tale told it on the streets of Tolley the Tolleys started a little and looked surprised. Some of them whistled softly and looked meditatively away at the horizon. Others doubted.

GOTHAM BANKER'S PRESENT

Jacob H. Schiff Gives Substantial Christmas Remembrances to "Kitchen Jewel."

New York.—Jacob H. Schiff, the banker, gave his cook, Lena, \$5,000 for a Christmas present which proves that Mr. Schiff is very lucky to have such a cook and that Lena is equally lucky to have such an employer.

Every one in the Schiff family has the highest regard for Lena. There is not a dyspeptic atom in a hundred dinners she prepares. Indeed, it is said that the only reason Mr. Schiff wanted to fight Cornelius N. Bliss at that famous meeting of the Equitable directors was because Mr. Schiff was late for a dinner Lena had cooked.

Mrs. Schiff gave Lena a cluster diamond ring which she mixes mayonnaise with at once dandle and encourage the scullery maids who obey her orders in the Schiff kitchen. Mrs. Felix Werburg, Mr. Schiff's daughter, presented the cook with a gold watch and a neck chain, and Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Schiff sent Lena a handsome check.

Lena has served the Schiffs for 25 years. She is a most intelligent woman, who came to this country to teach German and who found it more profitable to cook in the German fashion. Twenty-five years ago she fell off a Christmas tree, a gift that would have delighted Lucretia—but he ever lived in Germany. She is independent financially. She looks for love of the Schiffs and of her art.

PROUD OF THEIR BABIES.

Observing English Traveler Has a Good Opinion of Fathers in This Country.

"American fathers are the most affectionate in the world," said a traveled Englishman the other day. "I never heard any young married men talk with such affectionate pride about their babies. The usual Englishman is either boisterous or simply satisfied.

"This morning I saw one of the pleasantest sights imaginable. I was riding in a street car. Opposite to me sat a young couple with a baby. The husband was holding the baby. He was a bronzed and sturdy fellow and he held the pink and white mite very tenderly. He was not in the least embarrassed. He had one muscular finger playing about the child's mouth, and whenever the pink gums snapped at it he looked as proud as a prince and beamed all over his honest face.

Now, you'd never see a sight like that in my country. I shouldn't mind standing godfather every day to children of such fathers."

ORIGIN OF THE DOG.

Dr. Lindsay Johnson, the celebrated ophthalmologist, says that the dog has two ancestors, one round-eyed, the other oval-eyed. The first is the Lyena, the second the bear, through the raccoon. All dogs descend from these animals. The "corpus niger," or black body of pigment in the eye of the horse, which has puzzled veterinarians, naturalists and zoologists so much, provides, through the ophthalmoscope, a new means of tracing the ancestry and relationship of the horse. It is the same eye curtain that is found in tropical animals—the ouagor, the camel and the antelope—for protection from sunlight.

JUST MARRIED.

"Well, old man, you're litened for life now. Linked for life."

"I wish you'd stop applying that expression to me."

"Why?"

"Sounds too much like being handcuffed."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

HINT FOR SPELLBINDERS.

An inventor claims to be able to turn wind into electricity. What an argument for frequent campaigns and abundant spellbinding!