

NEW FLOATING CITY

Imperator, Largest of Ocean Craft, Soon to Be Launched.

Ship Will Be 900 Feet Long—Monster of the Seas, With 50,000 Ton Capacity, to Have Many Luxurious Features.

Berlin—Records for size in the ocean steamship world are not held nowadays. We find a new "Goliath of the Ocean" of German construction. The new ship now building for the Hamburg-American line is to be called Imperator and will be launched on the Elbe, Mr. Kerns tells...

PLAN NEW "ELECTRIC RAIL"

Railroads and Steel Men Trying Hard to Find a Solution of Baffling Problem.

New York—An open hearth steel rail finished by an electrical process being perfected by the United States Steel corporation is the chief present hope of the steel makers and railroad men, who are looking for a solution of the baffling rail problem. In the mills the new rail is known as the "electric rail," and a statement by one of the railroad presidents who attended the recent rail conference explains:

DATES FROM THE ROMAN ERA

World Conquered Had What Corresponded to Daily Newspaper—The First English Publication

The first daily newspaper in English appeared in London March 11, 1702, 210 years ago. News letters and pamphlets printed from time to time when news or politics warranted had been common enough during the latter half of the preceding century, but these were in no sense newspapers. The first "daily" was called The Daily Courant, and was published by E. Mallet, "against the Ditch at Fleet bridge"—close by the site of the present London Times office.

THACKERAY AS A REPORTER

Future Great Novelist Just the Man to Enjoy Such Spicy Repartee as the Following.

Thackeray once acted as police reporter for the London Diogenes, and performed his work in no perfunctory way. How the future novelist must have enjoyed observing and recording this bit of courtroom humor: Pat Fogarty went all the way from Manchester to London in order to thrash Mick Fitzpatrick, which he did, winding up the performance with the assistance of an "awful horseshoe."

MISSIONARY IS BACK HOME

Dr. Griffith John Spent More Than Half a Century in Religious Work in the Far East.

London—After more than half a century in the service of the London Missionary society, and now in his eighty-first year, Dr. Griffith John has returned to his native land a gray haired veteran, broken in health but with his spirit unquenched. Dr. Griffith John was born at Swansea in 1831, and the religious life early took hold of him. He preached his first sermon when he was 14 years old—at a small prayer meeting held in a private house—and he won fame as a "boy preacher." In 1855 he was ordained and married, and in that year accompanied by his wife, he sailed for Shanghai.

RIDDLES ARE OLD AS TIME

But Boys Are Said to Be More Fond of Them Than Girls—First of Which There is Record.

It is a curious fact that boys are more fond of conundrums than girls are. While all conundrums are riddles, all riddles are not conundrums, the term conundrum being used more for riddles which are based on some fancied resemblance, such as, "Why is a pig looking out of a second-story window like the moon?" and the answer is because it looks round. If anyone objects that the moon does not always look round, you can reply, "Neither does the pig."

GIRL BALKS AT THE ALTAR

Mother's Ruse Successful in Preventing Daughter From Being a Bride.

Centuria, Wash.—"Do you take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband?" "I do not." This unexpected answer brought a sudden ending to the wedding ceremony which was almost performed for Charles E. Caldwell and Mina Erickson, a young couple of Tono, by the Rev. Robert Reid of Centuria. The couple had made preparations for a hasty marriage, the bride's mother being opposed to the union, and the wedding guests were assembled in a hill back of Tono. A carriage was in readiness to convey the newlyweds to this city, where they were to take the train for Puget Sound points.

TASK FINDS THEM PREPARED

Men Who Do Great Things, It Will Be Discovered, Have Looked Forward to the Work.

There are a great number of stories of men who have seemed to do a great thing in a casual way. It will invariably be found that they have not only been making ample preparations by study, discipline, and experience, but they have constantly tested their capacity, as a wrestler tests his, by bouts with all the strong men he can meet.

LIKE THE WAIL OF BANSHEE

Mournful Cry of the Screech-Owl Heard in Youth, Plainly Recalled in After Years.

From the orchard, too, on an autumn midnight, comes the mournful whistle of a screech-owl. Most of us who have heard the screech-owl at all have heard its call drifting down from an old orchard on a frosty October night. The chill of coming winter, the cattle stamping in dark stables, a dim and ghostly world stretching over garnered fields to the mystery of the woods, and a gaunt, ancient orchard up the slope seem phantasmal under a wan moon—these are the setting for the screech-owl's mournful whistle. I can at this moment shut my eyes, reproduce that whistle in my throat, and bring back to memory as if it were yesterday, the scene as my boyhood eyes saw it from my chamber window, whence I peeped with frosted breath before diving into bed, and I can actually smell (for all the tobacco smoke in my present study) the peculiar odor of the cold October night air, and feel again a vague, almost terrifying melancholy chill in my heart as, in the darkness, I heard from the orchard that reiterated whooooooo. Like the whip-crack will on the pasture rail on a hot evening of July, this other night-singer of New England seems to dwell just on the skirts of human habitations and to keep our souls reminded of the sadness of the world.—Walter Prichard Eaton, in Harper's Bazar.

COURT SEES 'GRIZZLY' DANCE

Assistant City Attorney of Minneapolis Gives Terrible Illustration and Convinces Judge.

Minneapolis.—W. G. Compton, assistant city attorney, danced the "grizzly bear" in Municipal court here to show Judge C. L. Smith just how it was done. With his arm over the shoulders of a bystander, he swayed rhythmically from side to side to the strains of the San Francisco tune, and, according to police witnesses, gave a fair imitation of how it was being done in a local dance hall when two girls were arrested for dancing the "grizzly bear." The judge decided that the dance was "disorderly" and ordered the two girls to promise to remain away from dance halls in the future and report regularly to the police matron.

MINUTE MEN

The so-called organization of Minute Men came into existence shortly before the outbreak of the Revolution. The patriots of Massachusetts and other New England colonies banded themselves together, obtained arms and pledged themselves to the defense of the colonies "at a minute's notice." From this pledge to take up arms "at a minute's notice" they got their name.

THE WORD "STRIKE"

The earliest use of the word "strike" in the sense of stopping work occurs in the London Chronicle for September, 1785, in connection with a coal strike. This publication reports a great suspension of labor in the Northumberland coalfields, and the colliers are stated to have "struck out" for a higher bounty before entering into their usual yearly "bond." The time-honored illustration of profitless labor, "carrying coals to Newcastle," appears to have received its first slap in the face during this strike. The Chronicle reports that "several pokes of coal were brought from Durham to Newcastle by one of the common carriers, and sold on the sandhill for 9d a poke, by which he cleared 6d a poke."

MISUNDERSTOOD

"What is your occupation?" asked the good woman, as she handed out the fourth roast-beef sandwich. "I am an ex-pounder, madam. My delivery has become impaired, and I find it very difficult to get a bout," answered the weary traveler. Thereupon the one-time pugilist took his leave, and the good woman murmured, "Poor fellow!"—Judge.

CHINA IS OFFERED MILLIONS

American and British Financiers Have Vast Sum Ready to Pay for Oil and Minerals.

Shanghai.—Two hundred and fifty million dollars was offered for control of the national resources of China. This vast sum will be guaranteed by a committee of American and British financiers, numbered among whom are the interests affiliated with Standard Oil company, the moment the republic of China is recognized by a single world power. In return is asked a monopoly of the development of the oil and mineral wealth of China. The republican leaders regard the plan fair, but Japanese and Russian financiers working together, are pressing their demands for consideration. They profess to be able to give just as much money as the American-British combination and are backing up their demands with suggestions of interference by both Japan and Russia, should preference be shown the Americans. The fact that British financiers have united with the Americans, has angered influential Japanese, and the Japanese-English cordiality may be threatened. Realizing this, and also that both Russia and Japan are in strategic positions, where they could interfere at any time in China under the pretext of "restoring order," the republican leaders are sparing for time.

SEEMINGLY NO THRILL LEFT

Tales of Travelers Altogether Devoid of Attraction in These Days of the Telegraph.

It is a pity in some ways that travel, even to the uttermost parts of the earth, has become in this age so much a matter of course. Not so long ago a first sight of London or Paris would bring a thrill to an American; and as he entered into old world culture and felt its settled traditions, he was apt to be lifted out of himself by constant surprises. But now, with hundreds of periodicals recounting and actually picturing the march of events, with the signs of Persia and the outeries of China heard here almost as soon as they are uttered, travel and foreign acquaintance have lost much of their romance and refreshment. Set an intelligent young American down in front of the Taj Mahal, and its contour will seem about as familiar to him as the Metropolitan tower. Nor do we care to have returning travelers unburdening their experiences to us or showering us with kodak pictures. We read of and look at the rest of the world in the same way in which we get a reckoning of our country's doings after all, it takes less than half an hour to send a message around the world, and why should the man who has been to Shanghai foist his stale news upon us? If he has anything worth saying, let him write a book and we will see whether we care to read it. Youths just out of college who have a craving for real adventure no longer think of gratifying it in travel; they seek employment in a coal mine or become cowboys.

The term "floating hotel," often applied to such ships when it is desired to emphasize their bulk, would convey, in the case of the Imperator, an impression far short of the truth. For where in all the world is there a hotel that can hold 5,000 persons at once? None exists anywhere near such capacity. It is the population of a small city. "One of the features of the Imperator is entirely new and unprecedented. The first cabin passengers on this ship will have the use of a roomy swimming pool in a beautiful Pompeian hall. Near by is a suite of rooms for gymnastics." It will have a promenade deck nearly a quarter of a mile long, a great entertainment hall two stories high, holding 700 guests, a conversation room, a smoking room, a ladies' hall, a winter garden and a Ritz-Carillon restaurant, serving à la carte. It goes almost without saying that the Imperator will be driven by turbines. What will be the next step on the part of the designers of steamship Leviathans? Will the English outbid their German cousins once more; and if this keeps on, how soon shall we reach the sea monster of 100,000 tons?

GROUND HOG IN LONG TRIP

Animal Will Wanderlust to Come by Way of Chicago on Journey Around World.

Salt Lake City.—The wonderlust of a small ground hog, which entered Salt Lake recently on the brake train of a Western Pacific passenger train, is to be gratified by a trip around the world. Western Pacific railroad men, who, adopted the animal, have prepared a crate plastered with directions as to his care and a resume of his travels, which will carry him east over the Rio Grande to Denver and thence to Kansas City, Chicago, New York, Washington and Boston, across the ocean and around the world as a special guest of transportation men.

NO TREATING AT CORNELL

"Buy Your Own Drinks," Will Be the Rule Among Students at the University Soon.

Ithaca, N. Y.—Buy your own drinks will be the rule of Cornell students after April 1. A committee from the senior class has decided to put into effect the no-treat rule, and it is understood fraternity and club men will support it. Under the new custom every man, whether in a party or with a friend, is expected to pay for what he orders.

Wore 69-Cent Hat Three Years.

Chicago.—Telling the court her husband used all his money for gambling, Mrs. David O'Keefe showed a 69-cent hat she had worn five years and a 43-cent coat that had served three years. O'Keefe was held.

Give Bachelors as Prizes.

Chicago.—Four handsome bachelors are prizes to be distributed to winners of a series of card parties for unmarried women members of the Harmon Lodge K. of P. One bachelor is reserved for the booby prize.

FUNERAL IS ROUTED BY FIRE

Hundred-Year-Old Descendant of 'Betsey Ross Buried at Coe's Landing.

Huntington, W. Va.—While funeral services over the remains of Mrs. Edith A. Floyd, grand-daughter of Betsey Ross, the maker of the first American flag, were in progress at Coe's Landing, the Methodist Episcopal church in which they were held took fire. The building was burned to the ground.

Hires Man to Thrash Spouse.

Seattle.—Answering an ad offering \$10 to the man who could thrash a wife better, a husky young man wallop R. H. Gilles, former water front broker here, and claimed the reward from his wife.

Quarrel After 37 Years.

Paris.—After a happy married life of 37 years, Francois Poulet, ninety-three, and his wife, eighty-seven, had their first quarrel and are now petitioning for divorce on the ground of incompatibility.

ROUSES BEAR FROM SLEEP

After Stepping into a Hole, Surprised Lad Has a Busy Time for Next Few Minutes.

Shakopee, Minn.—A party consisting of John Keim and wife and Frank and Walter Geiser have returned from a ten days' hunting trip, bringing with them four deer and a large black bear weighing 430 pounds. Walter Geiser, eighteen years old, while walking in the woods suddenly stepped in a hole, thinking it a sink-hole of some kind, but to his surprise, he roused out a bear. The boy's rifle went to his shoulder and he shot the bear in the eye. Bruin made a lunge for the youth, and before the brute could get out of the hole the boy fired a second bullet into the animal's breast. A third shot from his rifle dropped the bear three feet from the lad.

SEE BLACK FOX IN INDIANA

People of the "Knobs" Get Glimpse of a Valuable Fur Bearer—May Be Freak of Ordinary Species.

Louisville, Ky.—Residents of the "Indiana knobs" opposite this city, have caught glimpses of a rare black fox, whose fur is the most valuable of any of the North American fozes, and an old fashioned hunt is being organized by sportsmen in the hope of catching it. The black fox is a native of Alaska, and it is thought this one may be a freak of the ordinary species. A year ago a Canadian silver fox was captured among the knobs and its fur was sold in this city for \$300.

GOES INSANE AT SEA.

New York.—When the steamer Volturino arrived here immigration officials found that Haim Lipman, a young Russian, had been driven insane when he witnessed his first storm at sea.

QUEER BEEHIVES.

In the prettily situated mountain village of Hoefel in Sillcia, there are a number of curious beehives in the shape of life size figures cleverly carved in wood and painted in colors. The figures were carved over a century ago by monks in the Nannburg monastery, who were at that time in possession of a large farm in the district. There are 20 of these strange beehives, and they represent different characters, ranging from Moses to a military officer, a country girl, and a night watchman with a spear. The figures are hollow with the exception of the heads, which are solid, the opening for the bees being in front, in the middle of the figures.—Wide World Magazine.

Worse Than English Sparrow.

Rabbits were originally introduced into Australia by a squatter, near Melbourne, who thought that the sight of them would remind him of home. They did, but they cost him \$250,000 before they were done with him, and that little reminiscence is costing the colonies \$3,500,000 per annum. A pair of rabbits in five years are capable of producing a progeny of 20,000,000, and in Australia they seem to have acted up to their capacity.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS