

NEBRASKA FARMERS SAD.

As a Result of Terrible Mortality Among the Fruit Tree Agents.

Lincoln, Neb.—Been a terrible mortality among the fruit tree agents this spring, said former Lieut. Gov. ...

A few months ago a lot of agents came down in our territory displaying ...

Then they would buy one-half of the fruit at the highest market price, guaranteeing in the case of peaches ...

They wouldn't sign a contract for less than 100 trees, but on those terms ...

The new man was very polite and sympathetic. He was very sorry if there had been any misrepresentation, but the man who had sold the trees ...

They up? Of course we did. Been looking for such good things all our lives.

OPERATIONS STOP CRIME. Toledo Experiments in Juvenile Cases Are Highly Successful.

Toledo, O.—Convinced by the famous operation on Harold Hurley some weeks ago that physical conditions were largely responsible for the ...

The subject of the present operation is ten-year-old Joseph Shopf. Little Joe is incorrigible.

Part of the bone was removed from the head of Harold Hurley, and it was positively seen that his character was transformed from that of a delinquent to a good, loving boy.

DEER RACES WITH CAR. Deep Passengers on Trolley Excited and Wins in Two-Mile Contest.

Fort Norris, N. J.—An exciting race between a deer and a trolley car had the passengers and crew of the car ...

Notman Elmer pushed up a point or two of power, but the deer put more speed into its legs and kept ahead.

Berlin Bars Dime Novel. The American dime novel is too notorious for Berlin and the street ...

No More Cowboy Police. The rapid advance of Indian territory towns from frontier centers of ...

International Postage. The international postage convention rejected the proposition of a universal two-cent postage rate.

FLAGS STOP ENGINEERS. Farmers Adopt Unique Method to Force Railroad to File Bond.

Carlisle, Pa.—The American flag was used with good effect by the heirs of Theophilus Strayer in preventing a railroad engineering corps from ...

GEM STUFFED IDOL

HEAD FULL OF DIAMONDS AND CAN'T BE FOUND.

Ingenious Method of Smuggling Stolen Jewels Into This Country—Intensely Interesting Tale.

Philadelphia.—In the head of an antique and hideous stone idol, the whereabouts of which is puzzling the Philadelphia police, is believed to have been smuggled into this country gems valued at \$600,000.

The image was discovered in a stable of a furniture firm in West Philadelphia, and placed in a store show window as a decoration.

Shortly afterward the members of the firm were warned in an anonymous letter not to give away or sell the image, a reward being promised if it should be replaced in the stable.

Notwithstanding all precautions, the image mysteriously disappeared. Policemen outside and clerks within had been on the watch all evening.

According to the story told by the letter, the writer is an Italian who after various vicissitudes in earning a living in Europe was sent by his employer to South Africa to assist in the selection of diamonds.

Leaving him in after years, he fell in with Barney Barnato, and went with him to the diamond fields at Kimberley. Here he fell in with another man whose name he does not give.

The climax came in a thunderstorm, in which his friend was killed by lightning. Kaffo was stunned, but soon recovered and unearthed the precious stones strewed by the friend and prepared to leave the country.

He dropped the diamonds in through the eye holes and stopped the holes by cementing paste diamonds in them. He came to Philadelphia, where a fellow countryman, whose acquaintance he made at a boarding house, appeared to be fascinated by the image.

The friend was found in a dying condition in a hospital. He confessed to stealing the image, and told where he had concealed it in a stable. The next night Kaffo went to the stable, only to find that the idol was gone.

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Tommy Stimson, Diplomat

BY S. E. KISER.

'Boy, where is your employer?' the man at the door demanded, looking sternly at Tommy Stimson.

The office boy was about to reply that Mr. Jarvis was in his private office, but before making the fatal mistake he noticed that the caller had in his hand a document which looked very much like a bill.

'Where is your employer, I say?' the man at the door repeated.

'He—he's gone down to the Third National bank to deposit several thousand dollars he just made in a lucky real estate deal,' Tommy answered.

'I hate like the dickens to ask for a raise,' he said to himself, 'but I certainly deserve one, and it seems to me that he ought to cough up without much coaxing, after this.'

At length he opened the door of the private office and stepped in. Mr. Jarvis, with his feet comfortably cocked upon his desk, was reading a book.

'What's the matter?' he asked, without looking at Tommy.

'I told him you had gone to the bank,' Tommy went on.

'The shadow of a smile began to spread across the features of Mr. Milton Jarvis.

'Tommy,' he said, 'I'm afraid I shall not be able to keep you here.'

'Because,' Mr. Jarvis continued, 'you naturally belong to the diplomatic service. I expect you, some day, to be ambassador to the court of St. James.'

'No, I think he was in too much of a hurry. You see, I told him that if he went right down to the Third National he might catch you before you got the money all deposited, and I said you wouldn't be back this afternoon, because I thought you was going out to buy an automobile as soon as you got through at the bank.'

'Well, what is it? Is there something else you'd prefer?'

'It's—' 'It's all right,' Tommy replied; 'but I—' 'Well, what is it? Is there something else you'd prefer?'

'Oh, Mr. Jarvis replied, tearing the card in two. 'I'll think it over. You know business is very dull here, Tommy, but I guess I'll be able to fix it.'

'He put his feet up on the desk again, and Tommy, after thanking him, withdrew.

Tommy Stimson had been at the office for an hour on the following morning, wondering why his employer did not put in an appearance.

'Night Ballooning, Eye Cure. Dr. Robert Dauloy, oculist, says he has discovered that "ballooning at night is good for weak eyes.'

Chicago Record-Herald.

BELIEVES HER AGE IS 140.

Negro-Indian Woman Who States That She Saw General Washington.

Clinton, Ia.—No person in this city can contradict the assertion of Mrs. Abbie Perham that she is 140 years old.

Her father was a half-breed Creek Indian and her mother was a full-blooded negro woman.

She lived in various Iowa cities for years, and came in Clinton 13 years ago. Her husband, whom she married after coming to Clinton, has no knowledge of his own age, but must be half a century younger than the aged woman, if her theories are correct.

'MARTINIQUE FUND IDLE. Money That the City of New York Does Not Know What to Do With.

New York.—Mayor McClellan, after looking up the law, says that it will require a constitutional amendment to permit the city to spend the money raised to aid the sufferers in the Mont Pelée disaster.

'I am informed by people in the finance department,' said the mayor, 'that we are likely to have the Martinique fund with us indefinitely. I also am informed that even at two per cent the fund will double itself every 44 years, and that in 1,000 years this modest fund, if left undisturbed, will amount to the tidy sum of \$12,000,000,000.'

GOLDEN WEDDING AT GRAVE. Aged Pennsylvania Couple Keep Anniversary at Home in Cemetery.

Pittsburg.—Amid the silence of sepulchers, tombs and mausoleums Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boyle, of McKeesport, received the congratulations of a few friends in St. Joseph's cemetery on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary.

No children have been born to this bride and groom of 50 years ago, nor have they any relatives in this country.

JAWBREAKERS DOOMED. Immigrants May Be Required by Congress to Adopt American Cognomens.

Washington.—All foreigners who become naturalized citizens will be required to assume American names, provided an amendment which Representative Burke, of Pittsburg, will offer to the naturalization bill is adopted.

PHILIPPINE RICE CROP. Bureau of Agriculture Figures Show Immense Amount Harvested.

Washington.—The production of rice in the Philippine islands in the crop year 1904-5 is estimated, upon the basis of an investigation made by the bureau of agriculture of those islands, to be 19,581,792 bushels unshelled.

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BACK TO STEAMBOATS

KANSAS CITY MERCHANTS GET AFTER RAILROADS.

Plan to Ship by Boat if Car Companies Do Not Lower Rates—Navigation on the Missouri.

Kansas City, Mo.—If the plans of Kansas City merchants who are not satisfied with the rates charged by the railroads do not go awry steamboating on the Missouri, long regarded as a lost occupation, will be resumed.

The Missouri has a reputation for being a steamboat graveyard. In one head of the river not far below this city eight steamers went down in two years in the palm days before the railroad.

The river channel is always shifting, and this leaves sand bars and snags to catch even the most skillful of pilots. A man may be thoroughly familiar with the channel on the down voyage, but by the time he gets back on the return the main stream may be running a quarter of a mile distant from its old bed.

Steamboating received its death-blow when the insurance companies refused to issue risks upon any of the boats. Inasmuch as the boats cost all the way from \$40,000 to \$75,000, no one has been found to engage in steamboating on the Missouri in unseasoned vessels, although under the old freight and passenger schedules it required only about four round trips to get back the first cost of the boat.

There is still a big fleet of boats going out of St. Louis every week. Kansas City wholesalers have been trying to induce some of these steamboat men to run between Kansas City and St. Louis, but they won't do it.

Several years ago Kansas City jobbers got uneasy about the railroad rate situation and started three boats in competition. The railroads reduced rates as long as the stockholders kept the boats going, but when they were no longer profitable they sold out and the boats again began to creep upward.

The new plan is to build but one boat and use that as a club not only to make the railroads reduce rates, but also to keep them down. As long as the rates remain satisfactory the boat as a club remains tied up. When they went upward the boat would be put into service.

Just now the men behind the project are figuring how to fix it so that they can't lose. Under the three boat plan it was often found that stockholders insisted upon loading them up with their own low rate freight and letting high rate freight that belonged to others lie upon the wharf.

Engineers have been at work and have reported that the Missouri is not so dangerous as it once was. Navigation has improved, boatmen know more and are less reckless, and the engineers have found ways to avoid the treachery of the river in many instances.

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CARRIED LETTERS FREE.

Postal Record Broken After the Disaster at San Francisco.

New York.—One thing about the San Francisco earthquake and fire which interests government employees is the fact that for the first time since the civil war Uncle Sam disregarded entirely the post office regulations.

On the morning of the earthquake and for several days afterward people wrote letters and mailed them wherever they could, and the post office employees, who stuck to it right through, collected them and sent them ahead without postage. Letters were written in pencil on scraps of paper, rags, collars and bits of gloves, but all went.

There is a regulation of the post office department that any soldier or sailor in active government service may have a letter franked through without postage by his officers and it will be delivered, but the recipient must pay the postage upon delivery at the regular rate.

In the civil war there was considerable confusion in the matter of franking. Sometimes the recipient paid, and sometimes a postmark marked "Soldier's Letter" went through without pay at the other end.

But since then Uncle Sam never delivered any considerable body of mail free up to the time of the San Francisco earthquake. It measures the extent of this calamity, the confusion into which a great city was thrown, that the post office should have cut its red tape in this particular. No regulations covered the matter; it was a plain case of horse sense on the part of Postmaster Fiske and his assistants.

PRICELESS PAINTINGS. Rare Relics of the War Discovered in Old Farmhouse in East Tennessee.

Knoxville, Tenn.—Two paintings, believed to be the work of two masters of Italian painting, have been discovered in an old farmhouse north of the city. One is by Guido Reni, who lived in the sixteenth century, and who is known by his painting, "The Adoration." The painting by him found near here is that of a beautiful upturned face, suggestive of adoration.

The other, which bears every sign of being a masterpiece, is of the "Birth of Christ," but the author is not known.

The paintings were brought to the farmhouse in this county several years before the civil war by C. W. King, who traveled for a supply house out of Baltimore. He was himself an artist, and decorated his room with valuable works of art. When the war broke out he left and told the owner of the house that he might keep the paintings if he would ever care for them. He had previously placed one of them on exhibition at the Maryland institute, Baltimore, and the ward clerk says that the painting was by Guido Reni.

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