

READY SALE FOR TARANTULAS.

Californians Make Money at Some what Hazardous Occupation.

A recent visitor to California stated that tarantula hunting provides quite a profitable occupation to numbers of men and boys there.

"The hunters go forth equipped with tin cans and glass jars, with covers, pails of water and steel or wooden pliers.

"When the great spiders are not found running at large the hunters look about for promising holes in the ground, into which is poured a quantity of cold water.

"Although the insect is very venomous, the tarantula catchers are so expert and take such precautions that not one of them is known to have been bitten."

When the Disease Let Go.

An old man was just recovering from an operation, and as he lay regaining consciousness he heard the doctor say to a nurse, regarding some powders to be given him: "If one every hour is too much give him a half one every half hour."

"Say, doc, that reminds me of a man that had a Newfoundland dog. His wife got so tired of having him (the dog, not the man) track up the floors and porches that finally she made her husband take the dog to town and sell him.

"The doctor looked at the nurse and said: "I think he'll recover."

P. S.—He did.—Judge's Library.

Peculiar Marriage Ceremony.

With the Jowrans of India marriage is an affair of much importance. Should the parents object to the lover's advances, his friends rally, and abduct the girl. If the consent of the parents is obtained, three posts are planted, and between them the bride and groom, with their intimate friends, assemble, and proceed to get intoxicated on a peculiar toddy.

West Virginia Problem.

A knotty legal question has come to the surface in Webster county, says the Morgantown Chronicle. One man stole another man's skunk. It was a wild animal which was privileged to roam where it pleased, and it recognized no owner, lord or master.

Tyranny of Clothes.

Place a man in a silk hat and frock coat, and transport him to a farmyard. Agricultural pursuits may be the one passion of his life, but clad in these garments he feels in such surroundings miserable, out of place, essentially urban.

No Coat for Nineteen Years.

During the journey from Victoria Falls to Kimberley a big sun browned man boarded the Zambesi express minus his coat, with his shirt-sleeves rolled up. He took a seat at dinner and the chief steward remarked to him that as there were ladies present perhaps he would have no objection to putting on his coat.

Her Day—And His.

Lady's Maid—The undertaker has sent me to ask you on which day you wish to have the master's funeral.

Checker Chatter.

"It looks funny," said the checker-board, "to see you alone. You generally go in pairs."

OLD MYSTERY CLEARED UP.

London Man Has Found Out Why the Pins Disappear.

An old man in the north of London has been making a series of interesting experiments with a view to finding a solution to the question often asked: "What becomes of the countless myriads of pins that are annually lost?"

As he expected, he finds that it is the disintegrating effect of the air which resolves even these intractable little instruments into their own elements. He put some hundreds of brass and steel pins, needles and hairpins, etc., in a quiet corner of his garden, where they would be subject to all the destructive agencies of dampness, earth, wind, etc.

The result was curious. Ordinary hairpins were the first (taking 154 days, on an average) to oxidize into a brownish rust—ferrous oxide—which was scattered by the wind as it formed, and no trace of a single one could be detected at the end of seven months.

Polished steel needles of small size lasted a very long time (over two years and a half), but a black lead pencil proved itself to be practically indestructible both cedar and plum-bago being almost as good as when new, even though harder things had quite rotted.

JESTERS HAVE THEIR TROUBLES

Punishments for Failure to Amuse Their Royal Masters.

The man who has recovered \$5,000 reward for his services as a jester may thank his stars that he did not have to joke for a livelihood in earlier days at the courts of greater potentates.

Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, and the Emperor Paul, for example, had rough ways with their fools. A dagger thrust would follow a poor joke and banishment any sign of declining wit.

Quaint Luxemburg. Only a twelfth as large as Holland, the little grand-duchy of Luxemburg is one of the most delightful of European countries. Yet it is almost always neglected by the tourist who travels from Paris to Berlin unconscious of its nearness.

Vendetta in Algeria. A determined Arab vendetta has just run its murderous course at Ferma-na, in Algeria. A man named Fared-ben-Alla had determined to kill a fellow resident of one of the mountain villages, named Hussein-aliba-Ahmed, and never went abroad without his gun.

Lay Wires from Motor Cycle. A new application of the motor cycle to military service has been invented in Austria. It concerns the quick laying of telephone and telegraph wires.

Important People. Towne—He seems to be quite an important person now.

Agreeable to Him. "Here's a letter from the Ross," said the machine leader's henchman.

Heads List in Buckeye State. Columbus Man Says He Was First to Enlist in Ohio at Call of Lincoln.

Columbus—It now develops that Major Henry M. Nell of this city was the first man to be enlisted in Ohio under the call for troops by President Lincoln for the civil war.

Love Not Marriage Motive. Paris.—A French statistician recently asked 95 girls between 15 and 17 years why they wished to marry.

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ERIN SENDS OUT 5,000,000.

Irish Emigration to This Country Has Been Enormous.

Washington.—No page in history reveals such a migration as that of the Irish to America. The figures are astonishing. From 1840 to 1860 not fewer than 2,000,000 crossed the ocean to settle in the United States; from 1860 to 1880 an additional 1,000,000 made a fresh start in life in the great republic over the sea, and from 1880 to the present time another 1,000,000 was added to our population.

The 12 agricultural states, represented by Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, contain one-fourth of the 5,000,000. Of the portion settled in the North Atlantic states but one-fifth are on farms; but this tendency to crowd into towns disappears when the surroundings are agricultural, as is shown by the large percentage—more than 50—of those who have taken to farming in the 12 agricultural states above mentioned.

It is only because the bulk of the Irish in America are not in the midst of farming districts that they are less an agricultural people than the other immigrant elements added to the population. They have found an outlet for their energies in the congested districts and their wonderfully adaptive natures have allowed them easily to enter upon the industries of the people among whom they were thrown.

It is in the eastern states that the Irish promise to ultimately constitute a majority of the population. This is already the case in three New England states and in many New England cities. In New York city they are barely behind the Germans and slightly so in Chicago.

FATHER WAS A MATCHMAKER.

Admires Pantry Girl and Introduces Son, Who Marries Her.

Lexington, Ky.—A romance with unusual features has culminated in the wedding of Miss Cynthia Simpson, a pretty 19-year-old pantry girl at the St. George hotel at Winchester, to Roscoe Catchings, a rich young man of Washington, D. C.

The girl caught the eye of Roscoe Catchings, Sr., who is proprietor of Catchings' hotel at London, Ky., and who makes his home there a part of each year, being interested in timber lands in Laurel county.

He talked to the girl and told her of his son, who, he said, was about her age. He told her he was taken with her beauty and gentle ways and asked her if he might introduce her to his son. She consented and the father wrote to the boy in Washington that he would like him to come to Kentucky for the holidays.

The young man came. Without telling him of his intentions the father took him to Winchester and stopped at the St. George hotel. There he made it convenient to have the boy meet Cynthia, the pantry girl. He soon had the boy in love with the girl and then told him if he would marry her he would settle \$10,000 on them and let them live at his hotel at London. The boy readily consented.

FRANCE HAS 200,000 HOBOES.

Army of 32,000 Rural Guards Found Insufficient to Curb Them.

Paris.—An investigation just ended by the ministry of the interior has revealed the fact that in France there are at least 200,000 tramps. Against this horde of regular tramps the government has opposed a regiment of 32,000 rural guards whose duty it is to protect life and property in the country.

It is proposed to increase the number of rural guards so as to check vagrancy. A request from all the departments of France brought 26 replies, which go to show that the municipalities of those departments provided night lodgings for 468,000 persons last year.

In the 38,000 municipalities of France, however, there are to be found only 3,000 night refuges and in many places the tramps cannot be arrested because there is no place to imprison them. During last year 32,000 tramps were arrested, but about 20,000 of them could not be held because of lack of evidence to prove a crime.

HEADS LIST IN BUCKEYE STATE.

Columbus Man Says He Was First to Enlist in Ohio at Call of Lincoln.

Columbus—It now develops that Major Henry M. Nell of this city was the first man to be enlisted in Ohio under the call for troops by President Lincoln for the civil war.

Major Nell has never spoken of his distinction until now. The Major says that when the message came in Lincoln for the quota he was in Governor William Dennison's office.

The governor, who was his brother-in-law, related the contents of the telegram, and Major Nell followed by saying that he could be counted on and desired to be the first man enrolled. When Lieutenant "Bob" Williams arrived from Washington that night to recruit soldiers he swore Major Nell in as a private.

Nell served in the short service and was mustered out in 1864, after commanding a battery he had raised. This honor of being the first Ohioan to enlist has always been credited to Lorin Andrews of Ashtland, who died in September, 1861.

NEW STEAM TORPEDO

SEA TERROR WITH TWICE RANGE OF OLD ONES.

Little Vessels Now Able to Defy Big Battleships—May Launch Deadly Missiles Without Coming Under Fire.

New York.—By devising a torpedo propelled by steam generated in the burning of high explosives carried within it in concentrated form, Hiram Maxim has concluded experiments from which he asserts that the range of naval torpedoes will be doubled and naval warfare revolutionized.

To meet the demand that torpedoes must have effective range equal to the gunfire to which the attacking torpedo boat would be subjected, Mr. Maxim burns motorite, a new explosive, to generate steam at a high pressure, and by this means the regulation naval torpedo is made much more efficient than when driven by compressed air, the motive power now generally used.

In his home in Brooklyn, Mr. Maxim told of his latest invention.

"In spite of the wonderful things that had been expected of the automobile torpedo as an auxiliary arm in naval warfare," he said, "disappointment has been the result when it has been relied upon. The cause of this failure and disappointment is because the deadly quick-firing gun has been developed to such a degree of perfection and such great range that when the torpedo boat of an enemy comes to the attack it is sunk long before it can get anywhere near enough to be within torpedoing distance of a battleship. It is met with a storm of projectiles from quick-firing guns which fly toward it with frightful accuracy, and the range of these projectiles is so much greater than that of the automobile torpedo that the torpedo boat is destroyed in not much more time than is needed to make this statement.

"In outward appearance my torpedo is no different from the regulation type, but a self-combustive material called motorite, similar in composition to smokeless powder, is employed to furnish the motive power for driving it through the water. This dispenses with the use of the heavy air flask and the latter is replaced with a light casing in which the motorite is burned, in the presence of water to produce steam with which to drive the torpedo engine.

"It ought to give us a range at least twice as great as the present torpedo with the maximum speed that can be got from the propellers.

"The enormous range of the Maxim torpedo is a great desideratum, for it will then bring the range of the torpedo up to that of the guns which will be opposed to it.

"Summing up for the new motorite propelled torpedo, I am sure of producing a greater efficiency due to longer range, more uniform speed and higher speed during the entire run; inexpensiveness, as the high cost air flask is done away with; greater safety on shipboard, as the highly charged air flask—2,250 pounds to the square inch—makes the torpedo a huge bomb if struck by a shot from the enemy, and the great item of saving the expense of air compressors now installed on torpedo boats.

"Filled with motorite, the Maxim torpedo will always be ready for discharging like a shotted gun."

CAN HARDEN PURE GOLD.

Alabama Man Accidentally Made Remarkable Discovery.

Montgomery, Ala.—Alfred Weaver, of this city, has, in collaboration with John Edward Carney, and while engaged in laboratory experiments in search of a new coherent material for wireless telegraphy, discovered the art of hardening and tempering the precious metals, such as platinum, gold and the like, without alloying them with other metals.

The results obtained by Mr. Weaver's process are the enormous reduction in the fusing point of those metals and the imparting to them of a degree of hardness in some instances surpassing that of the best tool steel when hardened. Platinum, one of the most refractory of metals, heretofore requiring for its fusion the oxyhydrogen flame, or the voltaic arc, is, after being subjected to the new process, easily melted before an ordinary gasoline blowpipe and may be cast, again melted and recast indefinitely.

So great a hardness is imparted to these metals by Mr. Weaver's process that a piece of gold or platinum, for instance, can with the greatest difficulty be abraded by the best steel file and a sphere of either of these metals, of say two millimeters diameter, when placed upon a hardened steel anvil and struck a sharp blow with an eight-ounce steel hammer, will resist such a blow and suffer only the slightest alteration in shape.

Love Not Marriage Motive. Paris.—A French statistician recently asked 95 girls between 15 and 17 years why they wished to marry. Sixty-one were unable to specify their reasons, five replied that they wanted to be able to go out alone, ten in order to amuse themselves, five so they could travel, seven because they wanted to own their own homes, and four wanted to marry for the sake of a future family. Three did not wish to get married. None suggested love as a motive for matrimony, but doubtless many of them were too shy to do so.

GIVES BIG FARM TO NIECE.

Relatives and Church in Controversy Over Property Worth \$50,000.

Champaign, Ill.—The village of Homer in the southern part of this county, is excited over the extraordinary gift made by Josiah Gorham, an aged resident of that place to his niece and housekeeper, Mrs. Louise Pyatt, the gift being his entire property, consisting of 320 acres of land, valued at \$175 an acre. Mrs. Pyatt will have a hard time retaining the gift, however, as Gorham's son Henry, who lives in Champaign, has filed a suit in the circuit court, charging Mrs. Pyatt with obtaining the property by undue influence. It is only two months ago that the woman invited her aged uncle to come from Champaign, where he had been living with his son, to establish a home in the village of Homer, where she could care for him. He readily consented, as did the son, who, however, demanded a contract from her in regard to compensation. This was agreed to, but for some reason was never written out. Rev. O. K. Doney, a Christian minister, walked into the Citizens' bank at Homer and told the cashier, Perle Wiggins, who attended to the business affairs of Josiah Gorham, that Mr. Gorham had made over his farm to Mrs. Pyatt, who would devote a part of it to foreign missionary work in the Christian church. Wiggins communicated with the son, Henry Gorham, and the latter at once instituted suit. He will allege that the old man is incapable of attending to his own affairs, and that he did not know what he was doing.

Canon Once Owned by Russians Presents Growsome Record.

Seattle, Wash.—A gun of growsome history is the old cannon which occupies a post on the after-deck of the tug Favorite, which plies Puget sound. Most guns have growsome histories, but the Russian cannon dates back to a time and place when atrocities were common. On account of its interesting history it will be exhibited at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition, which will be held at Seattle in 1909. Here is the story, as told by the sailors of Puget sound to the awe-stricken cabin boys:

When Russia owned Alaska the government was at Sitka, and the Russian cruiser Poltkovsky was the guardian of law and order. The Poltkovsky carried a complement of French cannon of the latest make, and was a formidable fighting craft. While on a voyage of exploration, in the neighborhood of what is now Valdez, the Indians attacked the crew, but were beaten off without much difficulty.

In the melee, however, two of the poltkovsky's sailors were killed, and it so happened that two Indians were captured. In revenge for the death of the sailors—the captain of the warship ordered the captives tied to the mouth of the cannon and the cannon fired.

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SWELLS THE SHEEP'S HEADS.

Peculiar Disease in South Africa Decimates the Flocks.

London.—South Africa, which is noted for its curious animal and human diseases, has none more curious than the trouble affecting Merino and Africander sheep and Angora goats in which the heads and ears of the animals swell to grotesque size, finally resulting in the death of the animal. This disease, the exact nature of which or its cause is not recognized, is known chiefly by its Dutch name, "reel dikkop," which, translated means yellow thickhead.

The trouble usually appears in herds which have been grazing on low land and is particularly prevalent after a heavy rainfall, though what relation this may have to the disease is a mystery. The head and ears assume a dropsical condition, growing to enormous size, and if no treatment is adopted the swollen parts become dry, shrivel up and crack. This swollen condition is accompanied by a general condition of jaundice.

Post-mortem examinations disclose, in addition to the general jaundiced condition, an abnormal condition of some of the vital organs, as the liver, spleen, etc. The average mortality is 40 per cent.

Crystal Falls, Mich.—Crystal Falls is crowing over other towns in the upper peninsula, for the latter have a hard time making both ends meet and they often borrow money to tide the municipality over until the annual collections have been made.

Crystal Falls city is so loaded with money that the surplus funds are becoming a veritable nuisance and the council has decided to invest \$10,000 of the money, putting it into circulation instead of allowing it to lie idle in the hands of the treasurer.

The annual report of the treasurer showed a balance on hand of about \$13,000 over and above all outstanding orders. As the time for the collection of taxes is at hand the funds in hand will be increased very shortly by another \$10,000.

The sewer work is all paid for and the suspension of operations has eliminated the demand for money from that source until next spring. The treasurer has been instructed to place the money at interest wherever the best rate can be secured.

CITY OVERSTOCKED WITH CASH.

Money in Treasury is Becoming a Veritable Drug.

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TO SHAVE MEN WITHOUT WHISKERS.

Harrisburg, Neb.—A number of society belles of this western Nebraska town have formed a pro-whiskers society. They have agreed to discourage attentions from men who do not wear full beards. They maintain that men with whiskers are handsome and in every way more acceptable as sweethearts, husbands and fathers. They regard whiskers as a genuine ornament. Ridicule, according to the girls, has made the good old custom obsolete in this country, and this society has been formed for the purpose of reestablishing the fashion.

Feeds Horse by Electricity.

Bowling Green, O.—Foster A. Baker, manager of the Oil Belt Telephone company in this county, has put into use an electrical feed box whereby he is able to feed his horse without going near the barn. When he is out at work on the line all he has to do is to call up the operators at Central and ask them to press the button to the feed box. The feed is thus dumped into the box and the horse gets his meal.