

DEATH SUIT CAUSED BY FLY

Vermont Supreme Court Judge Start Tried to Kill Insect and Died.

St. Albans, Vt.—The estate of the late Judge Henry R. Start, of Bakersfield, judge of the Vermont supreme court and once a speaker of the lower house of the state legislature, contends that he was accidentally killed by a fly, the American Fidelity company, which had insured him against accident for \$5,000, claims he died of blood poisoning of long standing, and refuses to pay the amount of the policy.

Consequently the case of the estate against the Fidelity company of Montpelier county has just been entered in Franklin county court, and will probably go to trial in the September term.

Judge Start, who was one of the oldest members of the Vermont bar, died November 7. A few days previous to his death he sat reading in his chair, and seeing a fly on the floor beside him, leaned over to kill it.

Afterward he suffered much pain in one side, a swelling appeared, and it is claimed his death was hastened from this cause.

He was insured against accident in the Fidelity company in the sum of \$5,000, and the estate brings suit to recover the face of the policy, while the company contends that Judge Start had been a sick man for several years, and at the time was suffering from a hopeless case of septicæmia, or blood poisoning.

CATTLE MEASURE ROASTED

Thirty-Six Hour Bill Produces Mordant in Senate—Lodge Becomes Sarcastic.

Washington.—The thirty-six hour bill applying to cattle in transit was made ridiculous in the senate just when it seemed to be in a fair way to get final consideration.

It had been called up out of order by Senator Warren, chairman of the committee on agriculture, and was undergoing a critical inspection, when Senator Lodge, the scholar and litterateur of the senate, remarked that it seemed to him the bill exhibited a notable inflexion of "blind writing."

The clause that provoked Senator Lodge's criticism is in the first section, which, among other things, provides that, upon written request, which shall be separate and apart from any printed bill of lading or other railroad form, the time of confinement may be extended to 36 hours, "without unduly taxing the same in a humane manner."

After some floundering, Senator Heyworth transposed the qualifying clause so as to make it intelligible, whereupon Senator Lodge, in his most rasping way, remarked:

"If the senator will have the bill printed in that way then we shall have an intelligible measure, and that, I think, is an essential preliminary to intelligent discussion."

WOMEN OFFICE HOLDERS.

Kansas Has Largest Representation of Females in Public Places of Any State.

Topeka, Kan.—More women are holding office in Kansas, in proportion to population, than in any other state in the union. More than 50 women are now holding elective positions in the various counties, including register of deeds, clerk of the district court and superintendent of public instruction.

Several women have been appointed official reporters of the district courts, while in the state offices, many women are employed.

Nearly one-fourth of the superintendents of public instruction are women. There are 105 counties in Kansas, and in 25 of these women are holding this office. Information received at the office of the state superintendent shows that women are more punctual and more attentive to their duties than men.

COAL TAR PRODUCT VARIED

Mauve Has Reacted Upon Science for Benefits More Than Any Other Discovery.

Washington.—Mauve is the name of a coal tar product which perhaps some than any other discovery in applied chemistry has reacted upon the science itself to its lasting benefit. Half a century ago the first artificial coloring matter obtained from a coal tar product was discovered and manufactured. The subsequent development of the coal tar industry has been a continuous series of triumphs, and the colossal scale on which organic compounds of great complexity are now manufactured—often in a state approaching chemical purity—cannot fail to strike the future historian of scientific industry as one of the most marvelous achievements of applied organic chemistry of the present age. The marvel is enhanced when it is borne in mind that the whole of this industrial development which has been made possible by the intervention of pure science at every stage has taken place during the last half century.

A Desired Commodity

A London man recently paid \$6,000 for an orchid. He might have bought an entire prune ranch in Arizona for that price. Some people seem to have queer ideas of the value of things.

SLAY THREE TO WRITE BOOK

Twins Who Felt They Could Write Great Novel on Murder Take Lives for Sensation.

Abbeville, Ga.—Lee Watts and his twin brother "Cub" are in jail here, charged with the unprovoked murder of three men, and are thoroughly pleased with their situation. According to their story they started out to commit murder for the sole purpose of getting material for a book. They wanted to experience the sensation of killing, the notoriety of a trial and serve a term in the penitentiary for local color.

"I can write the book I have in mind so much better," "Cub" Watts said. "I am able to write from actual experience of murder. My brother was animated by the same desire."

In their literary zeal the Watts twins forgot that they may be executed with short shift for their crimes.

The murdered men were C. B. Burch and George and James McDuffie, brothers. Burch was shot to death in the public road by "Cub" Watts and the McDuffie brothers were shot by Lee Watts two days later at a public gathering. Eye witnesses say that there was no provocation in either case.

The Watts boys have been well educated and think they have literary talent. They are great readers and frequently have said that they intend to write a novel of realism. Their friends think their minds have been turned and a plea of insanity will be made when they are put on trial.

LEAVE BODY UNDER A TREE

Strange Clause in the Will of George McMullen, Who Died Near Deerfield, Va.

Staunton, Va.—George McMullen died at his home near Deerfield. He left a will naming Messrs. Marshall and Jonas Spitzer, his brother-in-law, beneficiaries, with the request that instead of burying him in the usual way they were to take him to a certain mound, under a certain tree, on the mountain side, about one and a half miles from the main road and leave his body there. This they did.

Alexander Beck happened to be passing that way a day or two after and saw the body lying there covered only with a few boards. He reported the fact to John W. Montgomery, a justice of the peace, who asked Commonwealth Attorney Ker about the matter.

Mr. Ker advised him to procure a coffin and have the body decently buried and charge the amount to the estate. Accordingly, the body was buried in Rocky Mount cemetery.

The beneficiaries said they were perfectly willing to pay the expense, and that the reason they acted as they did was because they were afraid that if they did not do so the will would be broken.

METAL RELISH KILLS COW.

Anything in Hardware Line That She Could Swallow Seemed Suited to Strange Taste.

Philadelphia.—A fine young mitch cow, the property of John Blackburn, began to fall away in flesh, to the great distress of the family, who considered Flossie a pet and treated her as one.

A consultation of veterinarians was called, and during the final days of last week the animal was treated for about everything a cow can suffer from, but all in vain, for the animal died.

The Blackburns determined to see the bottom of the affair, and accordingly commissioned Dr. Edgar W. Powell, of Bryn Mawr, to make an examination of the carcass. Dr. Powell came armed with a satchel of tools, and the following is what he found:

- Thirty-eight nails from both nails to spikes.
One corset steel.
Nine collar buttons.
Three glove fasteners.
Seven screws.
One lead bullet, an empty .38-caliber pistol shell.
One suspender buckle.
One silver watch chain.
Ten feet of fine wire, in neat coil.

The Blackburns are now satisfied as to what killed their cow.

QUITS HUBBY; ASKS WAGES

Woman Says If Not Talking He Is Snoring, and That After Working Hard She Needs Rest.

Youngstown, O.—That a wife is worth at least \$25 a month as housekeeper is the decision reached by Judge Rodgers, who has awarded accordingly to Mrs. Jennie Middleton in her suit for wages against her husband, Joel Middleton.

According to the testimony, the marriage of the Middletons was somewhat of a business arrangement. Among other things, the couple agreed that if Mrs. Middleton outlived her husband she was to receive \$1,500.

Two months after the wedding Mrs. Middleton left her husband. She asserted that she worked hard all day, and that at night she could get no rest.

All night long, she declares, Middleton talked in his sleep, and when he wasn't talking he was snoring loudly. Not wishing to lose the whole of the \$1,500, she entered suit for two months' wages at \$25 per month.

Boer War Claims \$310,000,000.

The South African compensation committee, which is examining claims for losses sustained during the Boer war, has completed its labors. The committee examined no less than 89,000 demands, the aggregate of which forms a total approximately of \$310,000,000. The sum of \$17,500,000 has been allowed for the settlement of these claims.

FINE MANSIONS EMPTY

ANTI-WAR CASTLES DECAY IN GEORGIA WILDS.

Hundreds of Southern Palaces Are Rotting Away Because of Lack of Care—Colored People Fear Tenancy of Ghosts.

Macon, Mo.—"If a man is looking for a genuine, unadorned, irreducible case of blues I know a land that will fit his case," remarked J. C. McGee, assistant topographer for a southern railroad, now under survey from Memphis, Tenn., to Pensacola.

"Our line enters the northwestern part of the state and goes through the heart of Alabama," the engineer went on. "Many miles of our work is through swamps and tangled woods of midnight darkness. These swamps abound in scorpions, rattlesnakes, vipers, lizzards, cottonmouths and, the negroes affrightedly add, chalk-faced spooks. But these are not the depressing features."

"It is the hundreds of tenantless old mansions you are constantly encountering. These vacant homes are models of ante-bellum insignificance. There are large columns and wide verandas in front, spacious hallways and rooms of lordly proportions. Some of the carvings are almost of royal splendor."

"Nothing has been removed but the furniture. The masters were either killed in the war or have moved to the towns. The wild grass grows high clear up to the doors. The fencing is gone or tumbled down."

"The driveways, once bordered by stately trees, are covered with rank growths. Thousands and thousands of dollars are represented in these once hospitable homes, and yet no wayfarer would think of despoiling them."

"The negroes will not enter them save at the direct command of a white man. They regard them with superstitious reverence, thinking the ghosts of the departed members of the family are there to guard their earthly homes."

"When we first began going through these ancient habitations we regarded them carelessly, but as we advanced with the work we got to dread the sight of them. They were so suggestive of burial vaults—grim, silent, majestic—they seemed to mock the transient glory of man."

CARRIES ITS OWN BRIDGE.

Shell Proof Armored Motor Car Pleases Russian Government, Which Will Use It.

Paris.—The new bullet proof and shell proof motor cars which are being built for the Russian government are a pronounced success. M. Etienne, the war minister, the other day rode in one of the cars which attained a speed of 28 miles an hour on level ground, and ascended gradients as steep as one in four. The car weighs three tons and is a 30-horsepower. It is provided with a small quick-firing swivel gun which can fire 600 shots a minute in any direction. The car carries a folding steel bridge, which can be quickly placed across ditches. With the help of this the car showed that it could even go across country. M. Etienne was so pleased with the showing that he ordered that France should be provided with a complete corps of these armored motor cars.

METAL IN EYE FIFTY YEARS

Fragment of Gun Cap Causes Partial Blindness After Half Century—Organ Removed.

Rockville Center, L. I.—Threatened with blindness as a result of an accident which befell him 50 years ago, Morris R. Brush has had his right eye removed in order to stop the deprivations that have been made for half a century by a tiny bit of guncap.

When the piece of metal struck his eye Brush suffered intense pain for a brief period, after which the incident was forgotten. Two years ago sharp pains were felt in the right eye, and then Brush recalled the accident.

Oculists were unable to do anything either to relieve the pain or to save the eye, the sight of which failed until recently, when it was lost entirely. To save the other eye the injured optic had to be removed. The piece of guncap was found by the surgeon, who said he never had encountered a similar case.

RED NOSES MADE WHITE.

German Professor Removes Crimson by Ingenious Method and Leaves Only a Soft Ivory Tint.

Berlin.—As Germany has figured largely as a producer of the paint with which red noses are decorated, it is only proper that now that country should bring forth the discolorer.

Prof. Nelsar is the man. When a joyously tinted nose is taken to the professor he drills into the inflamed veins and capillaries with a minute platinum point and pumps out the superfluous blood.

A blast of hot air forces the vein tissues together and with a good-by splash of merry-merry hydrogen peroxide and a dash of pearl powder the old rose effect is gone and ivory has taken its place.

Hadley as a Nemesis. Attorney General Hadley, of Missouri, says he is neither a reformer nor a trust buster. He will probably have to be classified as a Nemesis.

Record Price for Orchid. A record price, \$6,000, was paid at a London auction room for a prize orchid from a collection of H. T. Pitt.

THEORY OF THE ZETETICS

Exponents of the Belief That the Earth Is Flat and the Sun Close By.

Astronomical science as accepted by credulous and confiding persons will be completely demolished if the dissidents who call themselves zetetics have their way, says the Philadelphia Ledger. The exponents of the theory of a flat earth are sufficiently numerous to establish a cult and adopt a distinctive designation. This is derived from "zeteo," to search out, to investigate. Among the things they have searched out is a convincing and overwhelming mass of evidence demonstrating beyond cavil that the sun when directly overhead is only a few hundred miles distant, instead of 93,000,000 miles, as absurdly imagined by less deeply informed investigators.

The zetetics have persuaded themselves that the sun is about 30 miles in diameter, and is in every respect a very inconsequential affair, not worth bothering about. That "the sun do move" around the earth is one of the fundamental tenets of the zetetic doctrine. In its daily circuit above the flat and stationary earth, says one of the text books of the British branch of the society, the sun travels about 25,000 miles at the equator. Pnn is poked at the Newtonian theory of gravitation and the curved shadow of the earth on the moon, as witnessed during an eclipse, is accounted as that the earth is round.

Lady Blount, one of the foremost English zetetics, has fashioned a pamphlet which easily annihilates this "so-called" demonstration of the earth's rotundity. With her the shadow of the earth upon the moon is a pure illusion. This proof "is on its last legs." She predicts that before long it will be generally admitted that "the periodical lunar eclipse is no evidence whatever of the earth's globularity, as now asserted in books for the instruction of the young. The revision of the school books will not be accomplished immediately, but Lady Blount is encouraged to find that some of the opponents of the zetetics are beginning to realize that it is not the shadow of the earth which causes a lunar eclipse, for the reason that the sun and moon have been seen above the horizon when a lunar eclipse occurred.

The British zetetics are zealous missionaries. Thirteen literary productions have recently been published, affording every explanation of the universe advanced by the hare-brained astronomers.

DANISH KING A WRITER.

Political Articles from His Pen Were Published, When He Was Crown Prince.

Frederick VIII., the new king of Denmark, the eldest brother of Queen Alexandra of England, and the uncle and father-in-law of her daughter, the new queen of Norway, of all the crowned heads of Europe is probably the only one who ever turned journalist for the time being even. In some of the European countries this fact might have called for criticism or comment, but Denmark, in spite of the fact that all of the members of the royal family have intermarried with other families of Europe until the late king was regarded not only as the doyen, but the grandfather of European royalty, is nothing if not democratic. The members of the royal houses of England and Russia, even the king of England and the czar, have enjoyed nothing so much in their lives as that when visiting Copenhagen they have been allowed to walk along the streets like other citizens. Their presence attracts little or no attention, and they are never stared at by the crowds as in some countries.

The members of the royal family of Denmark mingle freely with all classes, and nothing is thought of it. They even amuse themselves with various occupations, and it is regarded as not being out of the way. The new king has but seldom identified himself with politics, though few would hold it up against him if he did, provided he simply went about the matter like any one else, and did not attempt to call to his support the influence of the throne. The occasion when he turned journalist was years ago when still crown prince. The left party came into power for the first time, and replaced the old conservative government belonging to the right. The leading official journal of Copenhagen contained some long political articles of which the crown prince was the author. The articles were not signed, but the fact of the crown prince having written them was reported in the other papers, and was never denied. The fact that the crown prince wrote the articles scarcely called for surprise, every one regarding it merely as a matter of course. The authorities might not have been called into question at all if it had not happened that the articles were particularly well written.

Glass More Costly Than Gold. The value of glass may far exceed that of gold when made up into microscopic objectives. The front lens of a microscope (costing about \$1) does not weigh more than about 0.0017 gramme (which weight of gold is worth about 1/8), and so the value of a kilogram of such lenses would be about \$400,000. The cost of the raw material for making this weight of glass is from 1/2 to 4d., and thus, when worked up into the shape of a lens, the glass has been increased in value about 50,000,000 times. Such disparity between the cost of the raw material and the manufactured article is probably a record in industrial technique.

HOTEL SWINDLERS.

SCALY TRICKS OF BRATS SAVE THEIR EXPENSES.

Good Clothes and Prosperous Air Go Far to Impress Proprietor with Their Eligibility as Guests.

"It is only with some new trick which displays especial ingenuity that a hotel brat can hope to prosper these days," remarked a Broadway hotel clerk recently, reports the New York Herald, "and even then his chances of escape are small. The strength of many of the schemes resorted to by this class of swindlers lies in their being so devised that a hotel man will give them the benefit of the doubt for fear of offending a regular patron. Take, for example the game of the torn note. It is played somewhat as follows:

"A gentleman, dressed in the height of fashion, accompanied by a lady, arrives shortly after luncheon on Saturday afternoon, and the manager, summoned by one of the officials, is informed by his guests that they only wish to stay until Monday, but 'would he, in the meantime, reserve the best suite of rooms for them.' This is, of course, done, and on the Monday morning the gentleman presents himself, at the bureau with a letter, in which is enclosed half of a \$100 bill. Only half, the manager was told, had been posted—merely for safety's sake—but, as he would see in the letter, the other half would arrive in the afternoon, but he found he had to leave by an early train to keep an important appointment.

"The bill amounts, say, to \$40 for the two days, but the manager courteously agrees to accept the half note and give full change for the value of the whole note on condition that he is permitted to open the letter which is to arrive in the afternoon; and, of course, permission is at once granted. It is scarcely necessary to say that the other half note never makes its appearance, and the swindler moves on to some other hotel, to repeat his ingenious trick once more. The adventurer is able, if his plans work out well, as they seem frequently to do, to obtain good board, the while increasing his capital.

"Another plan is for three confederates to take up their abode at the same hotel, and each engages a room in close proximity to his fellow travelers. They all, however, contrive to make a display of luggage, and are invariably well dressed, for a prosperous exterior is half the battle to the hotel adventurer.

"Once comfortably installed, one member of the party regularly takes his meals with one of his fellow travelers, with the result that at the end of a week's stay his bill merely amounts to the cost of his bedroom, while his companions' accounts are naturally considerably larger, as between them they include the cost of living for the trio. The stay for the hotel accounts are due to be sent in, the three conspirators hold a conference, when invariably one of the same way—the man with the smallest bill agrees to leave at once, always, however, beforehand taking the simple precaution of packing his fellow swindlers' belongings in his own trunk.

"Now, as he invariably settles his account, no suspicion is aroused, for the special staff of detectives who patrol large hotels day and night, sending in at frequent intervals reports of the luggage brought in by visitors, still see that the wily 'rent' free swindlers' companions have their luggage in their rooms. The luggage—that is to say, the boxes and trunks—is there, and weighs a considerable amount; but all valuables have been carefully extracted beforehand, to be replaced by all sorts of heavy and worthless objects, such as bricks, stones, or lumps of lead, fastened to the sides of the boxes to prevent any fear of them being displaced by shaking.

"The two other swindlers shortly afterward stroll out of the hotel, ostensibly for a short walk, but in reality never to return. And the week's expenses of the wily trio, which are invariably considerable, merely amount to the cost of one bedroom for a week and two second-hand and inexpensive boxes, which can be bought for a mere song."

Hunt for Rubber Trees. The large increase in the demand for rubber has led to a more careful exploration of the tropics for rubber-producing trees, as well as to the development of rubber-tree groves in favorable districts. In Java, Ceylon and the Malay peninsula large tracts are being planted to rubber, and it has been found that Liberia produces an excellent quality of gum. The extension of the rubber industry in Mexico and in South America is progressing rapidly, and it has been discovered that the rubber-tree adapts itself readily to various climatic conditions in different parts of the world.

Atmospheric Study in Germany. The German government has decided to establish a meteorological station in southern Germany, writes Consul Britain, of Kehl. It will be on Lake Constance, near Friedrichshafen, and will cost \$15,000, the states of Bavaria, Württemberg, Baden and Alsace-Lorraine joining in the expense. Extensive study of the atmosphere will be made daily by means of kites from specially constructed boats on the lake. Similar stations already exist in northern Germany at Lidenberg and Hamburg, and plans are being made to erect another station in the northeast.

THE WEALTHIEST DUCHESS

Marriage of the Lady of Westminster Was the Result of a Love Match.

Riches and romance do not always go together, but in the case of the lovely young duchess of Westminster they share the honors, says the New York Sun.

The duchess was a daughter of Col. William Cornwallis West, and, consequently, a sister-in-law of the clever American who was once Lady Randolph Churchill. Some people think that it was the clever match-making of the Yankee sister-in-law which made Shelagh West a duchess.

But there is another story. And according to that, it was a boy and girl love match dating back to the time when young Lord Belgrave was wont to go down to Wales to be entertained in the nursery of the Cornwallis home.

"The children fell fathoms in love with each other, says Munsey's Magazine, and when they were just old enough to feel the first pang of sorrow in love they went through the graceful old world ceremony of nursery betrothal.

The boy's father was dead, and his grandfather, to whose great title and splendid estates he was heir, frowned upon the childish romance. Young Belgrave was sent off to school and then to war; but six years ago the old duke died, and the youth became his own master. Meanwhile Miss Shelagh had entered London society, where she was much admired and petted. Her sister had married Prince Henry of Prussia—a brilliant match, which brought the elder Mrs. Cornwallis West much credit as a matrimonial strategist.

The Boer war was nearing its end, though De Wet was still at large, when the young duke of Westminster, reputed to be the richest nobleman in the world, came home to take over his inheritance, and suddenly the fashionable world was startled by the information that Shelagh West was to be the duchess of Westminster.

An illustrious personage, not usually addicted to jesting, was told of the match, and he is credited with having said:

"Mrs. Cornwallis West should be sent to Africa. She is the only person who could catch De Wet."

The young duchess at once took a leading place in society. Her first act was to drop the name of Shelagh, by which she had always been known, and to resume the more dignified one of Constance. She dresses extremely well, and is the possessor of jewels befitting her rank and station. Her diamonds alone represent a vast fortune. Among them is what is known as the Neska diamond, a wonderful stone about the size of a 50-cent piece. She spends little time in London, Grosvenor house being mostly closed, or given over to meetings of charitable societies. But she has given entertainments there, though she prefers the retirement of Eaton hall, that famous show place near Chester.

Prompted at 1,000 Dances. For 20 years Joe York has prompted at dances in York county. He is known by every dancer in the county. Joe was born in Bliddeford about 50 years ago. When a young man he went to work in machine shops, and he has been employed at his trade as a machinist all these years. He is as good a workman as he is a prompter. He does the prompting as a sort of diversion. He works in the shop all day, and at night goes home, changes his clothes and proceeds to some dance hall, where he will call off dances till two a. m. He has done this for nearly two score years. He has prompted at dances 12 consecutive nights, and worked in the shop every day. He says he has prompted at 1,000 dances, large and small, during his career. His voice is so powerful that it carries a quarter of a mile.—Lowiston (Me.) Journal.

Irrigation in India. The most extensive irrigation works in the world are in India. There are areas equal to more than the entire surface of the state of Maine is supplied with water from rivers which are controlled by artificial means. This takes no account of the land irrigated by private enterprises or from tanks. The value of the crops raised on land irrigated by the government is about \$135,000,000 yearly. It is believed that if all the tanks and other small local sources of irrigation were taken into the reckoning the area watered would be nearly as great as that of the British Isles—say a region not far from three times as extensive as Ohio.

Liquefying Natural Gas. Wolaki, an Austrian experimenter, has recently patented a process of liquefying natural gas, which, it is reported, has been successfully employed in the Karpathian oil fields. The liquid can be safely kept for storage or transportation in ordinary soda water siphons. Among the uses suggested for liquefied natural gas are the lighting of isolated houses and the driving of small engines and motors.