

INTERNAL REVENUE COMMISSIONER



Conspicuous in connection with the enforcement of prohibition in the south is John G. Capers, United States commissioner of internal revenue. Mr. Capers is a native of South Carolina and was a prominent Democrat until 1896, when he joined the Republican party. He has been a member of the Republican national committee since 1904.

OLD LANDMARK GONE

RELIC OF MISSOURI'S INFANCY IS TORN DOWN.

Big Log House at Kirksville, Built in 1827 by John W. Thrasher, Was Hewn from the Primeval Forest.

Kirksville, Mo.—The hand of progress was laid upon one of the old landmarks of north Missouri a few days ago when the big log house belonging to Nelson Bronson, whose grandson now attends school in Kirksville, was torn to the ground to make room for a modern farmhouse.

The house was about 30 miles east of Kirksville in Knox county. It was an immense structure of the pioneer type built of oak and walnut logs and was more than 60 feet long. There were two large rooms, with the conventional half between. From this hall arose a narrow stairway leading to the two upper rooms.

The house was covered with oak elapboards, which at the time of its destruction were covered with the moss of decades. The huge chimneys at either end were made of brick, which were burned on the farm nearby.

The fireplaces were about six feet wide and were provided with cranes, pot hooks, spits and dog irons. The rooms had once been whitewashed over the bare logs and chinks. The floors were of split punchwood.

This interesting structure was erected in 1827 by John W. Thrasher. When the logs were hewn from the primeval forests the state of Missouri was six years old. The resolute John Miller, who said, "I'll try, sir," was serving his first term.

St. Louis was a quiet little river town no larger than Kirksville; Kansas City was a hamlet on the Kaw; St. Joseph a trading post; Jefferson City a house on a hill, and Kirksville a den of coyotes.

Most of the history of the state has been made since this house was built. The greatest event and one in which the old house figured largely was the civil war. During the dark days there were three or four men killed in the house and under the tall black locust trees which stood in the yard, casting a gloom over the structure. Ever after that the old place was held in superstitious regard by the neighbors, who swore that it was "haunted."

Sheeted figures were frequently seen by passers-by, it was asserted, dangling from the limbs of the black locusts, and whenever a new tenant moved in he stayed only two nights.

Measured footsteps, as of soldiers, could be heard, they declared, at the dead hours of night, and low moans and sighs frightened the sleepers out of their nightmares. The Thrasher house was known for miles around as the place where the spirits assembled and held their weird meetings.

Its destruction recently is to be regretted because of its real and traditional history, and because it was one of the last of its kind.

Giant Skeleton is Found.

Lebanon, O.—When digging into a gravel bank on his farm near Stubbtown, this county, John Watkins discovered the burial ground of Miami Indians. The skeleton of a huge woman was unearthed. It measured seven feet and five inches in length. About her neck were ropes of pearls and in her tomb other articles of value.

Much excitement was aroused among the farmers in the vicinity, and further excavations brought to light many other skeletons of this extinct race. Some were found in sitting positions and some on their faces. Watkins will try to interest the State Archaeological society in his find.

INVENTOR STOPS CAT CONCERTS

Electrifies Fence and Neighborhood is Peaceful Again.

Jersey City, N. J.—Eugene R. Blake of this city has the one original destroyer of the rioting Thomas cat. No more will the inharmonious caterwaul disturb his slumbers, and no more does the sinuous yowler decorate his garden fence in the small hours of the morning, destroying with hideous clamor the slumber of the neighborhood.

Many a time has Blake been awakened hours before his time, and tossed about in his bed, vainly trying to get to sleep, and one morning while he lay cursing the cats he worked out an electrical invention that would do away with them forever.

On the following day, after a crowd of workmen had been diligently stringing wires about his back fences, he was ready for the cats. That night a big Thomas fellow, who had a voice like a Texas bull and a head like a Gila monster, scarred in many a battle, hopped lightly on the fence. He shot straight up in the air six feet higher the instant he touched the wires, and fell dead beside a rose bush.

A lady cat who had been prowling around waiting for her hero found him at the rose bush, and sniffing contemptuously, she jumped to the fence to hunt for other Toms to conquer. She, too, went straight up on the fence and fell back dead.

The electrocution machine is working just as Mr. Blake expected.

And now a grateful city father wishes to introduce a resolution of thanks to the young inventor and offers to help the good work along by imposing a prohibitive tax on all cats kept for decorative purposes which do not earn their own living by destroying rats.

NEEDS WIFE TO HOLD HIS JOB.

"Bachelor Girl Preferred," Illinoisan's Advertisement Reads.

Salem, Ill.—Leap year so far has treated Dave Houchen of Salem very unkindly. He is in the matrimonial market, but has not found a taker. His advertisement in one of his home papers reads as follows:

"To All Young Women and Widows—Owing to the slack of business and the financial stringency, the railroad, by which I am employed, is reducing the force and is giving the married men the preference, and I have a better chance of holding my job by getting married. I am herewith advertising for a wife. I am 23 years old; do not smoke, chew or drink, and belong to the church. My salary is \$50 a month. Any young lady who desires to get married should address Dave Houchen, Salem, Ill. A bachelor girl preferred."

COMMON BRICK FOUND BEST.

Result of Test Made in Chicago is Announced.

Washington.—Common brick has proved itself the victor over many newer and more fashionable building materials in a severe fire test conducted by the geological survey at Chicago. Two samples of brick were subjected to severe heat, one taken from an old foundation and the other practically new. The older brick stood the test better.

The natural building stones be heated the worst of all the materials tested. The almost complete destruction of these stones precludes any comparison between them.

Trout Stops Organ Notes.

Bangor, Pa.—When Organist Pritchard of St. John's church tried to play the big pipe organ it was found that the water motor at the instrument refused to work.

Investigation revealed the cause: It was the shape of a six-inch live trout sticking up the pipe.

NEW MINERAL FIND IN INDIA.

Wolframite in Large Quantities in Central Provinces.

Calcutta.—The numerous mineral finds that have been made in the last few years have revealed vast possibilities of wealth, which no one interested in the commercial prospects of India can afford to neglect. In no part of the country are these prospects brighter than in the central provinces. The development of the manganese industry has, perhaps, been the most striking feature of the past decade, but important as the discovery of manganese is, another discovery may prove to be more important still.

Mr. Kellerschorn, an American mining engineer, some time ago obtained a concession of a part of the village of Agargaon, with a view to discovering manganese. Agargaon is situated some 25 miles southeast of Nagpur. His employees, while digging in a band of mica schist rock that traverses the village, discovered a number of lumps of heavy mineral, which, on being examined by the geological survey at Calcutta, were found to consist of wolframite.

The wolframite differs in appearance and constitution from the best-known specimens, but it yields, on analysis, no less than 64.5 per cent. of tungstic acid, which is equal to that contained in the best ores of Colorado. Wolframite is chiefly employed in the making of what is known as high-speed steel material. When the total output was a few hundred tons, the price stood at \$200 a ton. Now, when more than a thousand tons are produced annually, the price has gone up to over \$600 a ton. In Agargaon the existence of wolframite has been proved in numerous stringers at intervals extending over a length of 1,490 feet, and it has been found at opposite ends of the mica schist rock, ten miles apart from each other.

GIVE THE HEN HER DUE.

In One Iowa Town She is Better Than a Factory.

Mount Airy, Ia.—The hens of Ringgold county have been making a record the last few days that is worthy of emulation on the part of hens generally. This week their product reached its maximum. The firm that collects the greater part of the eggs from this point, has shipped a carload of eggs each week in this month from Mount Airy. The first car contained 412 cases, and the second contained 413. In addition to these two carloads, a third carload has been shipped in the two weeks by the independent shippers. The first week in April 623 cases of eggs were shipped, and the last week 630 cases were shipped. The shipments for the two weeks represented 447,480 eggs, and at the lowest retail price represented \$4,474.80 to the poultry raisers in this community.

A factory in this community paying out that much money per week would be much mentioned. The faithful old hen is also entitled to a little honorable mention.

SURGEON WHO PRESERVED IT PRESENTS IT TO NATIONAL MUSEUM.

Washington.—One of the first cannon balls fired in response to the attack on Fort Sumter, Charleston, April 12, 1861, a 40-pounder, has been presented as a relic to the United States National museum by Dr. W. Huston Ford, now residing in Washington.

At the beginning of the fight Maj. Anderson devoted his attention to the floating battery which was moored in the cove at Sullivan's island near the western extremity about a mile and a quarter from the fort. Three of his shots struck the battery and rebounded upon the sand bar, failing to penetrate more than three inches.

Dr. Ford was one of the surgeons of the hospital at Mount Pleasant, near by, across the lagoon back of Sullivan's island, and as there was nothing to do, being no wounded, in company with a colleague he visited the island next day and picked up one of the balls, foreseeing its historical value.

REDEEMS A QUART OF ASHES.

Government to Pay Kansas Bank for Burned Currency.

Washington.—Experts in the redemption division of the treasury are at work now trying to determine how much money the State bank of Bremen, Kan., shall receive for a quart of ashes.

Recently the bank was burned. The heat was so intense that it burned all the paper money in the bank. W. H. Smith of Marysville gathered up the ashes in the safe and brought them here for "redemption."

The experts notified him that they would be able to redeem it dollar for dollar. So adept are they that they have been able to make out exactly how much money was burned, the denominations, the kind of bills, and all. The quart of ashes represents about \$4,000 in currency, which will soon be shipped to the Bremen bank.

GIRL TWINS ELOPE SAME DAY.

Meriden, Conn.—Born on the same day and inseparable during their 18 years of life, the Misses Eva and Ethel Dillon, who look so much alike one can scarcely tell them apart, eloped. Each was married at the same time and they will have flats in one house.

With their husbands, Emil Hicking and Edward Werner, the twins arrived in Manchester from Springfield, Mass., and confirmed the news of their wedding.

TRAMPS IN DESERT

WEARY WILLIES OF THE MOJAVE A VERY DISTINCT TYPE.

Heat and Thirst Slay Many, but Ceaselessly They Wander from Oasis to Oasis More Brutal Than Most of Their Class.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Tramps are one of the many strange features of the Mojave desert—that land of myths and mirages, a part of which, Death Valley, is the hottest place on earth. Tramps are found in this valley even in summer when the thermometer is 137.

The renegade whites live with the Pinte Indians, and are locally known as "Arabs." Notwithstanding the burning wastes, scarcity of water, discomforts and many dangers from animals, they are found in all parts of the desert. Mining camps and ranches are far distant from each other, and these tourists find no difficulty in getting a living, either by begging or strolling. They will not work, yet manage to live like their brethren in civilization.

They are of a different species, more worthless, if possible, than the others of their tribe, and are an interesting study.

The desert has evolved a curious type of humanity seen nowhere else in the world. His clothes are usually cast-off garments that he has found, begged or perhaps stolen—faded, frayed and full of holes—and his broken shoes are usually wrapped in cloth so as to protect his feet from the burning sands. He carries a bundle, consisting of provisions and a few empty beer bottles.

On reaching a ranch he will make for the spring, and after drinking his fill lie down on the shady side of the house and sleep for hours, or until he smells the odors of a meal. Then he patiently waits for a "hand-out" and is off for the next ranch.

Thus he keeps up his rounds from one end of the desert to the other, with no object in view, no hope for the future—only that he may live from day to day. At night he will sleep in an alfalfa field, or in a shallow brook, with his head resting upon a rock for a pillow.

Arising from his cool bed, he fills his beer bottles with water, eats his breakfast and again begins his long tramp, which is never to end. He follows the trail, having no compass and knowing little or nothing of the country beyond, except that it is 30 miles to the next spring and twice that distance to the next ranch. He may reach his destination and he may not.

Frequently he falls a victim to heat or thirst, for men have died of thirst though having jars of water in their possession. The heat has burned out the spark of life or literally bursts the head open. Skeletons are found in the sands and among the rocks—some victims of thirst, others of the thieving tramp in quest of provisions. The desert tramp is more desperate than his brother of civilization. The fierce climate has brought out his brutal nature and his hand is against anyone where everything in nature is at war, even the elements.

According to the experience of mining prospectors who have traversed the worst parts of Death Valley, the desert has a peculiar influence upon its dwellers. It turns the brain of many, and those who have once journeyed across it become fascinated and return. It seems to exert an influence that never can be overcome.

The prospector is another desert type—half mining prospector and half tramp. He shuns civilization until his "grub stake" is exhausted, when he returns for another supply. These grub-stake eaters are a curious study in human nature; more so than the ordinary desert tramp, for they are shrewd, possess some business capacity, and talk intelligently or persuasively.

The prospector expects to unearth a rich mine, and lives in expectancy and hope.

Unless he finds a mine his only reward is bacon, flour, beans and coffee, his grub stake. His home is on the desert—where night overtakes him. When he visits civilization, it is to get another backer—a grub stake or provisions sufficient to last him two or three months, and perhaps another burro. This costs about \$50.

He does not go to the "tenderfoot," but to the merchant or mining man. They are the "eastest." The city man who knows is more often taken in than the countryman, who usually is suspicious of everything. The tramp prospector tells the mining operator a story about "rich indications"—perhaps it is the long-lost Gunstie mine or the Brytogle.

Hundreds of men have gone out to locate these bonanzas and scores of them never returned. Yet the story is fascinating, and the search continues. Every prospector has a new story. It really is the lost mine, all he wants is a grub stake. In most instances the tramp prospector has taken the specimen, which he exhibits from a mine in one of the camps. He has not been near the place where these lost mines are supposed to be.

When he has received his grub stake he returns to the desert and camps in a rocky cavern or under a clump of stunted bushes, and there remains until his provisions are nearly exhausted, when he returns to civilization in search of another victim and another grub stake—and with the same story of lost mines.

SELLS TIME FOR A LIVING.

Woman Furnishes Greenwich Corrections to London Firms.

London.—A woman selling time for a living is one of the curious phases of the eking out of livelihoods in London. The woman is the daughter of a Mrs. Belleville, who inherited the business from her father and transmitted it to her successor, living at Maidenhead.

Miss Belleville says the idea was suggested to her father in 1835 by Mr. Pond, the then astronomer royal. He acted on it, and by taking order a correct chronometer to the chief clock and watch makers he secured an income of about \$2,500.

When he died in 1856 his widow was granted the privilege of having the chronometer corrected at Greenwich whenever she liked, and she carried on the business until 1892, when she had reached the age of 81 years.

She handed the business over to the daughter, and Miss Belleville has carried it on ever since by permission of the astronomer royal.

She has about 40 customers in various parts of London, including many important and old-established firms.

Miss Belleville goes from Maidenhead to Greenwich every Monday morning and has her chronometer corrected. She receives an official document stating that her chronometer differs from mean time by so many seconds and tenths, and her customers correct their times accordingly.

The famous chronometer was made in 1825 by Arnold, a prince among watchmakers, for the duke of Sussex, one of the sons of George III, but the duke discarded it because it was too clumsy, and Mr. Belleville purchased it. Mr. Belleville substituted a silver case for the original gold one, because his curious profession took him occasionally into the less desirable quarters of the town.

PRESIDENT PICKS IDEAL MAN.

Declares James B. Connolly, Athlete, Should Be Emulated by Son.

New York.—In a talk at Washington with Martin Sheridan of this city the champion athlete of the world, President Roosevelt said:

"My ideal of an all-around man is James B. Connolly of Boston. You know Jim? He was with you at the Olympian games in Greece.

"Connolly is what I think a man should be. If my boy Theodore turns out to be as good a man I will be satisfied.

"Connolly has strength, agility and perseverance. He loves outdoor, healthful life, and he is clean through and through. I want my boy to be as good a man as Connolly."

The man whom President Roosevelt has picked out as a pattern for his son, Theodore Jr., is an author and amateur athlete.

Mr. Connolly is noted as an athlete in New England. He won honors as a jumper in the Olympian games and wears many medals rewarding his prowess in athletics on the field and in the water.

About a year ago he enlisted in the navy with the consent of the president for the purpose of learning all about the board of a man-of-war from the inside and writing about it. The enlisted man discovered his identity and resigned because the work he had set out to do could not be accomplished under those circumstances. He made the trip with the battleship fleet around South America and only recently returned with a private report for the president.

VILLAGE PLANS ARCADIAN STEP.

Would Make Dog Barking and Rooster Crowing Illegal at Night.

New York.—Barking of dogs and crowing of roosters between the hours of ten p. m. and six a. m. is prohibited in an ordinance pending before the board of trustees of South Orange, N. J. In order that the slumbers of that village's residents shall not be disturbed the trustees plan to enact the following:

"The maintaining of howling animals, crowing, barking dogs or fowls which disturb the rest, sleep and quiet of the neighborhood within the aforesaid hours is hereby prohibited."

The ordinance provides a fine of five dollars for each offense. It was introduced by a trustee whose term expires on May 4.

Alderman William C. Herbert is advocating an ordinance before the Jersey City board of aldermen providing that a license fee of one dollar a year be charged for cats, that they be tagged and that unlicensed cats be taken up the same as dogs. The ordinance was laid over for 90 days, when it will come up for final reading.

"I present this ordinance in all sincerity," said Mr. Herbert. "I think it is a wise provision for the city and the cats. Moving time is drawing near, when people change their homes and leave their cats behind to starve and suffer."

CIGAR INDIAN IS DOOMED.

Cherokee Indian, as Introduced a Bill in the State Legislature Prohibiting the Use of Indian Figures as Cigar or Tobacco Sign.

The bill is certain to become a law, as all political parties consider the large Indian vote to hold the balance of power. The bill provides a fine of \$50 and six months' imprisonment for any person who uses an Indian figure, no matter for what purpose, or who has such a figure in his possession.

Senator Landrum stated that the Indians are on the war path against the practice of using their figures.

TO SELL RARE BIBLE

INSCRIBED ON WHITE VELLUM WITH MANY INITIALS IN GOLD.

Believed the Work Was Written for Some One of Note, Probably a Cardinal, and Bears the Date of 1447.

New York.—A number of rare, early manuscripts, mostly on vellum, are about to be sold at auction in this city. The most interesting of the lot is a Latin Bible of the fifteenth century, a manuscript on 496 leaves of fine white vellum, in double columns of 52 lines to the column. It contains many initial letters in gold and colors, and several hundred smaller letters in colors.

The date of the completion of the work—A. D. 1447—is written by the scribe at the end of the two-folio volumes into which the manuscript is divided. The binding is full levant morocco, Jansen style.

It is believed that the work was written for some one of note, presumably a cardinal, as the first leaf of the second volume, in the illumination at the bottom of the page, has a portrait of a cardinal, supported by the prophets, Isaiah and Daniel.

The large initial letter at the top of the same page contains in the center a miniature of a cardinal. The first leaf in volume I, has a coat of arms in the bottom illuminated border.

It is asserted that this work is the finest specimen of a manuscript Bible ever offered at public sale in the United States.

Another beautifully written manuscript is the "Chansons Francaises," the work of Nicholas Jarry, the famous scribe of the court of Louis XIV. Jarry executed for the king, La Valliere and other members of the court, a number of celebrated manuscripts.

The present manuscript consists of 26 leaves of fine white vellum, and there are ten pen-and-ink portraits and 16 drawing and dancing songs with the music. The portraits, it is believed, are faithful likenesses, done from life.

The first portrait is that of Queen Henrietta Maria. The portraits have been drawn without lifting the pen from the vellum except a few strokes for the features. The manuscript belonged to the famous collection of James Bindley, and contains his bookplate. It was sold in the Astorham collection in 1900.

Some of the other manuscripts are: Sermons in Latin of Saints Augustine, Ambrose and Hieronimus. 67 leaves vellum, written in the twelfth century, believed to have been originally in the Augustinian monastery at Helford.

A Latin palimpsest manuscript, written by a French scribe on 123 leaves of vellum about the beginning of the thirteenth century, in the monastery of Roymont in France.

ANTITOXIN AS LIFE-SAVER.

Snatches Over 1,500 from the Grave in Philadelphia in a Single Year.

Harrisburg, Pa.—State Health Commissioner Dixon's well organized system of free distribution of diphtheria antitoxin among the poor saved over 1,500 lives in Philadelphia in the year 1907. They were with few exceptions little children, whose fresh young lives would have been forfeited to this dread disease had not the state held out relief.

There were 4,693 cases of diphtheria among the poor treated with the state department of health's free antitoxin in 1907. Of this number but 371 died, giving a death rate of 7.96 per cent., as compared to 11.13 per cent. the rate in 1906 for cases treated with the state's free antitoxin.

Moreover, during the year 1907 immunizing doses of antitoxin were given through the state department of health to 3,015 persons, mostly little children, and all but 35 were completely protected against the disease by this means. Of those who did contract the disease only two died.

CASH GROWS IN ROSEBUSH.

Money Mystery Only Deepens as Greenbacks Blossom.

Royersford, Pa.—Several months ago Frank Medinger, manager of the John H. Gelz meat market, lost the cash receipts of three days' business less his expenditures, which he failed to take into account in telling of his loss, which he estimated at \$63.

Suspicious were aroused, but nobody was openly accused.

While working on his lawn the other day B. I. Latahaw found the roll of money in a rosebush and returned it, but Medinger says it is not his, as the roll contains \$63, and that his actual loss was but \$57.

With the finding of the money it was thought that the matter would come to a happy conclusion, but it appears that the matter is simply deepening in mystery, and another revelation may show how \$57 grew into \$63 in a rosebush.

Shopper Forgets her Baby.

New York.—As the clerks in a Fourteenth street dry goods store were putting away their stocks for the day they were aroused by the wailing of a baby. Search in the nursery revealed a three-months-old girl who had evidently been forgotten by her mother in the haste of closing her shopping. The store detective carried the baby to a police station.