

Scenes And Figures In The News



COLONEL WARNER.

has terrors for his inner soul. He was thirteen years old when he earned his first money as a newsboy on a railroad train. It was on the 13th day of June, 1861, when he enlisted in the army, and it was the 13th day of July, 1866, when he finally resigned.

Colonel Warner was nominated to represent the Thirteenth district of Illinois on July 13, 1894. There was a deadlock in the convention, and it was not till the six hundred and thirteenth ballot was cast that the turn of affairs came which assured him his nomination on the six hundred and twenty-first ballot. He succeeded Colonel Ware as commissioner of pensions in 1905 and, strange to say, first learned of the appointment on Jan. 13 of that year.

Tall, broad shouldered, with thick iron gray hair and attractive personality, Colonel Warner is a typical American and one of the most genial men that ever held a federal office.

Recently England's biggest Dreadnought, the Neptune, was launched, and on the same day Germany's most powerful Dreadnought, Ostfriesland, was also put into the water. The naval programs of the European powers are rapidly attaining fruition, a number of other big sea fighters being about ready to launch. France has added the monster Mirabeau, a vessel of 18,027 tons, which will be armed with four twelve-inch and twelve 9.4-inch guns, giving her a greater weight



LAUNCH OF THE NEPTUNE.

of gunfire than the Dreadnought. She is one of a class of six, of which she will be the fifth to be launched.

England now has eight vessels of the Dreadnought type and Germany six. The most remarkable feature of the Neptune will be the extraordinary powers of concentrating her gun fire. The ten twelve-inch guns will be mounted in pairs in five barbettes. One barbette will be placed in the fore-castle on a high level. The two broad-side barbettes will be "en echelon," that on the port side being more forward than the barbette on the starboard side. By a novel arrangement of the superstructure, which is bridged over the barbettes, both pairs can be fired on either side at once if required.

Of the two barbettes astern one will be raised above the other, so that all four guns can fire direct astern simultaneously.

If Frank P. Flint, United States senator from California, persists in his determination to decline a second term the senate will lose one of its most genial and popular members. Although a native of Massachusetts, where he was born in 1862, Mr. Flint has been a resident of the Golden State since 1894 and has resided in Los Angeles for the past twenty-two years. He is a lawyer by profession and has for years enjoyed a large and lucrative practice. He served as United States attorney for southern California for four years (1897-1901).

Mr. Flint began his political career as a member of the Blaine Invincibles in San Francisco during the Blaine campaign and cast his first presidential vote for Mr. Blaine at the election. He has been active in Republican politics ever since he located in Los Angeles.

Senator Flint has been living in very good style in Washington, where it was something of a surprise to learn that he must retire to make money for the support of his family, he having made an announcement to this effect. With the prestige as a United States senator and successful lawyer, however, he will naturally have many years of rich earnings ahead if he resumes practice, as he is in the very prime of life.



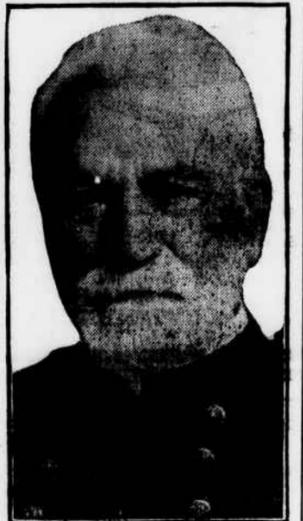
SENATOR FLINT.

DEATH OF NOTED SOLDIER.

General Howard Was Last of Union Commanders of the Civil War.

The death recently of General Oliver Otis Howard marked the extermination of all the ranking army officers who commanded the Union armies during the civil war. Only last year congress honored General Howard by passing a resolution which placed him on the retired list of the army as a lieutenant general. He also received the thanks of congress for meritorious services to the nation during the war.

General Oliver Otis Howard was a native of Kennebec county, Me., where he was born on Nov. 8, 1830. He was graduated from Bowdoin college at the age of twenty and then obtained an appointment to the Military academy at West Point. He was graduated from this institution in 1854, being made a second lieutenant. The follow-



GENERAL O. O. HOWARD.

ing year, with the rank of first lieutenant, he was made acting professor of mathematics at West Point.

General Howard took part in twenty-two important engagements during the civil war and gained an enviable reputation for gallantry. Including his services in the Indian wars, he was probably in more engagements than any other officer in the United States army. He lost an arm at the battle of Fair Oaks, but continued to fight. One of the most conspicuous parts of his military record was his campaign against the Nez Perces Indians, resulting in his driving them across the Sierra Nevada mountains, where ultimately they surrendered to General Nelson A. Miles.

General Howard was a total abstainer and never missed an opportunity to say a word in the cause of temperance. Many stories are told as to the causes that led to his decided opinions on the subject. One is to the effect that while he was stationed at the Kennebec arsenal, in Maine, he gave a fellow officer a drink of liquor which reawakened a partly mastered desire and resulted in the man's ruin. This so affected General Howard that he never afterward would touch liquor and did his best to keep others from doing so, especially young men.

MAXIM'S BOYHOOD HOME.

Old Farmhouse in Which He Was Born to Be Transplanted.

Most men who leave the farm to seek fame and fortune in the big cities frequently think of their younger days and long to see the boyhood home again. Few, however, would or could



HUDSON MAXIM'S BIRTHPLACE.

go to the lengthy Hudson Maxim has to gratify this desire. The famous inventor is taking apart piece by piece the old farmhouse at Abbott, Me., in which he was born, and it is to be removed and set up on his large estate at Lake Hopatcong, N. J., as a reminder of the struggle he has had with life.

His life is one of the great romances of success. Between the champion wrestler of country fairs and the discoverer of "the ultimate atom;" between the callow schoolmaster of a backwoods district in Maine and the inventor of the most powerful explosive known to science; between the hatless, coatless, barefoot boy who at the age of nine could neither read nor write and the man who at fifty-five has made himself acquainted with almost every branch of human knowledge, there is a wide gulf. Yet Hudson Maxim has bridged them all.

He started his professional career in the printing and publishing business in 1853. Five years later he began to make ordnance and explosives. He was first to make smokeless powder in the United States. He submitted samples to the government for trial. In 1890 he built a factory at Maxim, N. J., named for him. Later he sold the smokeless powder plant and formulas and became an engineer. The government adopted his invention. In 1901 he sold to the United States government the formula of maximitite. It was the first high explosive to be fired through heavy armor plate. He has invented many kinds of explosives.

ARCTIC PLANT GROWTH.

Effects of Electricity on Vegetation in Polar Regions.

Electroculture is an old subject, upon which opinions are still at variance. Some investigators have definitely rejected the hypothesis that vegetation is affected by atmospheric electricity. On the other hand, Professor Lemstroem of the University of Helsingfors, Finland, vigorously sustains this theory and adduces experimental evidence in its support. Lemstroem asserts that when plants cultivated in the polar regions escape destruction by nocturnal frosts they grow far more rapidly and luxuriantly than plants growing in milder climates. Rye, barley and oats especially yield very large crops in spite of primitive methods of cultivation with wooden plows and harrows. The growth of plants depends not only on the fertility of the soil, but also on the supply of heat, light and moisture. In the polar regions the supply of heat is very small. The rapid growth of plants in these regions has hitherto been attributed to the continuous daylight of two or three months in summer, but this explanation must be abandoned, since it has been proved that even in those months less heat and light are received from the sun in the polar regions than at the latitude of 60 degrees. Lemstroem finds several reasons for believing that the cause of rapid growth in the arctic is to be found in the electrical currents which flow between the earth and the atmosphere and produce the phenomena of the aurora borealis. The pointed leaves of conifers and the barbs of ears of grain facilitate the transmission of these currents through those plants, and this function supplies a reason for the existence of these peculiarities.

From a study of the concentric annual layers of growth of conifers growing in various latitudes between the sixtieth and sixty-seventh parallels Lemstroem finds that the thickness of the annual layer varies according to a definite law showing maxima and minima, which indicate a period of ten or eleven years, coinciding with the period of sun spots and auroras. The differences furthermore are greater in the great firs within the arctic circle, at 67 degrees north latitude, than in trees growing farther south. This appears to indicate that the atmospheric electricity of the polar regions exerts a beneficial effect upon vegetation.

Lemstroem has also made experiments on the effect of electricity produced by a Holtz machine upon barley, wheat and rye growing in pots and in the open ground. The results of these experiments appear to him to give support to his theory of the favorable influence of electricity upon the growth of plants.—Cosmos.

The Coming Astronomy.

Professor Edward C. Pickering of Harvard believes the coming astronomy will find at least one large observatory with 100 or 200 assistants and maintaining three stations. Two of these will be observing stations, one in the western part of the United States, the other probably in South Africa. The locations will be selected wholly from climatic conditions, moderately high, from 5,000 to 10,000 feet, in desert regions. Each observatory will have telescopes and other instruments of the largest size, which will be kept at work throughout the whole of every clear night. The observers will do little in the day, except perhaps on the sun, and will not undertake much of the computation or reductions. This last work will be carried on at a large station, which will be near a large city, where the cost of living and of intellectual labor is low. The photographs will be measured and stored at this station and the results published. The work of all three stations will be carefully organized so as to obtain the greatest result for a given expenditure.

Fecundity of the Herring.

The average number of eggs deposited annually by a full grown herring is 30,000. This is not a particularly large number by comparison with the egg laying capacity of many other marine food fishes, but it is noteworthy in view of the small size of the fish and its remarkable abundance. If all the progeny of a single pair of herring were to reach maturity and spawn and if all their progeny were to survive and spawn and if this were to go on for a few generations the resulting volume of fish would be beyond comprehension. In fact, if such unrestricted multiplication were to continue for a period as short as ten years all of the seas of the earth would be filled solid with herring, all land would be submerged, and all other creatures in the world would be crowded out of existence.

Derusting of Iron in Concrete.

The cause of the disappearance of rust from iron re-enforcing in concrete structures has been traced to the presence of acid carbonates and sulphates in the cement, these salts dissolving the iron oxide and leaving the metal bright. The cement in setting absorbs carbonic acid from the air, thus forming the necessary acid carbonates, and experiments show that the derusting process is effected while the concrete is setting and commencing to harden.

Production of Platinum.

In British Columbia platinum is found in many of the alluvial gold workings, where it can be saved as a byproduct. The saving of it in a small way is, however, attended with so much trouble that it has been practically neglected and no appreciable production made recently.

THE DAVIS CUP.

Two Americans to Play in Australia For the Cherished Trophy.

Lovers of tennis the world over are keenly interested in the international tennis competition to be held in Australia Nov. 25, 27 and 28, and it promises to be one of the most interesting sport events ever played in that country. The match is for the Davis cup, which two years ago was won by Wilding and Brooks, representing Australia. The Davis cup, as it is commonly called, has become the glittered trophy of the lawn tennis world. Dwight F. Davis, formerly a Harvard man, traveled abroad in 1899 on a lawn tennis trip. He was one of the leading players of this country. While



MELVILLE LONG, THE DAVIS CUP AND MAURICE M'LAUGHLIN.

he was on the other side he suggested the plan of an international trophy, and the British received it with enthusiasm. When he returned to this country he completed the plans, and in 1900 the trophy was put up.

From 1900 to 1903 the Davis cup was held by the United States, from 1903 to 1907 by the United Kingdom, and for the past two years it has been held by Australia. In 1908 Wright and Alexander journeyed to the antipodes from this country in an effort to bring back the cherished trophy, but failed, and two other American players, Melville Long and Maurice McLaughlin, have now gone after it.

GOTHAM'S SKYSCRAPER.

Metropolitan Life Building is the Tallest in the World.

Two sleepy looking urchins stood looking up at Gotham's tallest office building recently. Said one: "Hully gee, Bill, but I'd like to get a job in de top floor of dat moon buster." "What fur?" asked the other in astonishment. "Why," was the reply, with a long sigh, "when youse got to your floor it'd be time to quit work for de day." The structure the boys were looking at was the Metropolitan Life building in New York city, the tower of which has just been completed, and it does strike one in trying to sight the top of it that it would mean a day's journey to get there. The big structure is one of the great sights of the metropolis.



METROPOLITAN LIFE BUILDING, NEW YORK.

rising 657 feet above the sidewalk, with forty-eight of its stories above the ground. From the foundation its total height is 890 feet, and it has a total floor area of 1,085,003 square feet, about twenty-five acres.

Previous to the completion of the Metropolitan Life building the Singer structure, also of New York, had the honor of being the world's highest building, rising 612 feet.

FROM HELLSO'S PEN.

Things Are on the Hum in Giveadam Gulch.

WHY FIGHT WAS POSTPONED.

Editor of the Grass Valley Tribune Thought It Over and Sent Note in the Form of an Apology to the Kicker's Czar.

By M. QUAD. (Copyright, 1908, by Associated Literary Press.)

A READER in Massachusetts writes us to ask if this town is a good place for a rising young doctor. It is not. What we want here is an old practitioner, a doctor who can feel of a man's pulse and tell pretty near where the next bullet is going to hit him. This saves time and guesswork.

Three men were shot in Lone Jack last week during a Biblical discussion. If they had been discussing poker they would still be alive.

No Duel Fought. The editor of the Kicker did not fight a duel two weeks ago with another editor of this state, as recorded in various eastern papers. We had occasion to call the editor of the Grass Valley Tribune an unmitigated jack-ass. On the impulse of the moment he challenged us to mortal combat.



"WE RODE TO THE SPOT APPOINTED FOR THE BLOODY STRUGGLE."

We rode to the spot appointed for the bloody struggle, but no Grass Valley man appeared. After waiting four hours we received a note from him to the effect that on taking time to think things over he had come to the conclusion that we were right, as usual, and that we might return home. It's curious how some of those eastern dailies do twist things around.

The flying machine has not yet reached Arizona. When it does, look out to see the fliers come tumbling down. The man who can't get somewhere by straddling a cow pony had better stay away.

Some of our thin skinned residents want the name of Giveadam Gulch changed to Floraville. When the mighty west is ready to exchange its independence for bolted shirts this may come to pass, but not until.

In lying about the circulation of the weekly Kicker last week we made an error. We gave it as 3,254,327. It should have been exactly 4,000,000. We hope our readers will excuse us and accept the apology.

If ex-Judge Barnaby entered our editorial rooms one day last week and fired six shots at us, as he claims, all we can say is that we did not know it. There are days when we are absentminded and pay little attention to things of earth, and this was probably one of them. It wasn't fair of the judge to catch us on an off day.

At the last meeting of the common council Henry Jordan handed in his resignation as city marshal. Henry has been hit by bullets thirteen different times during the last four months and had become discouraged. The place is open to a good man at \$12 per week, and there is no day or night without its fun.

Mr. Hiram Jackson of Denver was here one day last week to make inquiries about his son Claudius, who was last heard of in this neighborhood. We were pleased to be able to inform Mr. Jackson that Claudius was banged on the Wolf creek road seven weeks since by cowpunchers for horse-stealing.

Mr. James Peterkin brought us in a bone found on his ranch the other day and doubtless belonging to prehistoric man. It is a jawbone and three feet long and evidently belonged to a champion liar of his time. If that man were alive today he'd chase half the editors out of business.

The triding shooting affray at the Bald Eagle saloon the other day was brought about through a misunderstanding. A customer thought free hides in the tariff schedule meant free drinks in Giveadam Gulch, and the bartender differed with him. The bartender is sorry, and the mistaken customer will live on.

A naturalist from a Chicago college was here last week to experiment on the rattlesnake and see if whisky

would really cure his bite. He got a Digger Indian to play the part of victim and prove the remedy, but as it took a whole barrel, and as it was not paid for, and as the professor got lost and is supposed to have been devoured by a cinnamon bear, it may be doubted if science is much ahead of the game.

A fire that started in Lawson's stables one night last week threatened for half an hour or so to destroy the forty-eight saloons and poker parlors in the town. We have only one church here, and the benches in that are mighty hard, but Providence was with us. The wind changed, and the peril passed away. Can it be argued that one church is enough for the average town?

Colonel Hennessey, the old crank who owns and runs the Squaw ranch, has stopped his copy of the Kicker because we refused to adopt a warlike attitude toward Japan. We never slept two in a bed with the minkado, but we'll be hanged if we are going to pick a fuss with a man who hasn't had a show yet to learn that a flush beats three aces. Colonel Hennessey can go to. We shan't even take the trouble to ride out to his place and fusillade him out of his old abode.

We have been criticised by a Montana editor for holding the positions of editor, postmaster, mayor, game warden, colonel of the militia and chief of the fire department at the same time. That's the trouble with some folks—they don't understand how a man can swell and enlarge and absorb. We are prepared to take in a dozen other offices and not crowd ourself. "Room inside" is our motto. We didn't get a presidential nomination last year, but we are growing for it. The Hellsos family can't be kept down.

The cowboy of the west has been thinned out in numbers the past three years, but his monumental cheek still remains. Last Sunday night, as mayor, we had to shoot a Mr. Bill Henderson through the shoulder to interrupt his fun of shooting up the town, and next morning he rode into town to ask us to foot the doctor's bill for extracting the bullet. We recommend Bill to all subscription book publishers.

Mine host of the Royal hotel has gracefully given way to popular sentiment, and he announces in this issue that no more guests will be shot for finding fault with holes in the tablecloth or the dilapidated state of bedsteads. Shooting will take place only where there is an argument over his bill. It makes us a bit lonesome to see old customs gliding away one by one, but the world must progress.

What Troubled Pat. An old Irish laborer walked into the luxurious studio of an artist and asked for money to obtain a meal, as he was too weak to walk.

The artist gave him a quarter and then, seeing possibilities for a sketch in the queer old fellow, said: "I'll give you half a dollar if you'll let me paint you."

"Sure," said the man; it's an easy way to make money, but—but my wonderrin' how I'd get it off."—Lippincott's Magazine.

Those Annoying Incidents.

"How did you enjoy your trip to Europe?"

"First rate," answered Mr. Cumrox. "but the homecoming was a disappointment."

"Did you have trouble with the customs people?"

"Yes. They placed such a low valuation on our stuff that mother and the girls were positively insulted."—Washington Star.

The New Primer.

See the young man with the happy look! He pre-sented a pretty girl with a pound box of can-dy, and now he is it.

How long will he be it with the pretty girl?

Un-til an-oth-er young man comes a-long and pre-sents her with a two pound box.—St. Louis Republic.

Morning Talk.

"I can't get those two explorers out of my mind."

"I suppose you're strong for one or the other?"

"No; I feel kindly toward both of them. Every time I look at the icy radiator in my office I think what an awful time they, too, had in the arctic regions."—Boston Herald.

The Early Drama.

"I suppose those fashionable ladies of old England wore masks at the theater in order to hide their blushes."

"I fancy not," answered Miss Cayenne. "It was probably that they might assume to be blushing without fear of contradiction."—Washington Star.

Only Commercially.

She—Oh, Mr. Jipsby, they tell me you are a runner.

He—So I am.

She—I just adore athletics! Are you a Marathon runner?

He—No; a bank one.—Baltimore American.

A Suffragette.

She could not cook. She could not bake. She could not wield A garden rake. She could not sew. She could not darn. She could not knit. Socks out of yarn, And she could not A husband get. So she became A suffragette And joined a club Whose motto said, "Till we can vote We shall not wed."—Houston Post.