

WANT NEW CALENDAR

Dutch Delegates to London Congress to Urge Innovation.

Claim is Made That It Would Greatly Simplify Wage and Interest Calculations—Plan is of Swiss Origin.

The Hague, Holland.—At the international congress of chambers of commerce and industrial societies, which is to take place in London in 1910, the Dutch Society of Industry will propose to simplify the calendar according to the method of the Swiss professor, Grosdande. The Gregorian calendar, which was a great step in advance of the time of its introduction, still contains many elements of difficulty for modern trade and industry. Perhaps the worst of them is the uncertainty of Easter day and consequently Whitsunday.

Like Christmas day and New Year's day, Easter is an important date with many nations. In many branches of industry Easter is the time of greatest activity. For these industries it would be a great boon if Easter day could be given a fixed date, or approximately so, for now the time often varies as much as 35 days.

The shortness of the month of February is the one difficulty to be surmounted. The inequality of length of the months gives a great deal of trouble in the calculation of wages and of interest that go by the month, and which do not now coincide with one-twelfth of a year. Between the first and second half of the year there is also a difference of three days. In all business houses and large concerns where the wage payment to workers is a large factor, it would greatly simplify matters in making up accounts of profit and loss if every year always had 52 equal wage weeks.

Holland's delegates to the London conference will propose that the calendar year shall consist of New Year's day and further of 12 months of 52 weeks, the weeks to be divided into four quarters or terms, each of 13 weeks of 91 days, the quarters to be divided into three months of respectively 30 and 31 days.

If the introduction of the new calendar is postponed until 1912 the 1st of January, which will be the day after New Year's day (marked 0), will fall on a Monday. This will give the advantage that the thirty-first day of the months of March, June, September and December will be Sundays, so that all the months of 31 days have one Sunday more than the months of 30 days, but the same number of work days. This will simplify all business calculations.

Leap year would be inserted between Sunday, June 31, and Monday, July 1, so that in leap year the extra day would be exactly in the middle of the year and have the same function as New Year's day, being similarly marked with an 0 (cipher).

In this way (1) all the terms or quarters of a year would be of equal length; (2) each month should have an equal number of work days; (3) the first and fifteenth days of every month, which play such an important part in business, would never fall on Sunday; (4) all Sundays would be easily determined, because the thirty-first day, with which every term closes, always falls on a Sunday; (5) every year would be divided in the same way; (6) Easter day would fall on the 7th of April, the first Sunday of the second quarter.

If this proposal of Holland is accepted the calendar for the first quarter of the year 1912 would look like this:

Table with columns for days of the week and dates for January, February, and March.

Another proposition which will come before the congress is to fix Easter day for the first Sunday after the fourth of April. This would still leave a margin of seven days on which Easter might fall in various years, but it would be an improvement over the present system.

Right to Wedding Presents. Washington.—Whether wedding presents belong to the husband or the wife is a question that has been brought before the supreme court of the district of Columbia.

After a honeymoon of six months Rene C. Rauscher and his wife, Julia, separated, and Mrs. Rauscher returned to the home of her mother, taking all of the wedding presents with her. The husband proceeded by a suit in replevin to regain possession of the presents.

Mrs. Rauscher claims that all of the articles except one were delivered and addressed to her at her home before her marriage.

Want Playwriting Chair. New York.—Harvard is to have a \$10,000-a-year professor of playwriting if the plans of alumni here are successful. The interested alumni are endeavoring to raise a fund of \$250,000 for endowing the chair. They hope to persuade ten wealthy men to give \$25,000 each for the purpose.

Missouri Feeds Starving Birds. Jefferson City, Mo.—Quail and owls are freezing and starving because of the severe winter. The state is paying farmers in 25 counties to feed wild birds.

LARGE GAINS IN LAKE TRADE

Commerce During November Nearly Two Million Tons Greater Than a Year Ago.

Washington.—The volume of commerce on the great lakes during the month of November was nearly 2,000,000 tons greater than for the corresponding month last year, and more than 1,000,000 tons in excess of that for November, 1907, according to figures of the department of commerce and labor.

All items showed an increase in volume, excepting lumber, with ore shipments leading the increase. The total tonnage for the month of November during the three years are:

1908.....\$92,311,134.04
1909.....\$134,947,851.81
1907.....\$131,861,134.04
The total for the season to the end of November is given as 79,040,047, with 59,333,823 and 82,356,841 net tons reported for the corresponding periods of 1908 and 1907. The total for the past season shows a loss of nearly 3,000,000 tons from 1907. November soft coal shipments differed little from preceding Novembers. Shipments of hard coal were considerably less for the month than during previous years, the decrease coming principally from Buffalo and Erie.

Wheat shipments were 14,576,000 for the month or nearly 3,000,000 bushels greater than last year, practically all from Duluth-Superior. Corn shipments, mostly from Chicago, were increased. Lumber shipments remained about stationary.

Boats to the number of 6,800 departed on the great lakes during November, 1909, compared with 6,537 during November, 1908. The tonnage register of the boats was nearly 2,000,000 greater than November of last year, and for the entire season about 24 per cent. greater than the season of 1908.

DEER HOLDS GIRLS IN TREE

Daughters of Connecticut Farmer Win Freedom by Strategy, But Lose Wearing Apparel.

Danbury, Conn.—Miss Estelle Hilliers and her sister Bertha, daughters of Henry C. Hilliers, a farmer living near Romford, were driven into a tree by a handsome, but ungallant young buck deer and suffered severely from cold until they were released through strategy on the part of one of the girls and the sacrifice of a part of her apparel.

The deer remained beneath the tree, tossing its antlers, and after half an hour had passed the predicament of the girls upon their chilly perch became serious. They hoped for assistance from some passing hunter who would drive the deer away, if he might not kill it. Deer may be killed when caught destroying farm produce, but the Connecticut statutes say nothing about what shall happen to a deer that keeps two girls his prisoners in a tree on a winter's night.

The deer's antlers were just beneath the girls and the elder sister thought of a plan to turn the table on the animal. Slipping off a heavy undershirt, she swung herself down to the lowest limb of the tree, and spreading the garment wide, dropped it like a bag over the horns and head of the animal. Then, before the deer had a chance to recover from its surprise, or to shake off the encumbering garment, both girls slipped from the tree and escaped.

BROTHER AND SISTER TO WED

Bridegroom's Father and Fiancee's Mother Marry and Match Between Children Results.

Merrill, Wis.—Robert Pankow and Emma Bolduan, brother and sister by marriage, are to be wedded at Pine River.

Pankow's father and Miss Bolduan's mother were married a short time ago.

After the marriage Robert Pankow's mother-in-law will be stepmother and Miss Emma Bolduan's father-in-law will be her stepfather also. Robert's brothers will be the stepbrothers and also the brothers-in-law of his wife and Miss Bolduan's sisters will be the stepsisters and also sisters-in-law of Robert.

Recently a young man in this city wished to marry his sister-in-law's daughter. At first it looked impossible for him legally to do so, but when the matter was investigated, it was found that she was a stepdaughter of his brother. They were granted a license.

Chickens on Brake Beams.

Spokane, Wash.—When his Moscow train pulled into Colfax, E. Choate, conductor, found two hens and a rooster riding the brake beams. The car they were riding under contained wheat, and had been picked up at Riverside. At that time the trainman noticed the chickens at work eating grain, but thought they had driven them all away.

The three feathered tramps that stayed with the car were promptly stuffed into a bag the second time they were found and taken back to Riverside on the next train.

Heavy Sentence Reduced.

London.—Declaring the sentence to be out of all proportion to the offense, the lord chief justice, in the court of criminal appeal, reduced from 14 to three months' hard labor sentences passed at the London sessions upon George Ray and James Carter for stealing four cents worth of milk.

TRADE IN FROZEN TURTLES

Tortoises Are Shipped from Australia to England—Agent Tells of the New Industry.

London.—Turtle soup need no longer be the exclusive dish of well-to-do epicures. A trade in frozen turtles from Queensland was started in London, the result of which will be that the chief delicacy at civic banquets will be brought within the means of thousands by whom hitherto it has been unobtainable.

A large consignment of frozen turtles reached this country a few days ago and was conveyed in refrigerator cars to Birmingham. Two previous trial shipments on a small scale had proved successful, and thus this third venture practically inflated what is expected to be a large and increasing branch of Australian commerce.

Until then Birmingham was the center of the frozen turtle trade. Messrs. C. Woodhouse & Co., of Kinghorn street, Smithfield, have, however, become the London agents for these turtles, and their first day's business was exceedingly promising.

Mr. Woodhouse said that the turtles are killed soon after capture, bled, frozen and shipped to England by mail steamer. There are about 400 of them in England at present.

"They weigh from 160 to 300 pounds each," he continued. "This one (indicating a show turtle on the floor of his establishment), turns the scales at 27 1/2 stone, and is worth, at 7 1/2 pence a pound, about \$35. Its value alive would be about \$100, owing to the great difficulty experienced in getting live turtles to England. Frozen turtle has given every satisfaction at the leading hotels and clubs, so that the future development of the Queensland frozen turtle trade certainly seems bright."

CANARY BIRDS GRACE A DANCE

Hundreds of Pretty Little Songsters Released at Philadelphia Social Function.

Philadelphia.—The New Year's dinner dance given in the Bellevue-Stratford by Mr. and Mrs. George Harrison Frazier for their debutante daughter, Miss Ellen Frazier, was perhaps, one of the most unique events of the kind ever held in Philadelphia.

Promptly as the clocks struck midnight and the whistles from the boats, factories and trains, the shots from guns and revolvers and the cheers of the populace along Broad street ushered in the New Year, four big globes of red roses hanging from the ceiling of the ballroom opened simultaneously, and several hundred live canaries flew out.

For a second the pretty little birds seemed bewildered, then, with a flutter, they went flying around the room. Occasionally a bird would alight on the foliage of the decorations, when it would be gently placed in a pretty little cage by some guest who may have espied it, and afterward retained as a souvenir. When a capture was made, a dainty cage was provided to house the tiny songster.

To add to the beauty of the general effect, the electric lights were all extinguished and confetti dropping from other rose balls on the dancers, was illuminated by calcium lights of different colors.

CURIOUS CODICIL TO A WILL

Englishman Leaves Son, Recently Married, Fortune if Boy Born of Union Attains 3 Years.

London.—A curious condition was contained in a codicil to the will of Ald. Woolian, former mayor of Tunbridge Wells, who left property worth over \$1,000,000. By the terms of the will the alderman left \$1,000,000 to his wife for her lifetime, after which the property passed to his son Ernest absolutely. In the codicil made a fortnight before his death Woolian stated that as his son had married recently and he therefore left him only a life interest in the money unless a male child which attained the age of three years should be born of the union and be certified by two physicians of good standing as to its reasonably sound mind and body. In this case the testator's son will receive the fund absolutely.

Longevity Marks English Village.

London.—Extraordinary examples of longevity are to be found among the inhabitants of the village of Over. Of the population of 860 there are at present living in the parish 78 persons who are over 70 years of age. Among them are one nonagenarian and 21 octogenarians, the aggregate age of the 22 persons making a total of 1,839 years, or an average of just over 83 1/2 years.

In an adjoining parish are lying 111 two natives of Over, one 87 and the other 83, who lived in the parish all their lives until recently.

Gets Valuable Collection.

London.—There has just been added to the Royal College of Surgeons in Lincoln's Inn Fields, an osteological museum, containing the most extensive and valuable collection ever brought together to illustrate the anatomy, evolution and pathology of teeth.

Wireless Light Next.

New York.—A wireless electric light run by current sent from the producing plant over ether waves will supplant all present methods of lighting within 20 years, according to Nikola Tesla, the inventor.

DISAGREE ON SIGNS

Some Prophets Predict Mild Season—Others See Severe Cold.

General Belief in Pennsylvania County Is That There Will Be Hard Winter After Middle of January, to Continue into March.

Reading, Pa.—Berks county weather prophets are busy making their predictions for the coming winter, and while none of them agree, the general belief is that there will be a severe winter after the middle of January and that it will continue until late in March.

If observations made of insects can be taken as an indication of the weather conditions this winter, mildness will prevail. Some farmers have observed in plowing that the worms and beetles are lying close to the surface and that the toad has not gone deep.

Another evidence of mild weather is the lateness of some snakes in depositing their eggs. Recently farmers in plowing have dug up a number of eggs, and, upon breaking them open small live snakes squirmed out.

One of the Berks prophets says that the winter will be a mild one because there were quite a few cold days in early autumn. That the winter will not be a severe one is the prediction of John Musser, a Brecknock township farmer. Berks county's new goosebone prophet. He is the successor of the late Elias Hartz, whose annual winter forecasts from the goosebone made him famous.

Musser says: "The goosebone is marked very peculiarly this year. Instead of having dark marks joined together there is a dark spot indicated here and there. This indicates that the winter will be an open one, with a severe spell now and then."

"January, or the early part of it, will see an occasional snowfall. But there will be a warm spell about the 15th and another in the latter part of the month."

February will be a severe month, according to the markings, and there will be several blizzards and plenty of ice and snow.

"March will be opened with mild weather, but it will be bitter cold the latter part of the month."

Anthony Ruppert, aged 85, of Basket, a regular Hoyle on snakes, declares that the woods and fields are full of young snakes, which indicates that the winter will not be a hard one.

Local weather prophets contend that weeds have grown to an unusual height and that this indicates a severe winter and lots of snow, since nature caused the weeds to grow tall, so that birds can feed upon the seeds when the ground is covered with snow. Squirrels began carrying their supply of winter grain and nuts into their nests earlier than usual this year, and some farmers declare that this indicates cold weather and a long winter.

Several other farmers said that corn husks are thick, with the stalks leaning to the west; that geese, ducks and chickens are growing a thick down under their feathers and a honky substance on their feet; that toadstools on old logs have many wrinkles; that owls retired to the forest a month earlier than usual, which all indicates that the winter will be a short but a severe one.

Meanwhile the guessing goes merrily on and the exact result will not be known until April 1, 1910.

Navy Rifle Shoots Nine Miles.

Washington.—The new 14-inch naval gun was tested the other day at the government proving grounds, Indian Head, Md. The rifle was pointed down the Potomac and five shots were fired. The projectiles traveled about nine miles with the gun elevated about seven degrees. The ordnance experts said the gun had done all that was expected and that more of its type probably would be planned.

Projectiles weighing 1,400 pounds were hurled from the gun and traveled 2,900 feet a second with a muzzle velocity of 65,600 foot tons.

Many Spiders in Shipment.

New York, Jan. 4.—Two thousand spiders, 500 bottles of insects and a numerous assortment of scorpions, snakes and amphibians from out of the way corners of Mexico have just reached New York. They are the result of a ten months' expedition under Dr. Alexander Petrunkevitch of the American Museum of Natural History. His choicest trophy is a very rare trap door spider, of which only one other specimen is known to exist. It was found in the state of Tabasco.

Pauper is Costly.

London.—Mr. Prosser, overseer to the Minworth parish, says there is only one pauper in the district, but the ratepayers have to contribute \$4,400 to the poor law administration. The Minworth parish authorities were asked to throw in their lot with Birmingham, but they declined the invitation.

Long Distance in Wagon.

Brookhaven, Miss.—One of the most unusual journeys on record was finished with the arrival here the other day of T. J. and Jesse Gatta. In a covered wagon they traveled from Brookhaven to Seattle to attend the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition. They returned in the same manner.

BOY BUILDS AIRSHIP

California Youth Makes Successful Tests with Working Model

Gunzendorfer Machine, It is Claimed, Has Many Advantages Over Successful Monoplanes of Bleriot and Wright Biplane.

San Francisco.—A few months in the future Mervyn Gunzendorfer, 13 years old, expects to be flying over the Presidio grounds in an aeroplane invented and made by himself. He has built a working model of the machine and has made it perform successful flights.

The Gunzendorfer machine, the boy inventor says, has big advantages over the successful monoplanes of Bleriot and Faruam, and over the Wright brothers' biplane.

Mervyn, who is the son of J. Gunzendorfer, of this city, is a small boy with a big round head and big eyes. He is quiet, even to shyness, and it is with difficulty that he can be induced to talk of his achievements. He set the motor of his model working and made the propellers whirl when asked to show the machine. In unassuming monosyllables he told how he had induced the little craft to fly in his back yard and down the alleyway to the street. It had flown 60 to 100 feet, and the only thing that had stopped it from going farther was the wire by which the power was supplied to the electric motor.

The boy began pointing out the superior points of his machine. "More supporting surface," he said, pointing to the arrangement of his planes, which are placed tandem style, each tilted upward toward the front."

That was clear. Two sheets of canvas placed that way would certainly offer more resistance to the air in falling than would two of equal size placed one above the other. But how was this arrangement better than that of the monoplane, with its one long stretch of canvas?

"It's this way," he said. "The air hits under here (indicating the under side of the front plane). So there's a double support to keep it lifted with the force of the air that hits it from the front. That's better for gliding and for rising, too."

"Yes, you could extend a machine of this sort. You could extend it as much as you wanted to, because every time you'd put another plane on and another, the extra weight would not be so great as the extra power and supporting surface."

"I reckon this big machine I've made the plans for would carry two men. Then, if you extended a machine like that you could carry more and more passengers. You'd have to put in strong braces here and there to make this part of the frame stronger. There would be no trouble about the propeller shaft the way I've got it now."

"This wheel arrangement is something new," continued Mervyn. "Have you seen how the steering wheel is arranged on an automobile? There is one shaft inside another. One works the steering apparatus and the other opens the throttle. I'm going to try the same kind of arrangement on my big machine. One of the shafts will work the rudder and the other the dip-planes. This arrangement will save weight and will be a lot easier to manage than the levers that are now used."

"This aeroplane is going to be as light as any of those big men have made. And I'm sure to have a Curtiss motor, so I am sure I'll be able to carry two passengers. The Bleriot monoplane has carried three."

"But the monoplane could not be extended like my machine could. If a single plane were made too big there would be too much strain on the framework. Besides, you could not get enough lift on with one very big plane as you could with these planes one behind the other, each with a tilt."

The building of the big machine in which the young inventor hopes to fly over the Presidio will begin soon. It is to measure 27 feet from the tip of the rudder to the end of the dip-planes in front.

Young Gunzendorfer has written a description of his model. Here it is: "Two distinct and permanently set biplanes, placed tandem, each measuring 24x12 inches, set six inches apart, give a total supporting surface of 336 square inches. Located amidships of the main planes are two adjustable planes 8x12 inches, which are controlled from the aviator's seat and cause the biplane to arise or descend at the will of the operator. A steering rudder 12 inches is located at the rear and same is under the direct manipulation of the aviator from his seat at the rear of the motor."

"The initial thrust is obtained from a coiled spring operating from a steel barrel, of the catapult type, the impetus thus obtained being sufficient to get the model into the air, after which the propelling power is furnished by a one-eighth horsepower electrically driven motor capable of 1,200 revolutions per minute."

"The motor is set amidship on the main frame and is coupled by chain drive to a chain shaft driving the two ten-inch propellers, one forward and one aft of the front plane. The power to drive the motor is carried to it over two flexible wires."

"The entire construction is of aluminum in the metal work, while cedar is used for the frame standards, the body of the ship resting on four aluminum wheels, the rear set of wheels turning with the angle of the rudder."

ENGLISHMEN CLING TO BOOTS

Refuse to Wear Slippers in Asphalt Paving and Manager is Compelled to Hire Italians.

London.—Why does the English workman prefer to go workless rather than change his boots, even when foot wear suitable for the work to be done is supplied to him free?

That he does was the view expressed by the secretary of the French Asphalt Company. This too, he said, was the reason why one so often sees gangs of Italian workmen laying down asphalt in the streets.

"Since 1871," he explained, "we have been laying asphalt in the streets of London, Glasgow and other large cities, and the nature of the material we use makes it necessary to melt it on the spot, and then hammer it down at a temperature of 200 deg. Fahrenheit."

"In London most of our work is done in the summer months, when traffic is generally light, and in these months we have frequently tried to employ British labor."

"But the combination of heat from above and heat from below has been too much for the English workman, and, despite the fact that we have always offered special cloth slippers, which effectually overcome the inconvenience of walking on the hot asphalt, he has times out of number refused to make the exchange, and gone elsewhere."

"Hob-nailed boots are, of course, impossible, because the nails would injure the softened asphalt."

"With equal rates of pay for both—trade union scales—we naturally prefer to employ Englishmen, and I am glad to say that we have at length educated an entire English gang, which is now asphalt-laying in our regular employ."

"In the course of time, I hope we shall take on more, but if I know anything of the British workman this prejudice against changing his boots is likely to die hard."

\$48,000,000 LOST BY FIRE

Census Bureau Makes Interesting Report on Annual Expenditures for Protection.

Washington.—It costs each year in the United States only \$100,000,000 to go to bed early and sleep with a sense of security. The census bureau, which has made an investigation of the fire departments and fire losses in the largest 158 cities of the country, recently issued an interesting report on the subject.

In Berlin it costs only 25 cents a year, in London 19 cents and in the United States geological survey has made computations to show that this difference exists because building restrictions in Europe are closer than in this country, because there are more fire proof buildings and because the cost of maintaining fire departments is not so high.

"When it comes to conserving the country's assets the toll of fire teaches a powerful lesson. During 1907 the largest 158 American cities lost more than \$48,000,000 through fires, with insurance amounting to \$42,000,000. It costs these cities about \$3,900,000 a year to maintain their paid fire departments."

RIIS' ROOSTER TOO MUSICAL

Roosevelt's Biographer Must Merit Complaints of Neighbors Because Fowl Kills Sheep.

New York.—That a Plymouth Rock rooster, owned by Jacob A. Riis, the doer Roosevelt's biographer, has a "foghorn" voice and is a foe to sheep is the verdict of Mr. Riis' neighbor in Richmond Hill, one of whom has threatened even to carry a complaint to the board of health. Mr. Riis, who says that nobody has yet complained to him directly about the rooster, declares that if the board health notifies him that his bird is nuisance, or if his neighbors can convince him that it is he will do by duty as a good citizen should in such cases and remove the cause of complaint, but never would he kill the rooster or any other bird or animal.

Leaves Fortune to Horses.

Boston, Mass.—A fund of \$70,000 to care for favorite horses and do and over \$25,000 left to household servants are among the bequests Charles Francis Wright, who died recently.

The bulk of the estate, which is estimated at several million dollars, to be divided between the New England Peabody Home for Crippled Children of Boston and the free hospital for women of Brookline, upon the death of a relative.

\$40,000 for Soup Tureens.

New York.—Including commissary and other incidental expenses, Pierpont Morgan recently paid \$40,000 for two soup tureens which he obtained in Paris. The tureens are on their way to this country, and the work of a noted artificer, Du Meissonier, and engraved by Huel.

To Exterminate Rats.

Evanville, Ind.—There are millions of rats in Warrick county, Indiana that do great damage each year, to wage a war on these rodents is purpose of clubs that are now organized all over that county.