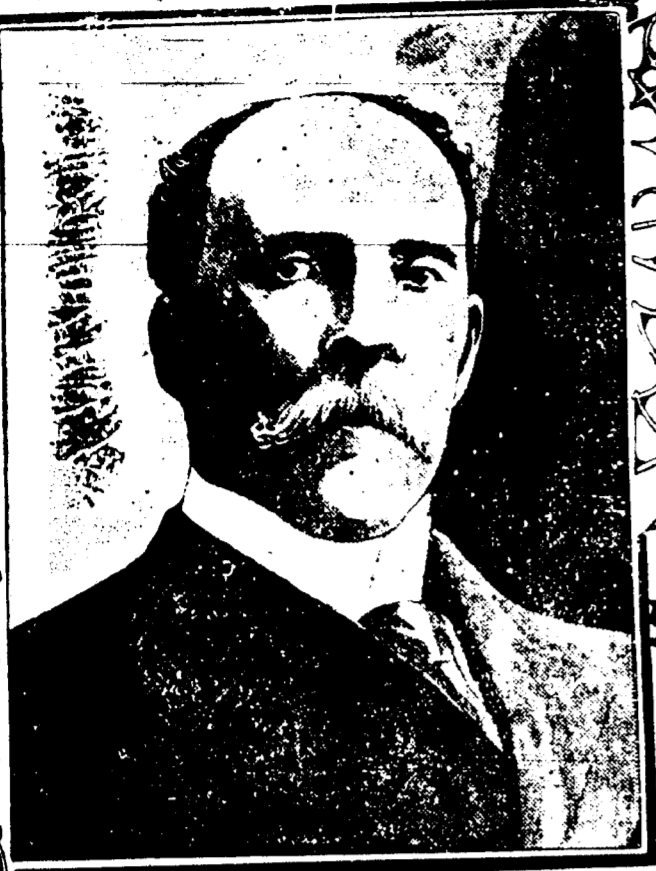


Retiring British Ambassador.



SIR MORTIMER DURAND

Sir Mortimer Durand up to a short time ago was the official representative of Great Britain to this country. His successor has not yet been appointed.

LAKE TOLL OF LIVES

OVER SIX SCORE SEAMEN LOST DURING PAST SEASON.

With Two Exceptions, List is Largest in Past Decade—Thirty-Eight Persons Drowned by Falling Overboard.

Chicago.—One hundred and twenty-six lives were lost in navigating the great lakes during the season just closing. Compared with the loss of 215 lives in 1905, the season's death list appears small and yet with but two exceptions it was the largest in the last decade. In 1905 the lakes were swept by three great storms, all of which took a heavy toll of sailors' lives, but in 1906 there was but one gale to have a place in the annals of the great lake perils. That was the storm of October 27, when the passenger steamer J. H. Jones went down in Georgian bay without a single survivor of the 30 persons on board. The steamer Resolute foundered with a loss of six lives on Lake Ontario. Other smaller losses brought the total for that storm to 44, or over a third of the entire season's losses.

During the year 38 persons were lost overboard, 15 of which fell into the holds of vessels and were killed, 11 met their death by machinery accidents on shipboard, two committed suicide and three died from natural causes aboard vessels. Fifty-two were lost when their ships foundered and five were drowned as the result of collisions.

Notwithstanding the precautions taken on modern vessels every year shows about the same number of deaths from falling into holds or from falling overboard. With the naval architecture now in vogue it is said that there is no satisfactory way of decreasing the dangers from these two causes which lead to the death of from 50 to 60 sailors every year.

Last season 96 sailors met their death on Lake Superior, but this season there were but 14. Georgian bay led all the lakes with 36 fatalities. Lake Erie was next with 27, Lake Michigan had 25, Detroit-St. Clair rivers six, Lake Huron nine, Lake Ontario seven and the Soo passage two. The Jones was the first passenger boat to founder in many years. It was a tugboat that had been given passenger cabins. The loss, however, emphasized the position taken by many vesselmen that no vessel which has not the high insurance rating of all should have a government license for carrying passengers. Marine underwriters make a heavy discrimination against vessels of low grade in carrying freight, but this distinction is not recognized by the government. There were no fatalities on modern passenger boats with the exception of two passengers who committed suicide by jumping overboard.

ADAMLESS EDEN FOR TEXAS.

Chicago Woman Plans Refuge for Sisters Who Will Work on Ranch.

Fort Worth, Tex.—An Adamless Eden in Texas is the dream of Mary F. Hayden, the Chicago novelist, who is arranging to establish a colony of 1,000 women in Refugio county, Texas. She has acquired title to 5,000 acres and is at work on the plans for her colony.

Woman colonists may have husbands if that condition cannot be avoided, but the males must be a mere match on a stick so far as the affairs of the colony are concerned. The founder will endeavor to procure from the Texas legislature permission for women to exercise the right of suffrage in her colony, and all homes must be in the name of the wife. Everything that usually is undertaken on Texas farms will be attempted, truck farming, fruit raising, beekeeping, dairying, poultry raising and other kindred farm and ranch pursuits. Miss Hayden was an intimate friend of the late Frances E. Willard and was associated with her for a number of years in temperance work.

WEALTH IN NUISANCE

TEXAS CACTUS TO BE CONVERTED INTO ALCOHOL.

Stock Also Shown to Gain in Weight When Fed on Prickly Pear, Long Considered of No Value.

Fort Worth, Tex.—In parts of west Texas and over a great deal of south and southwest Texas the prickly pear has long been regarded as an unmitigated nuisance, although during seasons of drought the ranchmen have found it a very good cattle food after the spines were removed by burning.

Since the impetus given the making of denatured alcohol it is asserted that there is a bonanza to be reaped from these cactus lands of Texas as a material for manufacturing alcohol, and at several points in west Texas, arrangements are making to begin work with portable stills, which will be moved around in the cactus region as the supply diminishes. Owners of this cactus land are figuring on big revenue when the alcohol making begins, and it is an experiment that is being watched with much interest throughout the state.

The feeding of this prickly pear to stock has also been given a new impetus in consequence of some experiments that have recently been made and the boost given the idea by the federal authorities at Washington. As a result of careful experiments it has been shown that a ration producing between one and a quarter and one and a half pounds of butter per day cost about 12 cents when pear, rice, bran and cotton seed meal were fed.

Although prickly pear is low in nutritive value from the chemical standpoint, the steer feeding experiment shows also that there is abundant justification for the practice in vogue of preparing cattle for market upon prickly pear and cottonseed meal. A gain of one and three-quarter pounds a day at an expense of 3 cents per pound compares favorably with the feeding results obtained from standard feeds.

There are two species of the prickly pear recognized in that portion of Texas where the plant flourishes. One is small and prostrate and of no special value, the other has at least two forms, one with yellow spines and the other with spines red or brown at the base. There is also another variety found in south Texas and known as the blue leaf.

The conclusion at Washington is that the Texas raiser has a cheap feed at hand if he will only give the matter the proper attention. Many ranchmen in that section of the state have provided themselves with pear burners, as they are called, which can be moved around over the pear-producing area and the spines burned off the plant as it is gathered. The slight scorching given during the spine-burning process does not seem to affect the taste for cattle eat it with avidity, and it is apparent that had it not been for the spines on this plant the cattle would have long since wiped it out of existence.

GEMS IN CORSET AS GIFT.

Relatives of Young Woman Recover Jewels from Organ Grinder.

Hartford, Conn.—For three days Signora Francesca Cavallo was the belle of the Italian colony of Hartford, but now all the other women who were jealous of the small fortune in diamonds worn by the pretty organ grinder envy her no more. The signora is now without her gems. She still has a pair of pink silk corsets, however, and thereon is a strange story.

A few days ago the Italian woman was grinding forth a mournful tune under the balcony of a private sanitarium in this city when a young woman patient opened her window and threw the silk corsets to her. The Italian was highly pleased with the gift, but her joy jumped to amazement when she found that there was a small bag sewed in the lining containing jewelry valued at \$1,100.

She took the gems and showed them to the neighbors. Relatives of the donor discovered her folly. Police Sergeant Dietrich, who has an enviable record as a recoverer of lost jewels, having returned \$6,000 worth to owners in the last few weeks, investigated in the East side, where dozens of organ grinders reside, and after a few days he discovered Francesca wearing the precious jewels.

Elevator Ride is Fatal. New York.—Medical skill was unable to check the nervous decline of Mrs. Frank Hennion, which developed after her return from a shopping trip to New York, and she died at her home at Morristown, N. J. Mrs. Hennion received a severe shock while taking her first ride in an "express" elevator in New York. She entered the elevator on the tenth floor of a skyscraper occupied by a furniture company. After returning home she complained of a headache and a painful illness set in. Physicians diagnosed her ailment as lockjaw. They concurred in the opinion that the disease resulted from the terror experienced in the elevator ride. Mrs. Hennion was 26 years old.

Kentucky Children Licensed to Wed. Owingsville, Ky.—Martin Vico, 15 years old, and Annie Houseman, 14, were licensed to marry, with the consent of the parents of both. The girl is small for her age, and the boy is in the primary class at school.

FOUND IN LIBRARY BOOKS.

Queer Things Left There by Absent-Minded Readers.

Strange fish come to the nets of the receiving clerks at public libraries when they examine the books returned by borrowers.

Perhaps the most common catch is a single long hair, precisely laid between two leaves. Statisticians might be interested to note that hair of a brunette character is more common than blond or near blond. Gray is seldom thus paraded.

Eyeglasses and spectacles are not uncommon finds, which might indicate that the reader, having waded so far, had no mind for any further reading.

Seraps of paper, occasionally an unmailed letter, and proofs of photographs are common catches; but never a banknote, and, strange to say, never an unreceipted bill or comic valentine.

On the other hand more than once unpaid dinner checks have turned up, which would denote such devotion on the part of bluestockings that they cannot eat without print before them.

Side combs are said to make good markers, and parlor matches have a particular excellence for this purpose.

Coats, hats, waistcoats, shoes, suitcases and false teeth (not necessarily taken from returned books) have ended their days in this catchall. As yet there is no record of an abandoned infant having taken this channel.

WHAT A RACE SINGS ABOUT.

Each Nationality Has Its Own Range of Favorite Ballads.

"It may or may not be the case that a race's temperament can be judged from its folk songs," said a traveler, "but it is interesting to note the difference of subject matter in the songs of various peoples.

"The Irishman, for instance, seems to sing for the most part about his lady love. Hardly any of his songs are not addressed to his 'Somebody Mavourneen.'

"The Scot, on the other hand, sings about his country and its history, as a rule. 'Scots Wha Hae,' 'Ye Banks and Braes of Bonnie Doon,' 'Loch Lomond' and so on might be taken as examples.

"The Englishman, it is interesting to note, sings about himself all the time. His songs are about his own glory, his ships, his men, his power. He refers occasionally to old England, but only as a place he made famous by his own prowess. Unlike the Irish and the Scotch, he sings little of his women and his country's beauties."

Churches Build Roads.

No part of the Peckham valley having thus far received a share of the state's road funds appropriation, an energetic campaign for improved highways has been opened in this vicinity, and the two strongest and oldest churches of the region are lending hearty cooperation, says the Philadelphia Record.

The members of the New Goshenhoppen Reformed church, who want the road from this borough to the church improved, have decided not to wait for state aid. They have effected an agreement with the supervisors of Upper Hanover township and will contribute \$20 toward a fund for rebuilding the road, the township providing the remainder of the money.

The members of St. Paul's Lutheran church, which is also situated about a mile outside of town, on the opposite side of the borough, are engaged in a somewhat similar enterprise.

Simple Marriage Ceremonies.

Among the Garos in India it is the custom for the maiden to do the courting. At first the lover always refuses to marry the girl of his heart, but after a great deal of pleading and coaxing on her part he finally consents, and then she invites all her friends to come and make merry with her. When the feast is over, the guests carry the hostess to the river and give her a bath. Then the groom is also borne to the water edge and roundly ducked, after which a rooster and a hen are sacrificed, and the pair are declared man and wife.—Exchange.

What Did the Boy Mean?

The late Judge M. Russell Thayer, of Philadelphia, used to tell a good story about a brother jurist who was an enthusiastic golfer.

The golfing judge, according to the story, had occasion to interrogate in a criminal suit a boy witness from Bala.

"Now, my lad," he said, "I want to know if you are acquainted with the nature and significance of an oath?"

The boy, raising his brows in surprise, answered:

"Of course I am, sir. Don't I caddy for you at the Country club?"

Cooks Ruin Their Taste.

"I never season things up to my own taste," said a man who has cooked in a restaurant for many years. "Very few cooks do. They have palates that crave high seasoning. The longer they cook the more salt and pepper and spices they require. If I should send up my dishes as I like them they would be so hot and peppery that half the patrons in the restaurant would be unable to eat them."

Summary Criticism.

"When the people of our town-out west discovered that the mayor had been misappropriating the public money, did they suspend him from office?"

"No; from a tree."—Baltimore American.

WHERE CHILDREN ARE TAKEN.

Mrs. Gunbusta Found One of Few Spots in New York.

Mrs. Gunbusta left her pretty cottage in Bumburst and took the earliest train to the city, says the New York Press. She was going there to find a modern flat for herself, her husband and their four little children. They had tired of the suburbs and decided to move to the city.

Arriving in the metropolis, Mrs. Gunbusta popped into the first real estate office that confronted her, and going up to a ruddy-faced, chubby man seated at a polished desk, she gasped:

"Excuse me, sir—I'm Mrs. Gunbusta of Bumburst—we're tired of the suburbs—we want to come to the city—that's why I've called—I'm looking for a place where they'll take children—do you know of any such place?"

"Oh, yeg, there are a few places left in the city where they take children," replied the man, wheeling about in his chair. "There is a fine place two blocks down, right on the corner; take a look at it, you can't miss seeing it."

"I'll go to see it immediately," and as Mrs. Gunbusta hurried out of the place and walked in the direction indicated the ruddy-faced, chubby fellow's eyes twinkled merrily. Walking down two blocks, what was Mrs. Gunbusta's surprise to see on the corner an immense granite building, on the front of which was a large gilt sign, reading:

"CITY ORPHAN ASYLUM."

SEALING WAX VS. STRING.

Former Article Is Rapidly Supplanting the Latter.

The old familiar string tied around a parcel is to give place to sealing wax. A grocer who has had this information the other day, when instead of tying up a bag of cranberries with a string he folded the edges of the mouth neatly together and dipping a stick of red sealing wax into a small glass jar near by, clapped it on the bag, effectually sealing it.

"It's all done in a second, you see," he said. "Just touch the wax to your package and shove it across the corner—no bother with groping for a string, then a whole minute wasted in tying up the bundle, while other customers are standing around looking impatient. Sealing wax is just as cheap as string, too, and it makes a neater, handier parcel. The druggists first began this business of using sealing wax for fastening packages. It proved to be a good thing, and now dealers in other lines, such as stationers, confectioners and tobacconists are taking up the practice. Manufacturers of string are already feeling the dropping off in the use of their product and are beginning to view the advent of wax with alarm. But I don't see what they are going to do about it unless they turn their cordage factories into wax plants."

Electricity in Bedrooms.

The iniquity of the electrician seems to be centering now on household affairs and conveniences for the bedroom and toilet. Among some of the new inventions are an electric pad for heating the bed, which certainly is a good deal less trouble, even if a little more expensive than the old-fashioned warming pan. Then there are tiny electric heaters for curling irons and shaving cups, small electric stoves for heating baby's milk in the middle of the night right on the table by the side of the crib, dainty table lights in perfect imitation of candles, electric irons, which are always handy in the sewing room; little electric bulbs which light up the face of the clock for your information by the touching of a button while you repose in bed, electric sweepers and sewing machines; in fact, almost everything that the human mind can conceive. But probably 20 years from now they will all be considered ordinary, if not antiquated.

Water in Old London.

London's original water supply was the river Thames and every apprentice was supplied with a water tankard for transporting the liquid to the house. As early as 1479 there were "water thieves"; for in this year a wex chandler in Fleet street had his craft perched a pipe of the conduit within the ground, and so conveyed the water into his cellar, where he was jugled to ride through the city with a conduit upon his back. The first official water supply for London was made in Germany. In 1582 Peter Maurice, a German, made an engine at London bridge by which water was conveyed in lead pipes to the citizens' houses, and he and his descendants became rich on the proceeds.

Effective Substitute.

Mrs. S. T. Rorer, the cooking expert, told at a dinner of a young housekeeper's misadventure.

"This housekeeper," she said, "got her sister to do part of her marketing for her one Saturday morning. On the sister's return she said:

"And, Laura, did you order me a leg of lamb at the butcher's?"

"The butcher was out of legs of lamb," Miss Laura replied, "and so I told him to send you a leg of beef instead."

Two Rules of Success.

Shrewder Father—My son, remember this advice from your dear old father all your life—Never spend a dollar unless you have it in your pocket.

Shrewder Father—My son, remember this advice from your dear old father all your life—Never spend a dollar, no matter how many you may have in your pocket.

HISTORIC SHIP HOUSE SOLD.

Philadelphia Building Marked by Revolutionary Bullets Razed.

Philadelphia.—The historic ship house and a part of the Johnson homestead on Germantown avenue north of Washington lane have been sold to James J. Allen, a builder. Workmen will start to raze the once famous hostelry, which has stood for more than a century. Mr. Allen will preserve the old stone carving of a ship which is built in the gable end of the house and gave the place its name. This will be presented to one of the historical societies.

These properties bear marks of bullets fired during the revolutionary war, the battle of Germantown having been fought there. The Johnson homestead has been in the family possession since the time of William Penn, from whom they hold the original grant. The ship house has seen many changes of ownership. One of the earliest owners was Capt. Darben, an old skipper, who placed the carving of the ship in position. When Capt. Darben died the heirs sold the place to Jacob Peters, who conducted a line of stage coaches and made this a stopping place. When Peters died the place was sold to James Ford, who opened a private school there. He died and the heirs contemplated selling it for use as an insane asylum. The Bockius family owned the adjoining property and objected, so were compelled to buy the place. It was again turned into a hotel and remained so until the elder Bockius was killed by a horse about 60 years ago. Mr. Allen will build 68 houses on the site.

CURE BETTER THAN PUNISHMENT

Indiana Mayor Believes in Municipal Treatment of Drunkards.

Wabash, Ind.—Ma or Joseph W. Murphy, who believes in municipal treatment of drunkards, recently accepted the offer of a drink habit cure company to effect a reformation in the case of Mrs. "Tish" Huzars, champion jar artist of Wabash. An announcement of the intended treatment brought a flood of letters, and agents from rival cure concerns, making requests, and even demands, for subjects.

COINAGE SHOWS DECREASE.

Exhaustion of Stock of Silver Causes Shortage in Mint Supply.

Washington.—The annual report of George E. Roberts, director of the mint, shows that the coinage was less during the last year than for several years previous owing chiefly to the exhaustion of the stock of silver bullion. The Philadelphia mint was idle three months and the New Orleans mint four months. The San Francisco mint did not work after the earthquake and fire.

The total of domestic coinage was 167,371,035 pieces of the value of \$60,216,747. Of this \$53,002,097 was in gold coin, \$4,016,308 was subsidiary silver coin, \$2,302,397 was in five-cent and \$395,844 was in bronze one-cent pieces. There was also a coinage of 25,000,000 pesos in gold for the Mexican government, 760,000 fractional silver pieces for the government of Costa Rica, 1,000,000 half balboa pieces for the government of Panama and 1,567,629 pesos and 1,897 pieces in fractional silver coins for the government of the Philippine islands.

Kaiser a Fast Eater.

Paris.—Escoffier, the famous French chef, who was the German emperor's favorite cook on his cruise this summer, tells a Paris reporter that the emperor eats more at breakfast than at dinner, and that his favorite dish is chicken stuffed with a tomato and paprika dressing. Every chicken served at the imperial table bears on its breast the imperial crown and eagle made of stiff white sauce. The emperor is fond of asparagus from Argenteuil. He prefers light dishes as a rule and eats so fast that his guests, who must keep up with him, have small chance to enjoy the delicacies set before them.

Lang Lost Money Is Found.

Wagoneta, O.—While cleaning out a sewer at the Burnetts hotel, workmen found a pocketbook containing \$90 in bills. This book was lost over three years ago by a traveling man, whose name has been forgotten. The money was practically all destroyed in taking it from the book. When the pocketbook was lost it was thought it had been stolen, but the find clears the names of those suspected.