

TOLD BY PASSPORTS

Cards Signified Much to Those Initiated.

French Minister of Foreign Affairs Under Louis XVI Devised Ingenious System, Described by a Writer in the Century.

The mysterious cards employed by the Count de Vergennes, who was minister for foreign affairs under Louis XVI, in his relations with the diplomatic agents of France exhibit great ingenuity in their arrangement and show what the political condition of Europe must have been at that time to require such precautions.

WATER PORTERS OF QUITO They Carry Big Earthen Jars on Their Backs and Bowing, Create a Cataract.

Around a fountain in one of the principal squares of Quito assemble every morning the city's aguadores. These water porters differ from the less energetic ones of some South American cities in carrying their jars upon their backs instead of on the backs of mules.

The card told more tales than the words written on it. Its color indicated the nation of the stranger. Yellow showed him to be English; red, Spanish; white, Portuguese; green, Dutch; red and white, Italian; red and green, Swiss; green and white, Russian, etc.

Reduced Mortality From Cancer. "Cancer has at last, by a steady and uniform increase year after year, reached a mortality of eight thousand," a recent bulletin of the New York state department of health reports.

Machine to Write Music. A German musician has invented a machine which, he states, automatically registers the notes emitted by the piano. The new machine, Harper's Weekly states, has the same object as one invented by an Italian and used by Mascagni in writing his operas.

Novels and Plays. An English writer describing the difficulties that lie in the way of a successful novelist becoming effective as a playwright notes that a novelist is free while the playwright is limited by the stage, and adds: "In a play it all has to take place in somebody's chambers and all the women of the play have to be got there somehow."

Fostering Canal Traffic. In order to take care of the traffic on the New York state barge canal, which will be completed in 1915, an expenditure of \$18,800,000 has been authorized for canal terminals in New York city and other cities along the canal.

NO PLACE FOR AGED MAN

Uncle Nanny Ramsey, Who is Paired, Must Be Kept Away From All Auctions.

"In the morning of our existence," philosophically remarked the Erratic Thinker, "when life stretches away and away ahead of us, and we scamper on supple, care-free legs through flowery dells, and all that, how little we rock that the first thing we know we will be in the midst of golden noon when the shadows fall neither to the right nor to the left."

SHIPS TO GATHER

Uncle Sam's Warships Soon to Be Mobilized.

New York Will Witness on October 14 and 15 Greatest Fleet of Fighting Craft Ever Assembled in American Waters.

Washington.—New York city will witness on Oct. 14 and 15 the mobilization of the greatest fleet of warships ever assembled in American waters.

Free entertainments are given to rural communities in some counties in Alabama as part of a campaign to induce the people to stay on the land instead of abandoning their farms for city life.

Entertainments for Farmers. Free entertainments are given to rural communities in some counties in Alabama as part of a campaign to induce the people to stay on the land instead of abandoning their farms for city life.

Bonaparte as Schoolboy. The following is a copy of the certificate given to the great Napoleon on leaving school. It was handed to him for presentation to the king of France by the inspector of the College of Brienne:

Astrology. It would be futile to attempt to determine the time and place of the origin of astrology. It is as ancient as history itself. When we first hear of human society we find along with it the "excellent foppery of the world," as Shakespeare called astrology.

Practical is Not Poetic. W. D. Howells, at a luncheon at Kittery Point, said of a certain popular novelist: "There is about as much poetry in him as there is in McMaisters."

HERCULES STEALS BIG SAFE

Porch Climber Tosses Strongbox From Window of Residence in Chicago.

Chicago.—Wilmette was visited by a "Hercules porch climber," who entered the home of Albert Bersbach, treasurer of the Marx Engraving company, at 530 Washington street, Wilmette, and with apparently little effort seized a small safe and threw it from the window to the ground.

WOOD STUDIED IN PRINTER

Conqueror of Giants Once a "Devil" and of Course is at Home With Battery Work.

San Francisco, Cal.—Holding a post mortem on the Red Sox-Giants series, a citizen here made this statement: "It's hard to say which is the better team, but Editor Hulaniski, of the Richmond Record-Herald, has settled any dispute as to who is the best pitcher."

CHIMPANZEE SUIT BEGINS

Owner of Animal He Declares Killed by Railroad Company Wants \$200,000 Damages.

Portland, Ore.—Trial of a damage suit wherein \$200,000 is asked of the Northern Pacific railroad company in compensation for the death of an educated chimpanzee began here in the United States District court.

RIDES 100 YARDS ON ENGINE

Driver of a Louisville Autobus Has a Remarkable Escape From Death.

Louisville, Ky.—William Lackey, driver of an autobus, had a remarkable escape here when he fell on the pilot of a freight engine which had struck his autobus and knocked him several feet into the air.

ROCKS TO GATHER

Philadelphia, Pa.—The superintendent of the zoological garden wants a young female goat as companion to Katrina, the hippopotamus. The beast was brought to this country from Hamburg, where she was a member of a trained animal troupe and had a female goat as a constant companion.

ROAD EXPERTS NEEDED.

A practical effort to bring the supply of expert highway engineers to the point where they will be numerous enough to meet the demand for their services is to be made at the American Road Congress, to be held on the Million-Dollar Pier in Atlantic City, September 30 to October 5.

At the present time, with the people of the United States spending more than \$200,000,000 a year for the improvement of highways, the demand for expert highway engineers exceeds the supply.

FAVORS A RETIREMENT LAW.

"If there were a retirement law for the clerks employed by Uncle Sam in the various departments at Washington, the civil service would not be cluttered up by a small army of aged and inefficient clerks," said W. R. Hayes, former congressman from Nebraska, the other day.

The stupidity of the clerks themselves has been one of the chief reasons why a liberal retirement law has failed of passage for all these years. The clerks can never agree on any policy among themselves.

MUST ANSWER QUESTIONS.

In the future, when a person calls at the general delivery window of any postoffice will have to answer these questions put by the clerk before he gets his mail:

"Are you twenty-one years of age?" "Have you a permanent home in the city?"

"Are you using a fictitious name?" "Is this correspondence illegal?"

An order issued to postmasters at Dr. C. P. Grandfield, first assistant postmaster general, reads in part: "The attention of postmasters at offices having city carrier service is called to paragraph 2, section 713, postal laws and regulations, compliance with which should prevent the improper use of the general delivery by residents."

TIME "VIA WIRELESS."

The new wireless station at Arlington which will be completed in about a month will act as a clock regulator for thousands of jewelers all over the country.

The right time as recorded at the naval observatory will be flashed all along the coast and as far west as the system will reach. The towers are expected to communicate with vessels three thousand miles at sea, but the exact distance they will command over land has not been calculated to a nicety.

TO MODIFY BROOK TROUT.

Uncle Sam is going to try to produce a trout that can live and prosper in the warm water of the sluggish streams of the southern states. An experimental fish station will be established near Washington for that purpose. Congress has provided the money for the work.

Worry and Work.

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