

FRANCE GONE WILD OVER AEROPLANING

Many Big Meets, At Which Large Prizes Will Be Offered, Are Planned.

PARIS, Sept. 8.—The municipal council will be asked by several of its members to appropriate \$20,000 as a prize for an aeroplane flight from Paris to Martinielle, the prize to go to the first aviator making the flight in a heavier-than-air machine. It probably will be granted.

France is aviation mad. It has "aerophilia." Toy stores are selling practical aeroplanes, which run on wheels for a short distance, and then mount into the air, like their successful big brothers. Newspapers are offering big prizes for flights.

A prize of \$20,000 has been offered by a Paris paper for the first flight from Paris to Dijon or Belfort to Nancy to Lille to Paris. A dozen big aviation meets are planned at which big prizes will be offered.

The International Exposition of Aerial Navigation will open on October 23, and there will be exhibited all the aeroplane models from the start to the present day. Flight's monopoly, in which he crossed the English Channel, will occupy the place of honor.

AVIATION MEETING GETS MORE SUPPORT

Baltimore will give her support to Washington in the attempt being made to obtain the next international aviation meet for this city.

Charles J. Bell, president of the American Security and Trust Company, who acted as chairman of the preliminary meeting held last Saturday to consider plans for inviting the aviation carnival to the Capital next year, this morning received a letter from a Baltimore newspaper stating that it would give a \$500 cup for one of the events. The offer is made, however, upon the condition that the carnival be held in Washington.

It is understood Baltimore would cooperate with Washington to hold a joint aviation meet. Such an arrangement might be made to include an intercity flight. If this cannot be done, however, Baltimore will give her entire support to the Capital, and the offer of the \$500 cup, it is believed, is only the first of a number of other awards that will be made by Baltimore enterprises.

It is expected a Baltimore citizens' committee will be appointed to confer with the Washington committee, and a joint meeting of the two bodies may be held some time in the near future.

LIEUT. HUMPHREYS IN BALLOON FLIGHT

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Army balloon, No. 11, was inflated at the Georgetown gas works, Twenty-ninth and L streets, from which place it ascended about 11 o'clock. It started in a northerly course over the city in the direction of Baltimore.

It is the plan of the Signal Corps to have Lieut. Humphreys instructed as a pilot, ten flights being necessary for an officer to qualify. The balloon is one of the finest in possession of the War Department. It has a capacity of 35,000 cubic feet of gas. The one that Lieut. Lahm made his flight in, about a week ago was the smallest in the service, having a capacity of only 15,000 cubic feet. Some of the largest of the War Department balloons have a capacity of 71,000 cubic feet.

The flight this morning was not made with the intention of trying to break any distance or endurance records, but for the purpose of giving Lieut. Humphreys experience, and keeping Lieut. Lahm in practice. This was the first balloon flight for Lieut. Lahm.

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR AIRSHIP SHED

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The War Department has awarded to Warren F. Bastin the contract for building the airship shed, to house the Wright aeroplane, at College Park, Md. Contractor Bastin was the lowest bidder for erecting the shed, his bid being \$936. The specifications call for a building forty feet in width, fifty feet in length and fifteen feet high. It is stipulated in the contract that the shed must be erected in five working days. Work was commenced today. In addition to accommodating the aeroplane the shed will be quarters for twelve members of the Signal Corps to sleep.

A tower also will be erected, as there was at Fort Myer, for lifting the weight, a part of the starting apparatus. There will be three starting rails, so that regardless of which way the wind is blowing the machine may make a flight on a moderately quiet day.

The Signal Corps of the War Department has not notified Wilbur Wright

SAILOR'S BODY FOUND HANGING IN DARK HOLD

Gruesome Discovery Made by Member of the Crew of Barge While Searching for Martin Thies, New Steward—Letters Tell Story.

David Bergerlin, a member of the crew of the Consolidated Coal Company's barge No. 13, anchored off the foot of Thirtieth street northwest, walked down into the dark hold of that vessel this morning searching for Martin Thies, aged thirty-two, just signed by Captain Larson as steward.

In the darkness Bergerlin stumbled against something, which, with the impact, swung to and fro in the gloom, a shadow that boded ill. Under the sharp glare of a match, struck hurriedly, Bergerlin saw hanging there, feet just a few inches from the bottom of the hold, head up and horrible to look upon, the dead body of a man. Martin Thies was dead, and his stewardship had ended before it had really begun.

When the officers from No. 7 precinct came down to the barge and the body had been cut down, Detective McGill Groves found in the dead man's pockets letters which explained the suicide.

One of these missives, neatly typewritten upon an impressive letterhead, stated tersely that since the Department of Commerce and Labor had found Martin Thies was not a good sailor, his position on Lighthouse vessel, No. 45, was vacant. That letter was dated September 1.

The other letters were from Thies'

family back in Germany. The postmark was indistinct, but Captain Schneider, of the Seventh precinct, who is of German descent, thought Thies came from the northern part of the Kaiser's empire. From what he could decipher the Captain Schneider learned that the father and mother and Thies' brothers and sisters back in the Fatherland wanted him to leave America, quit his wandering about the earth and come back home. Evidently the people were in fairly good circumstances.

Beyond the things which the letters showed, there wasn't much known about Thies. Captain Larson, of Barge 13, went over to Baltimore yesterday afternoon and hired Thies there to act as steward. The two came back to Washington by train last night, and there apparently was no idea of suicide in the dead man's mind at that time. He went to bed, so far as anyone knows, about the time the rest did, but when morning came he wasn't to be found.

Bergerlin went to find him and did. Thies had taken a short piece of rope, tied it to a steam pipe running through the hold, and swung off. It's only used a short piece of manila, and judged rightly; for his feet didn't touch the floor by several inches. The coroner was notified of the suicide, but it is probable that there will be no inquest, as the police are sure it is an unmistakable case of self-destruction.

ROOSEVELT'S KIN ASKS FOR DIVORCE

Mrs. Peter Van Vlissingen, Whose Husband Is In Prison, Files Suit.

CHICAGO, Sept. 8.—Probably the worst blow to Peter Van Vlissingen, former real estate operator and confessed forger, now serving sentence in Joliet, will be when he learns today that his bride of twenty-one months, Mrs. Jessie R. Van Vlissingen, has filed suit for divorce, solely on the ground that he is now an inmate of a prison. She also asks the restoration of her maiden name.

Mrs. Van Vlissingen is a distant relative of former President Roosevelt. Her maiden name was Jessie Roosevelt.

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After a great deal of effort and correspondence, our leading druggist has succeeded in getting the Dr. Howard Co. to make a special half-price introductory offer on the regular fifty cent size of their celebrated specific for the cure of constipation and dyspepsia.

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So great is the demand for this specific that O'Donnell's have been able to secure only a limited supply, and every one who is troubled with dyspepsia, constipation or liver trouble should call upon him at once, or send 25 cents, and get sixty doses of the best medicine ever made, on this special half price offer with a guarantee to refund the money if it does not cure.

Dr. Howard's specific for constipation and dyspepsia is sold by O'Donnell, 904 F St.

H. S. WOOD IS NAMED CHIEF OF DIVISION

Succeeds Albertus W. Baldwin In Postoffice Department.

It was announced at the Postoffice Department today that Herbert S. Wood has been appointed chief of the division of correspondence in the office of the First Assistant Postmaster General, to succeed Albertus W. Baldwin, who has been appointed chief clerk in the Census Bureau by Director Durand.

Mr. Wood was appointed into the postal service from the District, October 3, 1905. He has been assistant superintendent in the division of salaries and allowances. Mr. Baldwin, whom he succeeds, is from Connecticut.

The following appointments in the department were announced today:

Axel H. Hordahl, of Illinois, clerk at \$200 per annum, in the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Samuel A. Traak, of Missouri, assistant messenger at \$70 per annum, in the postal card agency, office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

George R. Cabeen, of Missouri, post-office inspector at \$130 per annum with \$10 per diem, in the office of the Postmaster General.

Also the following promotions:

Charles H. Claranah, of Illinois, Post-office inspector, from \$140 per annum with \$4 per diem to \$150 per annum, in the office of the Postmaster General.

Dr. Randolph Keim, of Pennsylvania, transferred from the office of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General to that of the First Assistant Postmaster General and promoted from clerk at \$200 per annum to clerk at \$130 per annum.

And the following separations:

Miss Antonia B. Carmody, of New York, clerk at \$120 per annum, in the office of the First Assistant Postmaster General, resigned, effective September 7, 1909.

William J. Powell, of New York, clerk at \$200 per annum, in the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General, resigned, effective September 27, 1909.

Julius J. Miller, of Oklahoma, clerk at \$200 per annum, in the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General, dropped without prejudice, effective September 7, 1909.

William Smith, of the District of Columbia, laborer at \$60 per annum, in the office of the Postmaster General, dropped without prejudice, effective September 7, 1909.

George V. Steek, of Missouri, assistant messenger at \$70 per annum, in the postal card agency, office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General, dropped from the rolls, effective June 20, 1909. Mr. Steek having been transferred to the St. Louis postoffice.

AGENTS PRESENT PEONAGE CHARGE

Department Considering the Results of McKees Rocks Investigation.

The evidence which Federal agents have gathered in their investigation of the alleged peonage conditions at the plants of the Pressed Steel Car Company in and about McKees Rocks, Pa., was presented to Assistant Attorney General Wade Ellis here today by District Attorney Jordan, of Pittsburgh.

The two Federal officers were in conference for several hours. Mr. Ellis declined to discuss the nature of the evidence or speculate on the possibility of the Government bringing suit, at this time. He intimated that he might possibly make a statement later.

The charges of peonage against certain officers of the Pressed Steel Car Company came to light during the recent strike of that firm's employes.

TWO EMPERORS MEET

VIENNA, Sept. 8.—The German Emperor has arrived at Gross-Moseritz, where he is the guest of the Austrian Emperor at Castle Harach. The two emperors will attend the Austro-Hungarian maneuvers.

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For catalogues application blanks and further information communicate with the Secretary, Fifteenth and H Streets. se3-37t

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