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IS THE OLDEST CLERK.

A Kentucky Man Who Has Held Office for 66 Consecutive Years.

Richard White of Kentucky is the oldest clerk in the executive department in Washington, according to a correspondent of the Cleveland Plain Dealer. With the exception of a postmaster in New York state, who has held his office for 74 consecutive years, White is believed to be the oldest man in point of service, as well as in years, in the federal employ.

Mr. White was born in 1814, and thus has passed the Biblical term of human life by 18 years. In addition to his record of long continuous service, he holds another record that is without parallel. Nearly every government clerk takes the full 30-day annual leave of absence authorized by law, and the majority of them also take advantage of the 30-day sick leave in each year. In all his experience Mr. White has never exceeded 16 days in his absence from the department in any one year.

Auditor Castle, in whose department Mr. White is employed, says the veteran does his work to the satisfaction of his chiefs in spite of his great age. While no civil pension list is maintained by Uncle Sam, it is safe to say that Richard White will be assured of remaining on the government pay roll as long as he lives.

HOW THE ANIMALS FEED.

Characteristics of the Beasts When in Captivity.

An animal is almost as demonstrative when he is hungry as when he is in a rage. They are both natural feelings, and he sees no reason for disguising them.

For several years past a campaign of popular education on this subject has been carried on in every section of the country by individuals and organizations, by newspapers and magazines, and to a very notable extent by the Federal Government through its admirably conducted Department of Agriculture. The railroads have also given it very valuable aid.

We are at the beginning of a great era of road building in this country, which is equivalent to saying that we are making surer the way to the substantial development and progress of the country.

Representative Beidler, of Ohio, has introduced in Congress a bill which should receive the hearty support of men of all political opinions.

It is emphatically a measure for the advancement of the public welfare; it is hard to conceive one that would better deserve that title. The Beidler bill provides for the assembling of a convention representing the War Department, Postoffice Department, Agricultural Department, Interior Department of the Federal Government, as well as every State and Territory in the Union.



Changes in Road Making.

THEY have been slow in coming to this country, but now that they have started they are coming with a rush. One of the latest States to adopt the money system of working the roads is Iowa. In that State there is to be no more working out the tax by individual land owners. Everything is to be done by the money system.

This change comes hard in some localities. The old men have for so many years looked forward to the time of working roads that they do not like to have it done away with. It has been looked upon as a sort of picnic, a time when we can get together and talk over all our own affairs and those of our neighbors. Everybody's business is raked fore and aft at these annual gatherings.

But what are we getting in return? That is what troubles some incredulous souls. They are always suspicious of new things. They look on the new everywhere with doubt. So in the matter of the money system of working the highways these men profess to see grave dangers.

It must be left largely to time to tell us what part of all these gloomy forebodings are to become true. It seems reasonable, however, to suppose that if we elect honest men for highway commissioners—and that we ought always to do—the work will be done fairly and in the most workmanlike manner possible. It is true that not all honest men are competent to build roads.

Federal Aid to Roads.

The good roads movement that seems to be going over the country is one of the best signs of the times. It is, perhaps, a better evidence of real progress than industrial enterprise of any other character.

When a community once gets well started in good road building it is very likely to keep it up, for every advance on this line gives a fresh object lesson of the practical value of good roads and the wastefulness of bad ones.

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It is a safe prediction that there will be more miles of first-class roadway laid in the United States this year than in any previous year of our history. It has become much easier than it formerly was to interest the masses of the people, the farmers, the business men, men of property and professional men—the public generally—in this subject, which concerns us all and touches all our interests.

Such a convention would be composed largely of men who have made a special study of the construction and care of roads. From it we might therefore reasonably expect recommendations that would be of immense value to Congress, the State Legislatures and county boards in their legisla-

live and administrative provisions for road work.

The convention might also lay the basis of a national good roads policy that would benefit the country quite as much as the Government's labor and expenditure for river and harbor improvement.

The Beidler bill is one of the most practical and promising measures that has been proposed to Congress in a long time.—Atlanta (Ga.) Journal.

MYSTERY OF A SPIDER'S SPINNING.

How Does He Succeed in Drawing His Web So Taut?

How does a spider spin a thread from one bush to another at a height from the ground and then draw it so tight? asks a correspondent in the New Century. Every one who has ever walked through a country lane early in the morning has felt the strained threads upon the face, and often these threads are many yards long, but the way in which it is done remains a mystery.

M. Favre, a French scientist, has discovered that a thread one yard long will support by its own buoyancy in the air, the weight of a young spider. It would thus be in the power of a juvenile to spin a thread of that length and trust to air currents to carry it across and attach it to an opposite bush so that he himself could then pass over and draw it tight.

The work is nearly always done in the night time, so that observation is difficult.

If the spider has any human nature in his make-up—and many of his habits would lead us to suppose that he has—he would be gratified at the perplexity which he causes and would advertise his performances as zealously as do less gifted human gymnasts and even some popular preachers.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Justice without wisdom is impossible.—Fronde.

Magnificent promises are always to be suspected.—Theodore Parker.

He is only a well-made man who has a good determination.—Emerson.

A soul occupied with great ideas best performs small duties.—M. Martineau.

Labor is the great producer of wealth; it moves all other causes.—Daniel Webster.

Youth will never live to age unless they keep themselves in health with exercise, and in heart with joyfulness.—Sidney.

Nine-tenths of all the misery in the world arises from a false estimate placed upon the value of things.—Franklin.

The man who laughs is the man who wins, and the man who laughs is invariably the one who absorbs most oxygen.—S. P. Burke.

The ills of life are sufficiently hard to bear, without adding to them the wear and tear of discontent and rebellion.—Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

You may have in a house costly pictures and costly ornaments, and a great variety of decoration, yet, so far as my judgment goes, I would prefer to have one comfortable room well stocked with books to all you can give me in the way of decoration which the highest art can supply.—John Bright.

To me it seems that the soul, in all its higher actions, in original thought, in the creations of genius, in the soundings of imagination, in its love of beauty and grandeur, in its aspirations after a pure and unknown joy, and especially in disinterestedness, in the spirit of self-sacrifice, and in enlightened devotion, has a character of infinity.—C. G. Ames.

A Little Philosopher.

Out in Riverside there lives a little chap who deserves a place in the world's philosophy along with Mrs. Wiggs and David Harum. He is by nature sunny, and is apt to take the world as it comes along. His that are childhood tragedies to most youngsters he usually passes by with a smile.

For this he rightly has been considered something of a wonder, but the climax came the other day. He had gone to play with a neighbor's child and the boys, seeking excitement, had managed to climb to the top of a big tree. Our little philosopher had only just reached the top when his foot slipped and he fell to the ground.

He never uttered a word, and it was the screaming of the playmate that attracted the attention of the mother. The doctor came and found two bad fractures of the leg and hip.

The little fellow bore the setting of the bones patiently. After it was done the mother slipped out of the room to hide her own tears. A faint little sound came from the room where the injured boy lay. She hurried back almost hoping to find him crying.

"My son," she said, "do you want something? I thought I heard you call."

"Oh, no, mother," answered the little fellow. "I didn't call. I just thought I'd try singing a bit."

And he went on with the song.—Chicago Chronicle.

The Most Valuable Statue.

The most valuable statue in the world is that of the god Diabutsu, in Yokohama, Japan. It is 63-1/2 feet high, weighs 450 tons and contains 500-pound weight of pure gold.



It appears, from recent exhaustive experiments by Professor Backhaus, of Konigsberg University, that although the flavor of cow's milk is influenced, as everyone knows, by various articles of food, the taste of the milk also depends, and in a still more important degree, on the animal's own peculiarities. Some cows persist in giving milk with a flavor strong or disagreeable, no matter what they are fed, and such milk is often the cause of disorders of the digestive system.

Some surgeons now claim that it is possible to open the heart and divide certain valvular obstructions that threaten life. Dr. Robson, of Leeds, England, says that the old notion that any wound of the heart must inevitably be fatal has been found erroneous. In thirty-eight cases described by him wounds of the heart were stitched up. About one-half of the patients recovered from the operation, and thirteen of them were fully restored to health.

Inasmuch as the domestic animals are not subject to typhoid fever, it has been supposed that the disease could not be contracted by eating their flesh, but two German investigators have recently found the typhoid bacillus in the splenic abscesses of a slaughtered cow, and they conclude that, although the domestic animals do not show the lesions of the disease, they may convey it to man. This, they think, may be held to account for the occasional observation of epidemics of supposed meat poisoning pursuing a course not distinguishable from that of typhoid fever.

Most people have at least queried whether the abnormal coolness of the past season might not be connected in some way with the West India volcanic disturbances. Scientific men have generally refused to entertain the idea for a moment, and have laughed the case out of court, but at least one writer, M. Paul Combes, treats the matter seriously. In an article in Cosmos, he maintains that there is a reasonable probability that the West India eruptions have altered the course and volume of the Gulf Stream by raising the sea bottom; and, as he holds to the old theory of the influence of the Gulf Stream on European climatic conditions, the conclusion of an altered climate follows easily, at least for his own continent. He does not consider the case of America. Most meteorologists regard the influence of the Gulf Stream on Europe as an exploded myth, but M. Combes denies this.

Two or three points of general interest developed at the recent sessions of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Belfast. Dr. Isaac Roberts, in a paper on the evolution of the stellar systems, advanced the theory that the universe, as astronomical research has thus far revealed, is only one unit in the universe. His inference was that all over the sky vast areas without any stars were scattered, and we were not warranted, in assuming that the absence of stars was due to the inadequacy of our optical and photographic powers to reveal them, but there was actually an impenetrable abyss void of stars existing beyond the faintest stars that our most powerful modern equipments enable us to see. We could not prove incontrovertibly the truth of this deduction, but the author had no hesitation in stating that the solution of the question would not long be delayed, for trustworthy data were being rapidly accumulated by which a complete demonstration would be effected.

Physicians' Fees.

A Western contemporary advocates a general agreement on the part of physicians to raise their fees in accordance with the enhanced prices of the necessities of life which have obtained in recent years. With some conditions and limitations we heartily vote aye to this resolution. The first condition would be that the fees of the physician are those that should be raised—the physician, we mean, as distinguished from the surgeon and the specialist. The internists, the general or family physicians, constitute the most important but the most neglected class of the profession. We have conspired with the thoughtless and melodrama-loving public to give all the honor and all the profits also to the surgeons and specialists. If the profession is to make any common stand for better wages it must be for the sake of the general physician. His work is worth just as much as that of the operator, but he does not receive one-tenth, and in many cases not one-hundredth as much. We do not say that the specialist and surgeon receive too much; we urge only that it is the duty of the specialist and surgeon to help raise the standard of fees for his colleague. In the second place, the movement to increase the fee should at first chiefly consider the country physician, as distinguished from the city man. Either because the number of cases is greater or other means of livelihood are obtainable the city physician does not suffer from low and uncollectible fees, as does his country brother. The newly aroused professional consciousness must show conscientiousness and the love of justice, or it will not endure.—American Medicine.

Flying Machine Exhibition.

The Aeronautical Institute, of London, will hold an exhibition of model balloons and flying machines and experimental apparatus in the early part of the new year.

Advertisement for Wm. H. Ernest, Standard Flower Pots, established 1853. Lists various pot types and location in Washington, D.C.

Advertisement for Gustave Hartig, Builders' and Coach Hardware, Bar Iron, Steel, Blacksmith's Supplies, &c. Located in Washington, D.C.

TIME TABLES AS GEOGRAPHIES

New York School Teacher Makes Valuable Discovery.

"I never realized the value of time tables until I got hold of a class of boys old enough to take an interest in geography," said a New York public school teacher. "So far as the study of maps goes, I can get better results from the use of time tables than from all the geographies in the market. Maps that have been prepared for the purpose of cultivating the youthful mind in the matter of locality are shunned as bugbears by all except the studious few. But just set a dozen boys around a pile of time tables and tell them to locate certain cities, lakes and rivers, and they will work like beavers, and come out letter-perfect every time. For most children time tables and accompanying maps are a source of unending interest both in and out of school hours. It is true that this unorthodox method may give the boys exaggerated ideas as to the importance of certain railroads, but they seem to get enough good out of the investigation to counteract such impressions."

Some Barkless Dogs.

To teach a dog not to bark would seem to be as impossible a task as teaching a child not to cry or a boy not to talk loud. But there is a case on record where a dog was so taught, though it took the trainer three years to accomplish it. Then he thought he had a dog that differed from all other dogs in the world, but in this he was mistaken, for there are at least three varieties of dogs that never bark—the lion-headed dog of Tibet, the shepherd dog of Egypt and the Australian dog. These would be the right kind for pets, so that nervous people would not be disturbed at night. The law in some countries is very severe on night-barking dogs. In Japan, for instance, the owner of one is liable to arrest and to a penalty of one year's work on the complaint of any one who has been disturbed by the barking.

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Cars on the Columbia line stop almost in front of the door and transfer tickets either way are good for 15 minutes, to enable passengers to get refreshments and a free lunch at Senay's well stocked bar.

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Many newspapers have lately given currency to reports by irresponsible parties to the effect that

THE NEW HOME SEWING MACHINE CO

had entered a trust or combination; we wish to advise the public that there is no truth in such reports. We have been manufacturing sewing machines for over a quarter of a century, and have established a reputation for ourselves and our machines that is the envy of all others. Our "New Home" machine has never been rivaled as a family machine. It stands at the head of all High Grade sewing machines, and stands on its own merits. The "New Home" is the only really High Grade Sewing Machine on the market.

It is not necessary for us to enter into a trust to save our credit or pay any debts as we have no debts to pay. We have never entered into competition with manufacturers of low grade cheap machines that are made to sell regardless of any intrinsic merits. Do not be deceived, when you want a sewing machine don't send your money away from home; call on a "New Home" Dealer, he can sell you a better machine for less than you can purchase elsewhere. If there is no dealer near you, write direct to us.

THE NEW HOME SEWING MACHINE CO

ORANGE, MASS.

New York, Chicago, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., Atlanta, Ga., Dallas, Tex., San Francisco, Cal.



Advertisement for Bird Manna, The Philad's Bird Food Co's. Describes the benefits of the product for birds and its availability from druggists.

American Laundry

801 H St., N. E. Cor. 8th. Open until 10 P. M. Saturdays, but not open on Sundays. Modern Machinery, Modern Work, Modern Methods.



Advertisement for Good Spirits, Health and Happiness. Follow the use of the Great Indian Remedy, Herbs of Joy. Lists ailments treated and contact information.



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This celebrated CATTLE POWDER is earnestly recommended to the Farmer, Horseman and Dairyman as a MOST RELIABLE CURE for all ordinary diseases to which HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP or HOGS are subject.

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