PERILS OF THE WOODMEN.

FATALITIES FREQUENT IN MAINE LUMBER CAMPS.

Danger from Runaway Logs on Mountain Sides—Falling Trees That Kill—The River Driver's Profession—Lumber Business Thriving.

BANGOR, Oct. 29.—Penobscot lumbermen are preparing for the largest crop of logs since 1872, and there is rejoicing at the promised return to something like the palmy days of old, when the annual survey ran over 200,000,000 feet. Last year the cut was about 180,000,000 feet, and this year it is likely to be nearer 215,000,000 feet, for the general estimate is about 20 per cent. in excess of 1896.

Many things have contributed to the decline of the Penobscot lumber trade, although it is still a big business. There was the development of Canada, and the keen competition of her mills, whose product, while not so good as ours, could be sold at prices that gave them the market, and to a large extent shut the Yankees out. Then there was the change from wood to iron and steel construction, with the increase in the use of hard pine, yellow pine, and spruce from West Virginia and pine from Michigan. Finally the abolition of the duty on lumber came. When the duty of $2 a thousand on Canadian spruce was taken off the condition of the Maine mill man was made almost miserable. To make it even worse for the manufacturer, the one who owned no timber land and had to buy his logs, the prices of stumpage, or permits to cut, have been steadily advancing in recent years, so that the operators have been obliged to put up the price of logs to a point that has precluded the possibility of profit for the man who saws them. In some cases the manufacturers have actually lost money, and are still losing money, but they say it is cheaper to keep their mills going than it is to shut down, as the property would deteriorate rapidly if not used, while the insurance and taxes must be paid, anyway—run or stop.

But now the duty on lumber has been restored, and all is bright in the lumberman's skies again. There will be a big cut of new logs, and a great stock of the old logs now on hand will be saved for early sawing next spring, by which time, it is expected, the stocks of imported lumber now on hand will have been nearly or quite exhausted, and the demand will be good for the home product.

Several thousand men have already left Bangor for the scene of the logging operations, and for weeks to come the trains for the north and east, as well as for New Hampshire, will be crowded with axemen, teamsters, and all the others who work in the log harvest fields. In Canada the cut will be much smaller than for some years past, and that is a good thing for the American who has money invested in the business, although not so very advantageous for the laborer, because many of the Canadian unemployed will flock in here and thus keep wages down.

There have been many changes in lumbering methods since the days of the giant pines, and the old-time logger would be startled by some of the recent innovations.

Even the season has changed. It begins now two months earlier than formerly by reason of changed conditions. While in the old days the first crews were sent into the woods about the middle of November, when the first snow was expected, the advance guard of the axemen now departs for the woods in September, sometimes as early as the latter part of August, and the procession keeps steadily up until the first of December. The early crews are generally engaged in operations that do not depend upon snow for their successful prosecution. This work consists of mountain lumbering, and can be more easily done upon bare ground than upon snow. There are many sections of the upper Penobscot country where the level land has been stripped of its timber growth, but where much valuable lumber still remains upon the steep hillsides and mountain slopes, inaccessible at times and not to be secured in the ordinary way.

The early loggers fell the trees and then comes the always difficult and often hazardous work of hauling the trunks over the slope or "ram-down" to the yarding places at the mountain's foot. When the ground is bare this hauling is done by means of oddly constructed sleds called "mojos," drawn by a pair of horses. The mojoe consists of a pair of short runners curving upward and meeting at a point in front, and joined at the rear by a bunk or cross bar, giving the whole structure the shape of a letter "A." Six or eight logs are loaded upon the sled, one end on the cross bar, the other dragging on the ground behind, and thus, firmly bound with chains, the heavy load is dragged down the mountain side to the yarding places on the level, whence, later in the season, the logs are hauled over the snow to the landing places on the banks of the streams.

This mountain hauling is not easy work, even when the ground is bare, and the heavy loads descend at a moderate pace, but when there is snow, and the steep road is like a great toboggan slide, it is an exciting and dangerous occupation for both men and horses. At such times an ordinary sled is used, the logs being placed with one end on, as in the case of the mojoe, but a stout manila hawser, called a snubline, is used to check the speed of the load as it slips down the steep incline. Occasionally a snubline parts under a sudden strain, or the men handling it fail to get enough turns around the tree or stump used for the purpose, and then frequently an accident happens. A runaway locomotive or a mad bull on the rampage is mild compared with a load of spruce logs sliding down a mountainside behind a pair of terrified horses driven by a frightened teamster. The load gains speed at every foot; the horses, if they manage to keep in the road at all, are forced down upon their haunches and pushed ahead of the rushing mass; the driver sometimes jumps to save his neck, sometimes holds on and guides his team to the bottom in safety, but as a rule the whole outfit shoots off into the woods, with varying results. The team may bring up against a tree and the horses be killed, or it may stop in the deep snow of an open place and the load, from its momentum, may shoot over the animals' backs and crush them to death. If the horses escape death or serious injury they are spoiled for further mountain hauling, and it is a brave teamster who will go through one of those experiences and be willing to try it again.

One of the most prolific sources of danger to the woodsman is found in the insignificant-looking but treacherous "stub." A "stub" is a dead tree trunk bereft of most of its branches. An axeman generally knows in what direction a tree he is chopping is going to fall, as do those who work around him, so that so far as that particular tree is concerned there is no great danger. But a stub may be standing in the way unnoticed. The falling tree may strike it, and the dead trunk, crashing down in another direction, may crush some unwary woodsman to death. A fatality of this kind happened last winter on the east branch of the Penobscot. An uncle and his nephew were working at a short distance from each other on a mountain side. They were on opposite sides of the road, and the nephew rightly judged that a tree which he was about to fell would come down on his side. It did so, but in falling the big spruce caught a heavy stub with its branches, and the dead trunk hurled off to the left, struck the uncle, breaking his neck.

Several hundred river drivers leave Bangor every spring for the headwaters of the Penobscot, Androscoggin, Kennebec, and Connecticut rivers, and there are always among them some who never come back. These fatalities excite no particular comment outside the circle of relatives and friends of the deceased. The crews are sorry, and their sympathy takes the substantial form of subscriptions to pay the funeral expenses, or, perhaps, to assist a widow or a mother dependent upon the lost man's earnings. One of the saddest features of these accidents is that the bodies of the drowned river drivers are seldom recovered, or, when they are found, are so shockingly mutilated as to be almost beyond recognition.

There is a vast difference between a good river driver and a good woodsman. Any strong man may learn to fell a tree, swamp a road, or load a sled, but the driver must, besides being strong, be considerable of an acrobat. He must be very nimble of foot, and he must have lots of courage. There are good Indian drivers and good French Canadian drivers, but the pick and cream of them all come from Bangor, the natural nursery of log experts and the home of men who have left their axe mark in the forests from ocean to ocean.

MISS HOLYWELL'S SUICIDE.

The Letter Addressed to Her Was Written by Herself.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 31.—Anna Blythe Holywell, the member of the freshman class at the University of California who committed suicide yesterday, did so apparently without cause, and there is still great deal of mystery about the affair.

It is now certain that the letter found in her room addressed to the Rev. Ellis R. King was written by herself. The persons mentioned in it are mythical. Her home life had seemingly been happy, and she appeared to be perfectly contented in her college relations.

Where Yesterday's Fires Were.

A. M.—12:40, 460 East 115th street, C. Calhone, damage $30; 1:15, 41 Renwick street, damage $10; 2:30, 287 Hudson street, H. Eifers, damage $500; 10:35, 1299 Third avenue, D. Dannino, damage $5.

P. M.—3:10, Twenty-first street and Fourth avenue, damage $200; 5:30, 3 Avenue A, E. W. Becker, damage $10; 9:50, 79 Allen street, Flora Sarner, damage $5.

ENGINEER FOYLE'S BODY FOUND.

Taken from the Hudson Near Where His Engine Went Down in Last Sunday's Disaster.

PEEKSKILL, Oct. 31.—The body of Engineer John C. Foyle, who went down with his engine into the Hudson River in the Central-Hudson Railroad disaster of last Sunday at Highland station, was recovered to-day and taken to the undertaking establishment of James S. McIravay at Cold Spring. Coroner Wood and his jury viewed the remains and then they were prepared for shipment. A metal casket was received from New York, and shortly after 10 P. M. the body was escorted to the railroad station by a delegation of Phillipstown Lodge No. 236, F. and A. M., and started on its journey to East Albany.

The body was recovered at about 1 o'clock this afternoon. Frank Foyle, a brother of the engineer, asked that the men who were grappling for the body go to a certain place and attempt to find it. They accepted his suggestion and in a few minutes had hold of the body and brought it to the surface. The spot was thirty feet south of where the locomotive was found. An examination of the body, which had been in the water just one week, showed that the right thigh was dislocated and the leg fractured. Several ribs were broken and there were several bruises and cuts about the breast, face and legs.

The Italian who met his death in the disaster and who was first supposed to be Ferdinando Giuseppe, was positively identified to-day as Christauziano di Yulio, 25 years of age, of Hurlbertson, N. Y. His father and mother came from Tuckahoe, Westchester county, this morning and identified the remains as they lay in a casket. They arranged to have the body buried at Cold Spring.

There is yet one body unidentified at the undertaker's, that of a woman, evidently a Swede. The remains are in an excellent state of preservation and will be held at the undertaker's some days yet in the hope that they may be identified. The Coroner said that he would continue the inquest on Thursday next at 7:30 P. M.. The combination car was raised from the river to-day and set on fire. It was burning brightly at 10 o'clock to-night and was watched by hundreds of passengers in passing trains.

The three victims of the wreck who are still at the Peekskill hospital are daily improving. This afternoon the two Chinamen were out around the grounds taking an airing. Clarence Morgan was able to sit up to-day and received a number of visitors from New York, among them his fiancée.

TACKLED THE WRONG MAN.

Highwaymen Fail to Knock Out Elizabeth's Star Half Back.

ELIZABETH, N. J., Oct. 31.—Edgar A. Knapp was held up and attacked this afternoon by two rough-looking men, one of whom attempted to shoot him. The hold-up took place on Jersey avenue, one of the principal streets of West Elizabeth, and which passes through a small strip of woods. Mr. Knapp, accompanied by Miss Kellogg, had been walking leisurely through the woods when Miss Kellogg noticed two men apparently following them. Finally the men disappeared and Mr. Knapp and Miss Kellogg resumed their stroll. They stepped down a slight elevation and passed a clump of bushes to the sidewalk on Jersey avenue. The two strangers jumped out from behind the bushes and blocked the way. The taller of the two then leaped at Mr. Knapp and struck him a terrific blow between the eyes.

Mr. Knapp is the star half back on the Elizabeth Athletic Club football eleven. Leaping to his feet, he called to Miss Kellogg to run, and then started in to "do up" his assailants. A rough-and-tumble fight followed, and the football player was getting the best of it when one of the men drew a revolver and attempted to shoot Knapp. The revolver only snapped, however, and before the ruffian could try a second chamber the weapon was wrested from his grasp by Knapp. The second man joined his companion at this stage of the fight and both tried to get back the revolver. Knapp could not use it, and he threw it into a heap of leaves.

Then both toughs proceeded to give Knapp a severe drubbing, but he proved nearly their equal. All three were bleeding profusely and one of them had been put out of the fight by a wicked punch when three men were seen running to Knapp's rescue. When the ruffians attacked Knapp Miss Kellogg ran to a house a block away, where she told of the attack. Several men started for the scene, but the toughs ran into the woods and disappeared.

Knapp was not seriously hurt, although his body was covered with bruises and his clothes were torn. He was scheduled to play with his football team against the Orange Athletic Club on Tuesday, but his injuries may keep him off the gridiron for a week. The revolver was found after the fight, and proved to be old-fashioned. The chamber next to the one that missed was tried, and was readily discharged, so that Knapp probably owed his life to the fact that he succeeded in wresting the revolver from his assailant before the latter had opportunity to try a second chamber.

NAVAL POSTS ON THE YUKON.

Capt. Crowninshield Urges That They Be Established—Necessity for More Officers.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—Much matter of interest to the navy and to people not in the navy is embraced in the annual report of Capt. A. S. Crowninshield, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation. He recommends the scheme proposed by Lieut. Story of the Navy, and indorsed by Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, for the establishment of a naval patrol on the Yukon River to maintain law and order. All communication in Alaska is by water, he says, and he asks that Congress make provision for three small posts at points along the river, to be in command of naval officers and garrisoned by bluejackets and marines, and for a light-draught stern-wheel steamer to patrol between the posts. The steamer is also to be under a naval officer. He estimates that the posts could be erected and equipped for $30,000, and that the steamer could be built or purchased for the same amount.

Capt. Crowninshield says that there is an imperative necessity for more naval officers on account of the increase in the number of vessels. On the battleships the number of line officers is only about two-thirds the number actually required, and five battleships and several smaller vessels are approaching completion. He proposes that the list of Captains be increased from 45 to 60, Lieutenants from 250 to 350, and Lieutenants, junior grade, from 75 to 125. He also wants legislation enacted authorizing the President to make a sufficient number of appointments to naval cadetships at large and limiting the course at Annapolis to four years instead of six years.

During the last fiscal year 28,789 men and 4,359 apprentices applied for enlistment and 23,164 men and 2,683 boys were rejected for physical disability and other causes. The enlistments for the general service were 4,544 men and 701 apprentices. On June 30, 1897, the number of men in the general service was 8,685 and the number of apprentices 1,642, a total of 10,327. In special service the men numbered 1,018, a grand total of apprentices and men of 11,345. The desertions were 1,149 men and 208 apprentices. More than 44 per cent. of the desertions occurred on the North Atlantic or home stations. Capt. Crowninshield recommends provision for 1,500 more men and 500 more apprentices.

The enlisted force of the navy is rapidly becoming Americanized. More than 54 per cent. of the enlisted force are native born and 74 per cent. are citizens of the United States, as against 52 and 74 per cent., respectively, at the end of the previous fiscal year. More than 12 per cent. of those not citizens have declared their intentions. Among the 1,443 apprentices more than 86 per cent. are natives.

THE RUSH TO ALASKA.

8,886 Persons Have Gone Since July 17—About 80,000 May Go Next Season.

TACOMA, Wash., Oct. 31.—The railroad companies have given some figures of the transportation business to Alaska between July 17 and Sept. 1, while the Klondike rush was in progress. During that time 8,886 passengers and 36,000 tons of freight were carried north from Puget Sound and British Columbia ports, of which 1,248 persons and 12,000 tons went to St. Michael and the balance to Dyea, Skagway, Juneau, and Wrangel. Nearly 300 men have returned from St. Michael and 2,500 from lower Alaskan ports. During November 1,500 more are expected. About 3,600 got over passes, most of whom started down the lakes, but it is believed one-quarter of these will be blockaded by the winter freeze-up and cannot reach Dawson before spring. About 200 men who got over passes have left their outfits in charge or others at the lakes and returned. They will start again in February.

The railroads are gathering data from which to estimate the size of the spring rush to Alaska. Reports now indicate that 80,000 to 100,000 men will outfit for the Yukon on Puget Sound during next spring and summer.

Magowan Released on Bail.

TRENTON, N. J., Oct. 31.—Ex-Mayor Magowan was released from custody at 1:30 o'clock this morning, his bondsmen being Detective Charles Pilger and Nicholas Jahn. He is required to appear before Judge Woodruff to-morrow morning, but there is doubt if he will be there. The writ of habeas corpus directed his production, but the police construed it as an order for his release.

KILLED BY A FIELD PLANT.

TWO BOYS POISONED RIGHT IN TOWN BY THE JIMSON WEED.

One Dead and Another Perhaps Dying—A Third Not Made Ill—Found the Plant in an Open Lot on Riverside Drive, and Mistook the Pods Containing the Seeds for Chestnut Burrs

Three little west side boys, while playing on Riverside Drive on Saturday afternoon, wandered into an open lot on the east side of the street, and finding in the underbrush what they took to be chestnut burrs, picked some, cracked them open, and ate the contents. The supposed chestnut burrs were pods from datura plants, commonly known as Jamestown, or Jimson, weeds, which contain a large percentage of the poison known to medicine as stramonium. One of the boys died after hours of pain early yesterday; another is now hovering between life and death, while the third, who says he spat out most of the seeds and swallowed only a few, has not been affected at all as yet by the poison.

The dead boy was Charley Gerber, 4 years old, son of a butcher at 464 Amsterdam avenue, who lives at 202 West Eighty-fourth street. His companions were Willie Roth, 6 years old, of 492 Amsterdam avenue, and Edward Clausen, 8 years old, who lives in the same neighborhood. Roth is the boy who is still lingering between life and death.

The three boys had been playmates for some time, but their parents rarely allowed them to wander off of the block on Amsterdam avenue, between Eighty-third and Eighty-fourth streets. Occasionally, on Saturday afternoons, they had been permitted to go over to Riverside Drive to play, and these little excursions were great treats for the youngsters.

The Gerber boy got permission from his grandfather, who was in the butcher shop on Saturday afternoon, to go over to the drive for an hour or so. On the way he picked up Roth and Clausen, and the three went to the drive together. They frolicked around for a time, playing tag, hide and seek, and other games, and finally decided to take a walk. They strolled along on the river side of the road until they reached Seventy-ninth street, when one of the boys said:

"Let's go over and play in that lot."

The other boys hailed the suggestion with glee, and all three crossed over to the east side of the drive and plunged into the heavy weeds in the lot at the southeast corner. The datura plant grows very thickly in the lot, as it does in a number of other lots in the vicinity. It has a white flower, and a number of the plants in the Seventy-ninth street lot are in blossom. The other boys say that the little Gerber boy was the first to discover the burrs. They are about the same size and shape as the chestnut burr, but could not be mistaken for the latter by an older person, because the prickles on them are large and coarse. Young Gerber, his companions say, pulled one of the burrs from a bush, and, holding it up, exclaimed:

"Here's chestnuts, boys; let's eat them."

Neither of the other boys had any doubt that they were really chestnuts, and, gathering a number of the burrs, they went to the edge of the lot, and, sitting down, proceeded to break the burrs open and extract the seeds. There was no reason why the children should have still thought that they had found chestnuts after opening the burrs, for the seeds are small and lie in rows in a greenish pulp.

The Gerber boy, nevertheless, ate many of the seeds, his companions say. Roth didn't eat so much and Clausman still less. After their poisonous feast the three boys started for home together, reaching Amsterdam avenue and Eighty-third street at about 5 o'clock, three hours after they left their homes.

Charlie Gerber had at that time felt no ill effects from the poisonous seeds. He was very much frightened at having been away so long, however, and afraid of being whipped. He ran over to the store as quickly as he could, and, after scolding him, his grandfather set him at work separating $15 in nickels, dimes, and quarters. When the boy had finished he sent him home.

The lad ate his dinner and had just started to go upstairs to bed when he was taken ill. After vomiting, the boy was attacked with violent cramps. Between his screams he told his mother that he had eaten some nuts which he had found in a lot during the afternoon. Less than fifteen minutes later he was raving in delirium. Mrs. Gerber sent a messenger for Dr. C. H. Gruber of 109 West Eighty-third street, and in the meantime applied a number of simple remedies without any effect.

Dr. Gruber recognized the boy's symptoms as those of poisoning, and, although he thought him beyond medical aid, applied remedies which kept the lad alive for seven hours, but at 3 A. M. yesterday he died.

The Roth boy was taken home at about the same time as young Gerber, but he was not taken ill until about an hour later. It was about 8 o'clock when he complained to his mother that he had a stomachache. Nothing was thought of the matter until the boy began to cry out with pain and leap about as though crazy. Then his mother gave him castor oil, but it had no effect, so she sent for Dr. W. Duffield Bell of 162 West Eighty-third street. Dr. Bell applied remedies, and at about 3 o'clock in the morning the Roth boy fell into a deep slumber. He awoke late in the afternoon and became delirious, and last night unconsciousness alternated with delirium.

The Clausman boy was badly frightened when he heard what had happened to his companions. His parents sent for a physician and had him examined, but there were no evidences of poison about him. The physician said that it was not surprising that a few of the seeds had failed to do any damage.

Dr. Gruber was mystified at the description of the nuts that the lads had eaten which was furnished by Clausman, so he took the boy to the Seventy-ninth street lot and made them point them out. The mystery was cleared at once. The doctor recognized them as the *Datura stramonium*.

"They are also known as Jamestown weeds," said Dr. Gruber to a SUN reporter. "They are deadly poisonous, and there are numbers in the lots on the west side of Riverside Drive. I found a number of them at Eighty-fourth street and the Drive. From the seed a poisonous drug is extracted, which, while it does not resemble belladonna at all, is used for similar purposes. Crushed in alcohol, it is made into a tincture, which is largely used in the treatment of asthma. The Gerber boy had taken so much of the poison and it had had so much time to spread about his system that there was no hope for him."

The weed is a very common one along Riverside Drive, and is a constant menace to the children who play along that thoroughfare. A physician said to a SUN reporter yesterday that it was criminal for the authorities to allow the weed to flourish in the city. So far as he had been able to find out, there was none of it along the Drive proper or on the west side, which is under control of the Park Department. In many of the vacant lots, he said, it flourished to a greater extent than harmless and more common weeds.

The American Encyclopædia has this to say of the Datura:

"It is a genus of rank, poisonous, narcotic plants, having showy flowers, some of which possess fragrance as well as beauty. * * * The most common is an Asiatic species, perhaps tropical American species, known as thorn apple, found about waste grounds, near dwellings. This is considered as a variety of *Datura stramonium*, whose blossoms are white, and growing near the seashores. From the green capsules and ripe seeds an alkaline extract is obtained. * * * This is very poisonous. Stramonium produces delirium, and even maniacal symptoms."

OUR SEACOAST DEFENCES.

Secretary Alger Will Ask for Larger Appropriations for the Next Fiscal Year.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—The annual report of the Secretary of War will call attention to the slow progress that is being made in rendering the country safe from sea attack. The Secretary says that the money required to place our seaboard in a state of defence must be expended, anyhow, and he therefore recommends that allotments of funds for this purpose be made in as large sums as the War Department can handle advantageously instead of making small appropriations every year. The Secretary expresses the belief that the coast defence question is now one of the most important before the War Department and that economy and safety demand that the projects already begun be pushed to rapid completion. He estimates that a sum much larger than that last appropriated, amounting to nearly $10,000,000, could be profitably spent in the next fiscal year.

The extent of the new coast defence system makes it mandatory, the Secretary says, that the artillery arm of the service be increased without further delay, and unless this is done it will not be possible to properly man and care for the new batteries in course of completion. It is reported that the Secretary will recommend that the cavalry be reduced by two regiments in order to allow the increase of the artillery without increasing the annual appropriations for the support of the army.

Shattered Hopes.

From the Chicago News.

"Ah," sighed Mr. Bloodgood, "I had hoped that John would grow up to be a credit to us and that some day I could transfer my business cares to his shoulders. But that dream is past. I shall have to look around for some one else who can become the active member of the firm. I can never trust my business in John's hands now."

"Why," exclaimed Mrs. Bloodgood, "what on earth is the matter?"

"He writes me that he has just been elected class poet. Maria, sometimes this seems to be almost more than I can bear."

NEW SWINDLE AT RACE TRACKS.

How Several "Touts" Sell Cheap Diamond Lockets to Winning Bettors.

Several sharp-witted chaps have been working a new game at various race tracks lately, and their profits therefrom have been large. A sporting man who is "up to snuff," and who always has money to bet on current events, especially on the running of the horses, told this story in an uptown hotel the other night:

"I was standing in the betting ring at Morris Park yesterday thinking how I would place my money on the second race when I noticed a young fellow who for years has been a notorious 'tout' at the big tracks. He was dressed to kill, and flashed a couple of diamond rings, besides a big shiner in his shirt front. He looked so prosperous that my curiosity was aroused and I quickly drew him aside.

"'What's the graft now?' I asked him as I looked at his expensive clothes and his immaculate linen. 'Are you playing them and winning?'

"'Playin' nothin'!' was his response. 'I've got a cinch.'

"'What is it? Can't you put me on?'

"'If yer on the level, and don't give up yer brains, I'll tell yer,' answered the fellow, who began to lead me to a secluded spot.

"'Now, I don't want yer to git me into trouble,' he went on, 'fer I never done yer no harm. But I've got the greatest graft that ever come off. It can't be beat, and the cops can't do nothin' to me at that, when it comes down to legal business. I ain't the only one to work it, though. There's a gang of us, and we have been doing the thing up so brown that we're goin' to quit these parts in a day or two and try out-o'-town tracks.'

"'What's the game, any way?' I said impatiently. 'I'm not stuck on long yarns; tell me the game.'

"'All right. Now, don't let anybody pike us off.'

"With that the fellow unbuttoned his coat and threw his chest out. He had on a colored vest and a watch chain, the ends of which went into his two breast pockets. In the middle, hanging from a pendant on the chain, was a locket. It was apparently of gold and platinum, with a beautiful diamond in the centre. It was so finely finished and the stone threw forth such genuinely prismatic colors that I instantly exclaimed:

"'That's a peach. Where'd you get it?' for I thought perhaps he had stolen it.

"'Say!' was the response, as the fellow slowly unclasped the locket from the chain, 'that's just the graft, me boy. Ain't that a beau? Why, say, the guys is crazy over 'em when they claps their eyes on 'em.

"'Now, I'll tell yer how the graft is worked. Yer see I dress up to the handle. Latest style o' clothes; got a real diamond in me shirt, I also real blinkers on me fingers, which makes me able to throw an wful bluff. I watch around the track for some of them guys what has dumb luck and wins a pot o' coin. When I've got me mark cinched, and I've seen him cash in his tickets, I never lose sight of him. He is all swelled up over his luck, and makes a beeline for the bar as a rule. There he and some friends get ter drinkin', and pretty soon they's all feelin' good.

"'Then it's me time to get in the game. As I look like the whole thing in the way of clothes and real stones, it's an easy matter to take one guy aside and say to him:

"'See here, sir! I want you to do me a favor. I'm broke, but I don't want to be staked. I've got a sure winner in this next race, and the odds is 10 to 1. All I want is a ten-dollar note, and if you'll give it to me I'll let yer have this locket.' Then I flash the locket and says: 'It's worth fifty, but I'm willing to let it go for ten, providing you'll keep it for two weeks and give me a chance to get it back.'

"The guy generally shows it to his friends, and they all show much admiration. They don't know about good stones by saying the locket's a good one. Then the guy starts to beat me down from $10 to $5. I kick hard, but finally I gets excited and says: 'Well, I'm broke and I've got to get onto this next race some way. I don't want to put up me pin and rings until it's a case o' must, but yer kin have the locket for five and don't sell it or give it away for two weeks.'

"'He feels of his big roll and looks me over, while I give him a good old con with me face. Then he says it's all right, and I get the coin, while he gets the locket, see? That's fair, ain't it?'

"'What is the graft?' I still insisted.

"'I'm getting to that,' replied the fellow, as he put his hands into his trousers pockets and pulled out a pile of lockets. 'Do yer see them? Well, here's the graft. I know a place in New Jersey where I kin buy these for a dollar a gross. They are made of some new metal and are washed in some preparation that makes 'em wear. The stones is glass, but they've got something back o' them what makes 'em look real. They're something new, and I've seen 'em in stores here sellin' for $2 and $3 apiece. Yer kin have this one and show it to yer friends. I've made on an average $40 a day sellin' 'em, and I ain't committing no crime, fer if a cove is willin' to give me $10 for one o' them, that's his business.

"'I got to leave yer now, as there's an old geezer I've been watchin' for an hour. He won a hundred on the first race, and I'm going to sell him a locket and then skip out. I've sold so many of them around the big tracks this year that I'm gettin' leary. There's one sure thing, though, a feller wot buys one o' dem has got the privilege of sellin' it over again, for they'll fool some of the best judges o' diamonds.

"The sporting man then showed the locket, which he had received as a present, and it was pronounced a wonderful imitation of the real article by those who inspected it.

VERMONT'S DEER SEASON.

A Vigorous Attack on the Law Permitting the Killing of the Animals.

RUTLAND, Vt., Oct. 30.—The deer season in Vermont closes to-morrow night. It has been the first open season the State has had for twenty-five years, and in all probability there will be but one more, that of next year, for an equally long period. A vigorous attack has been begun on the law permitting the slaughter of the animals, and is likely to result in the repeal of the act at next fall's session of the Legislature. Just why the law was passed has never been discovered by the sportsmen of the State, but it seems reasonable now to suppose that it was an experiment sanctioned at the request of the farmers. The experiment has not proved a success.

Several interesting things have become known during the past month. One is that there are not so many deer in the State as was claimed by those who advocated a law allowing an open season. It was urged upon the legislators who passed the law that Vermont would be the best hunting ground in the East, and that the sportsmen who would flock hither would prove a profitable source of revenue to the State. The first argument has been disproved by the unexpectedly small number of deer killed during the month. Some of the animals were killed in the first week, but since then few hunters have met with any success. There has no extensive forests except in the northeastern corner, and it is probable that many of the native deer have fled beyond her borders, most of them, no doubt, seeking refuge in the Adirondacks. Thus it seems to have been proved that Vermont can never become an ideal deer hunting ground.

The most important factor in starting a war on the open season law has been the brutal slaughter of "coarse," or domesticated deer. As a result of immunity from the pursuit of hunters for twenty-five years, many of the animals had become as tame as cattle, and some were even the pets of farmers' families. These deer were shot down by hundreds with as little compunction as any others, and the feelings of true sportsmen received a severe shock. A buck shot near Montpelier on the first day of the month was the pet of a farmer living near by, and was so tame that it would take salt or cabbage leaves from his hand. Other instances are related where deer were tied in barns before the first day of the month, waiting for the advent of the "sportsman." Such occurrences were very distasteful to the people of the State at large, and especially to the public-spirited men who had been at considerable trouble and expense to restock the forests of Vermont with deer.

Among the incidents of the open season have been the killing of several cows, mistaken for nobler game, and the accidental shooting of John Harlour at Glastenbury on the eve of the first day of the month. The identity of the person who did the shooting has never been learned. Among the deer shot was a curiosity in the shape of a doe with horns six inches long. Although the law allows only bucks to be killed, it defines a buck as a deer with horns, so that the man who killed the doe could not be prosecuted. Another curiosity was a buck, plainly a very old one, which had both of its ears slit. It is supposed to be one of the deer brought from Dannemora twenty-five years ago and turned loose here.

Man's Superiority.

From the Indianapolis Journal.

The fast express went by after the manner of fast expresses.

"Great invention, ain't it?" asked Everett Wrest, who was sitting on the fence.

"Some great," assented Dismal Dawson, "but man is greater. Did you know that there engine has to have twelve gallons of water to go a mile?"

Congenial Employment.

From the Chicago Record.

"Wiggins has a new typewriter girl."

"What became of the other one?"

"Her spelling was so original that he persuaded her to go in for dialect writing."

BLANCO VISITS WEYLER.

THE DEPOSED CAPTAIN-GENERAL TURNS OVER HIS COMMAND.

His Successor Issues an Address to Cubans—Reforms Will Be Established, Prosperity Will Come, but Spain's Enemies Will Be Pursued with Utmost Rigor—His Reception.

HAVANA, Oct. 31.—Captain-General Blanco had an interview lasting an hour yesterday with Gen. Weyler, the deposed Captain-General, on board the steamer Montserrat, on which the latter sailed yesterday for Spain, at which Gen. Weyler formally resigned his command to Gen. Blanco. The latter then returned to the shore, and the Montserrat shortly afterward started on her voyage.

Gen. Blanco has issued an address to the inhabitants of the island in which he says that he has come to Cuba with the sincere desire of bringing lasting peace. The Government, he adds, has confided to him the duty of implanting reforms and upholding the sovereignty of Spain. In pursuing a broad, generous policy he will endeavor to reëstablish liberty and fraternity among the inhabitants while strengthening their adhesion to the mother country. Gen. Blanco promises justice to all, and declares that prosperity will once more reign in Cuba. The protection of Spain will be accorded to all conforming to the law, while all those who refuse to do so will be proceeded against with the utmost rigor. Gen. Blanco has also issued an address to the soldiers.

When he debarked yesterday from the vessel which brought him from Spain he was greeted with a salute of twenty-one guns. An enormous crowd assembled to welcome him, and a deputation of Autonomists expressed their loyalty and adhesion. The chiefs of the volunteer corps also waited upon the new Captain-General and expressed similar sentiments.

WEYLER CONDEMNED.

Madrid Newspapers on His Remarks When Leaving Cuba.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MADRID, Oct. 31.—The papers here severely condemn the remarks made yesterday by ex-Captain-General Weyler in reply to a deputation which visited him on board the steamer Montserrat prior to his departure from Havana for Spain. He said that he did not heed the attacks made upon him, as they were an indication of the success of his system, and advised the Conservative party in Cuba not to be silenced, but to protest vigorously against the suicidal policy of the new Spanish Government.

The Bank of Spain has agreed to advance to the Cuban Treasury the sum of 80,000,000 pesetas, and to the Philippine Treasury 30,000,000 pesetas under the guarantee of the Spanish Treasury.

OPPOSITION TO BLANCO.

The Union Constitutional Party in Cuba Is Against Him.

HAVANA, Oct. 30, via Key West, Oct. 31.—Gen. Blanco finds in Cuba the strong opposition of the Union Constitutional party, which backed Weyler, and the friendly support of the Reformists. The Autonomists, though they also gave their support to Weyler, are ready to receive Blanco with equal enthusiasm. They comprise only a small number of ruined politicians, without any real influence in the country, and they find great cause to rejoice over the news that with the promised grant of autonomy to Cuba the Spanish Government will present them with several important offices in the island.

Gen. Weyler, before resigning his command, wreaked vengeance on the Reformists. He heavily fined the editor of the *Diario de la Marina*, because he published a letter from Santa Clara describing the desperate situation of the pacificos and the ravages made by famine, in terms similar to those of earlier reports to THE SUN.

Weyler wished to show to the last that he adhered to his unique theory that pacification is a fact and that the alleged ruin of the island by his barbarous warfare is nothing but an invention of American journalists. The publication, therefore, in a Spanish organ of a report of the dire distress of Cuba in the same words used by an American newspaper, was, in his opinion, "an unpatriotic act." Such are the words of the decree fining the editor of the *Diario*.

Gen. Blanco finds the city of Havana stirred up by a strongly worded proclamation signed by Gens. Maximo Gomez, Calixto Garcia, and Bartolome Masso, in which the inhabitants of Cuba are assured once more that the Cuban army will not yield because Weyler has been recalled, or autonomy, no matter how liberal, is granted to the island. The proclamation says that the Cubans are fighting for "independence or death." It has been widely circulated.

The war did not assume a more humane character when Gen. Weyler left his palace and went on board the Monserrat to wait for Gen. Blanco. Reports of barbarous massacres committed by the Spanish columns come from several parts of Havana and Pinar del Rio province, exactly as if the Butcher was still in his gloomy office in front of the Armas square in Havana. Pinar del Rio, a Cuban hospital was raided yesterday by a Spanish column. The insurgents, Jenaro Tejera, Pedro Gonzalez, and several others, sick and wounded, were assassinated. Three children and two women met the same fate. The hospital was burned, together with the bodies of the victims.

The Chief of Police of Havana, Señor Labarra, an abettor of Weyler in several assassinations here, has resigned his office.

Gen. Luque, who was defeated by the insurgents when Calixto Garcia captured Victoria de las Tunas, is reported in Havana as about to leave for Spain.

The war in Santa Clara province is being pushed. Near Maguarava large insurgent forces under command of Cepero and a Spanish column of 1,500 men under Col. Sedeno had a fight on Friday which lasted eight hours, with heavy losses on both sides.

At Colector, Havana province, another engagement took place yesterday, in which the Spanish losses were one Captain and seventeen soldiers killed and nine soldiers wounded. The insurgents had about the same number of killed and wounded. The Spanish forces were those of the battalion of Reina. The Cuban commander was Col. Raoul Arango.

The well-known Cuban officer, Hernandez Froment, who belonged to one of the best families of Matanzas city, was killed recently in an engagement near Havana.

The Detroit Ordered to Join the Filibuster Patrol Fleet.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—Orders were issued by the Navy Department yesterday for the cruiser Detroit to proceed to Key West from the Guatemalian coast, where she has been engaged in looking out for American interests during the insurrection in that country. The Detroit will be attached to the fleet charged with preventing filibustering expeditions from going to Cuba. At present the patrol is maintained by the cruiser Montgomery, the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius, the gunboat Annapolis, and some revenue cutters.

It was not the intention of the Department to augment the patrol force, but in view of the charges made by the Spanish ministry in its answer to Minister Woodford's note that the United States were not doing all that could be done to capture filibusters, it was decided to send the Detroit to the Florida coast. The Administration does not believe her presence there is necessary, but is willing to undergo the additional expense of maintaining the cruiser in those waters to satisfy Spain.

A SICK WOMAN SEVERELY BURNED.

Too Weak to Carry a Lamp, She Dropped It and It Exploded.

Mrs. Amelia Machtrancic, 28 years old, was burned, probably mortally, at her house, 232 North Fifth street, Williamsburg, last night, by the explosion of a kerosene lamp. She has been ill for several weeks, and while carrying the lamp from the kitchen into her bedroom she became so weak that she dropped the lamp. It exploded and the burning oil set fire to her dress and to the bed. Her screams brought Michael Vatta, a neighbor, but before he could save her she was severely burned all over her body. She was removed to the Eastern District Hospital. Vatta's hands were burned.

YELLOW FEVER CHECKED.

Cool Weather Brings Hope of Relief in New Orleans—Fewer New Cases.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Oct. 31.—The fall in temperature has decreased the number of cases of yellow fever in the infected districts. The number of new cases here to-day was thirty-five, and the deaths five, but this was much lower than yesterday, and only half of the highest mark. No deaths are reported from other sources, the new cases being confined to Scranton, with 11; Pascagoula, 2; Biloxi, 3; Bay St. Louis, 10, and Clinton, 2, all Mississippi places. Although it is a trifle early to look for frost here or along the Gulf coast, and ten days may elapse before it becomes sufficiently cold to kill off germs of yellow fever, the fall in temperature has prevented the spread of the disease.

To-night all the theatres of the city are open for