

PENSIONER OF 1812.

Last of His Kind on the Books of the Pension Office.

Aged 103 Years, Hiram Silas Cronk Still Lives, and Every Night Recites Little Prayer Learned in Childhood.

On a small farm, cleared by himself more than 75 years ago, Hiram Silas Cronk, the last pensioner of the war of 1812, is now living near Ava, N. Y., attended by his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Crowley, herself quite an aged lady, being more than 80.

Mr. Cronk was born on the 29th day of April, 1806, at Frankfort, Herkimer county, N. Y., and is now 103 years and six months old. His health is moderately good and he does not look to be as old as he is. True, it is that the old soldier's mind is growing weaker, and he takes but little interest in present-day affairs, but he remembers distinctly and vividly the stirring times and scenes of young manhood. Unlike the average old soldier, however, Mr. Cronk does not like to talk of "war times" save to his own children, his youngest son now being 53 and the eldest 73.

"My father has always been sweet-tempered and loving," said his daughter, Mrs. Crowley, "and now, in his very old days, we children can detect little or no difference in his loving consideration for us and his feelings for everyone. He is never out of humor and petulant, but is even tempered all the time, and I am sure will be ready when the Master calls him. Throughout his life father has been an industrious temperate and Christian man, doing his full duty in every way. There is not one single dark stain on his long and useful life. With the sweet, childlike faith that was instilled into him by a pious mother when he knelt at her knee in childhood, he never retro-



HIRAM SILAS CRONK. (Said to be the Last Pensioner of the War of 1812.)

now without getting down on his knees and offering up that little prayer: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep; And if I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." "That simple little prayer has always been father's—in childhood, in manhood, on the battlefield, everywhere—and now in his last days he finds comfort in repeating it before he seeks his bed. For about five years father has not slept at night, but remains awake, singing, praying, talking, walking from his bed to his chair by the stove, and from the chair to the safe or cupboard; he eats when he feels like it, but never more than a few bites at a time. Of course I remain awake so that I can be on constant watch to prevent any harm befalling him. It is generally about six o'clock before he thinks it is time to go to bed, and then he says: "Daughter, I am ready to go to sleep." After getting ready for bed he kneels down and says his "Now I lay me down to sleep" prayer, and getting in bed he is soon fast asleep, seldom waking up until along toward noon. I find him very little trouble, though I feel that I must be with him all the time."

Mr. Cronk, with his two brothers, Casper and John, and his father, James Cronk, enlisted at Western, N. Y., on August 4, 1814, when he was just a little more than 14 years old. The father and three sons served with Capt. Edmund Fuller, New York volunteers, in the defense of Sackett's Harbor, and at the close of the war the four were honorably discharged. An error in the records of the pension office in Washington makes it appear that Hiram Cronk served "from October 8 to November 16, 1814," nearly two months less than the veteran really served.

For a number of years Mr. Cronk received a pension of \$12 per month, but in February of last year congress passed an act increasing the pension to \$25 per month.

Triump Gets Big Fortune.
Dame Fortune's fickle ways have been illustrated once more by the case of a vagrant reported from Vienna. A vagrant named Stoeller was found last January half frozen at Buda-Pesth. He came from Agram, where he had often been punished for misdemeanors, and ultimately he was expelled from Buda-Pesth. There has, however, arrived from Agram an advocate to ask on behalf of Stoeller that the order for his expulsion be canceled, as he has inherited a fortune of \$150,000 from an uncle at Salzburg. Stoeller begs to be allowed to settle in Buda-Pesth and promises to conduct himself properly in future.

Perilous Night in Balloons.
Comte de la Vaulx has just made another thrilling balloon trip, accompanied by the comte de Castillon de Saint Victor. They started from Paris and were out all night in a tempest, encountering rain and fogs and landing after a 38 hours' zigzag course on hills at Valadon with all the ballast exhausted and a cap of thick snow on top of the balloon. Comte de la Vaulx covered over 300 miles. Both aeronauts were much exhausted after the night's struggle.

FATHER NEGAHNQUET.

First Full-Blooded Indian Ever Admitted to the Priesthood in the Catholic Church.

Until Rev. Father Albert Negahnquet completed his four years' course in the Propaganda college at Rome during the present year there had never been a full-blood Indian admitted to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic church. Since the first days, following America's discovery, this church has ever been zealous in converting the Indians and through education placing them in a position to advance in civilization. There have been, too, many zealous converts, but none has ever before reached the priesthood.

Father Negahnquet was born in 1874 on the Pottawatomie Indians' former



FATHER NEGAHNQUET. (Pottawatomie Indian Who Has Just Been Made a Priest.)

reservation, near St. Mary's, Kan. Through the untiring efforts of Jesuit missionaries the Pottawatomie tribe, nearly a century before, had been converted to the Catholic faith. The oldest of ten children, Negahnquet, was taken at a tender age to the Church of the Assumption at Topeka, Kan., for baptism. Soon afterward his parents moved with other members of the tribe to the Pottawatomie's new reservation, then in the central part of Indian Territory. He attended the government school for Indians and his teachers encouraged him to go farther with his studies. He therefore entered the school of the Sacred Heart, maintained for the Indians by the Catholics in southern Pottawatomie county, Oklahoma.

Negahnquet was consecrated to the priesthood in Rome by Cardinal Respighi, cardinal vicar of Rome, June 6, within the Church of St. John the Last-eran. He is now at Muskogee, I. T., as assistant pastor of the church and doing missionary work among the Indians.

PREMIER OF AUSTRALIA.

Mr. Deakin Succeeds Sir Edmund Barton as Head of the Federation Government.

The formation of the federal high court of justice for the Australian commonwealth has brought about various official changes. Sir Edmund Barton, who had previously refused the federal chief justiceship, caused some surprise by accepting a judgeship. This necessitated his resigning his federal premiership, whereupon Mr. Deakin formed a new ministry.

The new commonwealth premier, Mr. Deakin, acted as premier during Sir E. Barton's absence in England in 1902.



MR. ALFRED DEAKIN. (New Premier of the Commonwealth of Australia.)

He is a native of Melbourne, and was born in 1856. His early life was spent in journalism, but since 1879, when he was first elected to the Victorian parliament, he has had an active political career. He took a deep interest in the problem of irrigation in Victoria, and having visited India, Egypt and Italy for the purpose of studying the various systems of irrigation, he published several works on the subject, and carried out large irrigation schemes in the colony. Like Sir E. Barton, he has been prominently identified with the federation movement.

Death Cancels Old Lease.
The land which forms the site of the town of Gardner, Mass., was once owned by the Hassanamic tribe of Indians. When the state took the tract to open it for settlement a pension was given to each member of the tribe as compensation. The last pensioner, Elbridge Gerry Gigger, was recently summoned to the happy hunting grounds, and therefore the state will not have to pay any more for the taking of this land.

Comfortable Start in Life.
It is cheering for a deserving young couple to receive a good send-off at their bridal. At the wedding of Sterling W. Childs and Miss Jenny Coffin, in Lynn, Mass., the bride received gifts valued at \$250,000. This relieves her of considerable anxiety, as now the devoted pair can start housekeeping in cozy and comfortable style.

The Kangaroo Is Doomed.
The kangaroos are disappearing in Australia. Since 1877 it is stated that 7,407,865 of them have been killed there

CAPPS IS PROMOTED.

Appointed Chief Constructor of Navy by the President.

Youngest Officer Who Ever Held That Rank in the Service—Raised the Spanish Ship's Sunk by Dewey.

Rear Admiral W. L. Capps, the new chief of the bureau of construction and repair, is the youngest officer who ever held that rank in the navy of the United States. He entered upon the discharge of the duties of that office at the navy department a few days ago.

He was born near Norfolk, Va., in January, 1864, and will not reach the age of 40 until January next. He entered the naval academy in October, 1880, being one of a class of 35 cadet engineers selected by competitive examination from about 200 applicants from all parts of the country. The age limits for admission at that time were from 16 to 20, and young Capps was the youngest cadet in his class.

After graduating with high honors at the naval academy in 1884 he cruised at sea for two years, when he was promoted to rank of ensign, and soon thereafter was selected to take a course of instruction abroad for the purpose of entering the construction corps. After three years at the University of Glasgow, where he graduated with high honors, he returned to this country as an assistant naval constructor, and since then the work he has done has been probably the most varied and diversified of any member of the corps, covering all branches of his profession.

His first duty after returning from abroad was at the New York navy yard, in the department of construction and repair. In 1892 he came to Washington and served several years as assistant to the chief constructor in the bureau of construction and repair. In 1896 he was ordered to the Union Iron works, in San



ADMIRAL W. L. CAPPS. (New Chief of Naval Bureau of Construction and Repair.)

Francisco, as superintending naval constructor for a number of naval vessels under construction there, among them the battleship Wisconsin. He was on duty at the Union Iron works at the breaking out of the Spanish-American war.

One of the first requests of Admiral Dewey after the battle of Manila bay, May 1, 1898, was to have a constructor ordered on his staff, and Constructor Capps was selected for that important duty. He spent more than a year in Manila and earned the highest commendation from Admiral Dewey for his professional work. Such of the sunken Spanish vessels as he considered worthy of repair after examination were raised under his direction and put in such condition in Cavite that they went to Hong Kong under their own steam. There they were later repaired under the supervision of Naval Constructor Hobson, to whom has often been ascribed the credit for their raising, but as a matter of fact that work was entirely under Mr. Capps. He returned to this country with Admiral Dewey on the Olympia in the autumn of 1899. He was ordered to Washington, where he did duty in the bureau of construction and repair and upon the board of inspection and survey for about 18 months. In the spring of 1901, when Rear Admiral Bowles was appointed chief constructor, he selected Naval Constructor Capps as his successor at the navy yard, New York, where his administration has been very successful, and earned him the commendation of all his official superiors.

Upon Rear Admiral Bowles' resignation of the position of chief constructor, Naval Constructor Capps was selected for the place by the president upon the earnest recommendation of Secretary Moody entirely upon his merits and record for efficiency. Immediately upon learning that Admiral Bowles was going to leave the service Mr. Moody gave careful consideration to all the officers eligible for selection as his successor, but there was no intimation generally that the place was vacant, and the announcement of Admiral Bowles' resignation was simultaneous with the announcement of the name of his successor. As a general thing, officers obtain the position of chief of bureau of the navy department only after strenuous competition. In this case Admiral Capps was not a candidate for the position and had not even the slightest intimation of the vacancy.

Admiral Capps is a bachelor. He is very popular with his fellow officers of the navy, and has many warm friends in Washington, who will be glad to welcome him with his new honors.

Gambling Fever in France.
Statistics published concerning Paris mutuels shows that the betting transactions during the last 12 years on race courses of France amount to 2,402,914,000 francs, about \$480,000,000, and the record year was 1899, when bets made reached \$5,000,000 francs, about \$1,000,000.

PRaises AMERICANS.

New British Ambassador Pays a High Tribute to a Recent Work of Fiction.

The king's approval of the appointment of Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, British ambassador at Madrid, to be ambassador at Washington, succeeding the late Sir Michael Herbert, brings to light the fact that Sir Henry, long ago, unwittingly provided himself with a unique passport to the affections of Americans. This is an eloquent tribute to the "fighting blood" of Americans and to the stars and stripes, contained in the last and strongest chapter of Sir Henry's novel, entitled "The Ruling Race," published in 1893. Probably no other Englishman has written such enthusiastic praise of Americans as this chapter contains, and



SIR H. M. DURAND. (British Ambassador to United States, from a Late Photograph.)

it comes from the lips of the hero, a British officer, in the love scene which is the novel's happy ending.

The novel was written while Sir Henry was home from India on a furlough. A year after being called to the bar, in 1873, Sir Henry went out to Bengal, where he was in the civil service, but he was soon transferred to the political department of the Indian government, and gained rapid promotion. In 1878-80 he acted as political secretary to Lord Roberts during the Afghan campaign. In 1885 he was present with Lord Dufferin at the conference with the ameer, and next year he accompanied Lord Dufferin to Mandalay during the Burmese war. After that he negotiated with the Chinese on the borders of Tibet, and in 1892 went on a mission to Kabul. Sir Henry resigned the Indian foreign service in 1894 to become minister to Tcheran, and three years ago he was chosen as ambassador to Spain. At this time he and Lady Durand celebrated their silver wedding.

At the time Sir Henry wrote "The Ruling Race" he could have had no definite expectations of ever representing his country at Washington. For the most part, the scenes of the novel describe civic and military life in India. The hero is Col. Henry Russell, a gallant soldier. The heroine is Helen Treveryan, daughter of a proud old Cornwall family. Each has long loved the other, but neither suspects that that love is returned. They discover their mistake in the final chapter, entitled, "Was Ever Woman in This Honor Wood?"

FOUR-LEGGED DUCK.

Queer Bird Recently Hatched in England Is Attracting Considerable Attention.

A duck with four perfectly formed legs has been hatched recently in England. Despite its grotesque appearance, it is enjoying good health and will probably live to start a new race of quadruped ducks. Unlike many monstrosities of its kind, it has every appearance of being a duck, with the exception of its extra set of legs. It has the broad bill, full chest, the wings and tail of the familiar barnyard duck. Its habits of eating, its love for the water, even its quack, are no different from those of other ducks.

The extra portion of legs are attached to the bones of the chest, well forward.



THE FOUR-LEGGED DUCK. (Unique Poultry Freak Recently Hatched in England.)

The new variety of duck has the appearance of being accurately balanced on its legs instead of the top-heavy appearance common to its species. Another curious characteristic is that the legs are in constant and apparently natural use when it walks. It moves by raising two feet at a time, much the same as a dog. The only advantage the extra legs seem to lend the duck is its greatly increased speed in swimming. All four of the legs are equipped with regular web feet, and all of these are brought into vigorous action. The four-legged duck's motive power is therefore increased about 100 per cent, being comparable, therefore, to the quadruped propellers on a modern torpedo boat as compared with the ordinary double or twin screw design.

BOYS AS GARDENERS.

Trained During Summer by St. Louis Society Girl.

Miss Hiram Stevens Has the Right Idea of Practical Pathology and Has Succeeded in Carrying It Out Successfully.

In a loosely fitting gown and big garden hat, wielding a hoe with the dexterity of a regular farmer, Miss Hiram Stevens, a girl scarcely out of her teens, of 4043 Juanita street, St. Louis, has been training 70 boys all summer in the way they should go to become model farmers.

Miss Stevens is a shining light in the social life of the city, where she is one of the prettiest and most popular girls in the youngest set. Her father is Prof. W. J. Stevens, an active member of the Civic Improvement league.

For several years she has been a student of agriculture and botany. She used to live in Carthage, where the civic improvement idea is shown in the beautifying of the homes. When she came to St. Louis she began to look around her. The work of the Civic Improvement league interested her, and, besides, she liked small boys.

She spoke to her father and her father spoke to his associates. They talked with her, and soon discovered that the young woman knew well what she was talking about.

The result was that an invitation went out, inviting boys of 14 years of age or under to come to Miss Stevens and learn the occupation of their ancestor, Adam.

Miss Stevens did not look for much encouragement at first, but 70 boys were awaiting her at the appointed place at eight o'clock in the morning, when she had expected about ten.

The league had obtained for her a five-acre tract of ground on Shaw avenue, in



MISS HIRAM STEVENS. (St. Louis Society Girl Who Teaches Boys How to Farm.)

the heart of the city, and she had it laid out in little plots, to be planted by her pupils.

With due impressiveness the school was organized under the title of the junior school of horticulture, and the rules, few and strictly necessary, were laid down to the enrolled students.

Then each boy, provided with his own brand new hoe and other implements which the league supplied, went forth and took possession of his lot.

Then began the work set out before Miss Stevens of directing the superabundance of physical energy of which boys are possessed into a profitable education, at the same time to prove that a garden of this kind could be maintained on an open tract of land in the busiest section of the city.

As an incentive to young "hopefuls," Miss Stevens told them in the beginning that they might dispose as they pleased of the produce of their patches, and they set to work with a will.

They came in classes of about 20, from eight to ten o'clock in the morning. Each morning before they began work Miss Stevens gave them instructions for the day either in planting, transplanting or cultivating.

The ground was first ploughed and harrowed, and then the boys laid out gardens, 11x165 feet, which they subdivided into smaller plots, most of them 11x12 feet.

They got the soil well pulverized and in condition for planting their crops, and were kept busy all summer in cultivating and weeding.

The youthful farmers and gardeners made enough money from their crops to pay them handsomely for their pains. At the same time they were given a practical lesson in agriculture which will be valuable to them all their lives.

Instead of being idle they were at work—instead of being engaged in mischief they were exercising their muscles in the cultivation of their farms.

Never did boys take more interest in any work. Miss Stevens had not the slightest trouble with them. The young teacher, by taking an early start next year, hopes to get much better results.

Cowboy Ruined by Piety.

Piety caused the ruin of a Texas cowboy. For years he had been a gutta-percha tough, always in trouble. A severe wound in a fight left him at death's door; but he recovered, became pious, and turned preacher. While praying at the grave of a comrade, the preacher was struck by lightning and killed. There may be a moral to this, and it seems to be that reformed toughs shouldn't become preachers, or that they should wear lightning rods up their backs.

Seat Preserves Complexion.

Female mountain climbers in Switzerland, if they are American, French or English, and value their complexions, smear their faces with soot to protect them from the sun's rays.

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA.

New Republic Formed, and Government by One Government, the Area of 25,000 Miles.

The new republic of Panama, comprising the isthmus of Panama with many islands. It has an area of 25,000 square miles. It is therefore nearly the size of the state of Maine, which has an area of 33,000 square miles, and is somewhat larger than Indiana Territory, which has an area of 31,400 square miles, and South Carolina, which has 32,577 square miles. It is larger than New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, which cover 33,360 square miles. It is about as large as West Virginia and New Jersey, which respectively have an area of 39,500 square miles. Its population is about 125,000.

The capital of Panama is in the city of Panama, which has a population of



THE FLAG OF PANAMA.

(The first upper square, to the left, is blue; the first lower square, to the left, is white, with a blue star in its center. The second upper square is white, with a red star in its center, and the second lower square is red.)

about 35,000. It is a bishop's see and has a handsome cathedral and five other churches, a charity hospital and a normal and several private schools sustained by government. One newspaper is published daily in Spanish and English. The surrounding country is fertile, but the city has but little trade. The city of Panama is situated on a tongue of land which extends some distance out to sea. The harbor is safe for small vessels; large vessels cannot approach nearer than three miles from shore, and are unloaded by lighters. Colon, formerly Aspinwall, is at the Atlantic ocean end of the Panama railroad.

Colon is 2,000 miles from New York, and nearly equidistant from San Francisco and Valparaiso, being about 2,500 miles from each place. The railroad running to Panama, 47 miles distant, was opened February 17, 1855. A large station has been built near the center of the town. The track runs to the wharf, at which the steamers land their passengers.

SIR EDWARD GREY.

According to Recent Report He May Be Next Leader of Liberal Party in Great Britain.

Sir Edward Grey, baronet, who is being discussed as the coming leader of the liberal party in England, has represented Berwick-on-Tweed in parliament since 1856. He is famous as an athlete, and in 1862 captured two covered tennis prizes. He was educated at Winchester and at Balliol college, Oxford, and succeeded to the title on the death of his



SIR EDWARD GREY. (Possible Coming Leader of the Liberal Party in England.)

grandfather in 1882. He was born in 1862. Sir Edward's realty property in Great Britain is about 2,000 acres. He is a recognized authority on foreign matters; was under secretary for foreign affairs from 1892 to 1895 in the Rosebery cabinet and conducted himself in an excellent manner. In a general way he is regarded as a man of infinite possibilities in the future from a political point of view.

Power at the Fair.

The total power generated and used by the St. Louis exhibition will be in the neighborhood of 50,000 horsepower. Over 80 per cent of the electric energy will be in 4,500-volt, three-phase, 25-cycle current. The largest unit will be an 8,000-horsepower steam turbine, and the next largest a 3,500-horsepower compound horizontal and vertical reciprocating steam engine. The largest steam engine in the Paris exposition of 1900 was rated at 4,000 horsepower.

Interpretation of the Claim.

The claim seems to be sharing the fate of the lobster. It is fast disappearing—so fast, indeed, that the United States fish commission is endeavoring to propagate the mollusk by artificial culture. The fish commission has confined its attention to the left or long clam. The state of New York, on the other hand, is studying the round or hard clam. Both species seem promising from the results thus far obtained.