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### All That Was Necessary.

"Is it true that you began life without any capital?" asked the reporter who was interviewing the multimillionaire.

"No, indeed," replied the self-made man. "I began with a capital I."

### Rather Unusual.

She—Have you noticed that young Shortleigh is paying a good deal of attention to Miss Gotrox?

He—Yes; and it's the first time I ever knew him to pay anything.

### Very Popular.

"Why was it the bad men out here suddenly took up religion?" asked the tenderfoot.

"They discovered there was more chance to scrap about it than anything else," responded Amber Pete.

### The Meanest Man.

Smith—Jones is the meanest man on earth.

Brown—What did he do?

Smith—He's deaf—and he never told his barber.—Household Ledger.

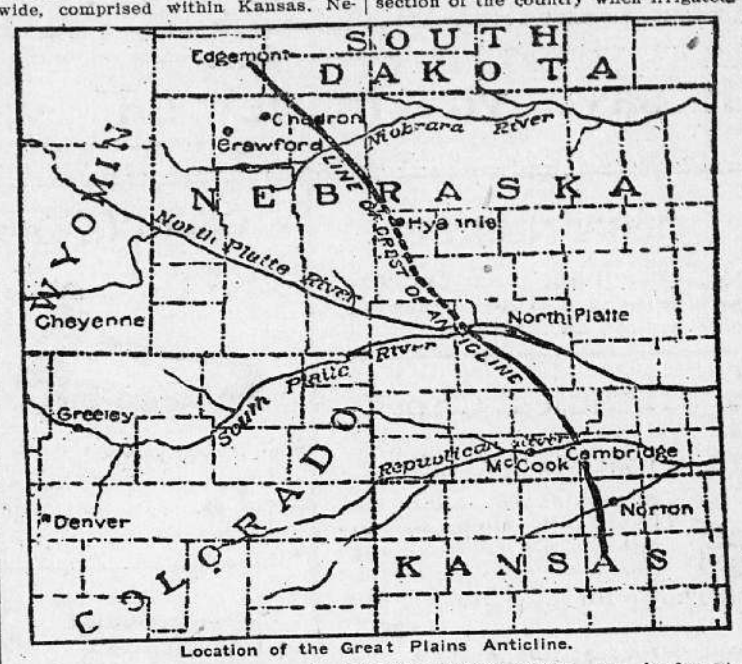

Advertising Always Pays.


# THE LATEST SUMMARY
OF GENERAL TELEGRAPHIC NEWS

## TRACES OF OIL AND GAS IN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Is the central great plains region underlain with oil and gas?

There are geologic indications that conditions within an area 250 miles in length and from two to six miles wide, comprised within Kansas. Nebraska and South Dakota, are similar to those in which oil and gas have been found.




Location of the Great Plains Anticline.

Should future developments in the central great plains area prove the soundness of the anticinal theory it would result in great benefit to that region. The country in which the anticline puts out is to-day thinly populated, and, for the most part, given over to stock grazing. It lies just west of the one hundredth meridian and is properly classed as belonging to the arid region. With the discovery of oil and gas a great impetus would be given to agricultural development, as the soil is fertile, of great depth, and as productive as that of any section of the country when irrigated. The surface waters are inadequate, and for this reason this section has not developed with the same rapidity as others favored with streams. A great part of the great plains region is known to be underlain with water bearing gravels at no great depth from the surface, which, when tapped by wells, furnish an inexhaustible supply. By utilizing the cheap fuel which would be provided in the event of discovering oil and gas, vast areas of this region could be irrigated from waters obtained by pumping plants.

## WASHINGTON MUST ACT QUICKLY.

Washington, Dec. 12.—M. Buneau-Varilla, the minister from Panama, called at the state department yesterday and had a lengthy conference with Acting Secretary Loomis, the nature of which he would not disclose. When asked regarding the reported attempt to create a division among the members of the Panama Canal Co and its probable effect on the ratification of the canal treaty by the United States, M. Buneau-Varilla said that while the matter is completed so far as Panama is concerned, it is advisable to move quickly, because delays tend to affect the imagination, and that so long as a thing is unsettled complications are likely to arise.

Some of the Colombian contingent in Washington are of the opinion that the agitation in Paris of this question is simply a reopening of the bitter controversy that raged for some time between the conflicting interests in the original Panama Canal Company and the reorganized company. The officials here, however, cannot see how any regular and orderly proceedings in France can materially affect the relations between the canal company and the United States government, for they feel that the engagement between the two to sell the canal is in the nature of a contract which cannot be broken by either party so long as the other insists on regarding it as in force.

General Reyes, Dr. Herran and Wayne McVeagh were in conference for some time at the Colombian legation, preparing a statement setting out the Colombian position. Rumors are afloat that, failing of other means of settlement, the Colombians are trying to secure a submission to The Hague tribunal fo the questions growing out of the separation of Panama, and that this will appear in the statement.

It is the intention of the navy department to increase its force in isthmian waters by the addition of a torpedo boat destroyer, which will act as a dispatch boat.

### Inquiry Aasked.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Senator Tillman yesterday introduced a resolution directing the committee on judiciary to make inquiry into the question of what constitutes recess appointments by the president. The resolution claims the appointment of General Wood and others are recess appointments. The preamble quotes portions of the constitution of the United States bearing on the subject.

## NO CONFIRMATION OF MOVEMENT.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Nothing of an official character concerning the reported movement of Colombian troops toward the Isthmus of Panama has been reported at the state department since the reports that came on Wednesday from Venezuela, indicating that such a movement was on foot.

At the navy department it was announced that the marine contingent on the Isthmus would be reinforced shortly by 300 men, now on the Prairie. It is felt that thus reinforced the marines now on the Isthmus would be fully competent to preserve order and prevent any invasion.

### Military Expedition.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Preparations for a military expedition of from three to five regiments in strength to the Isthmus of Panama went on apace at the war department yesterday, but there will be no embarkment unless the reports of a Colombian army marching to take Panama receive full confirmation, which they now lack. American warships are scouting both the Pacific and Caribbean coasts of Colombia. The general staff's plan for military action contemplate the concentration of at least three and possibly five regiments on the Atlantic seaboard, preferably at New York, where the transport McClellan is now ready for service. The Kilpatrick will be ready on Dec. 14.

Altheimer, Ark.: The postoffice was burglarized here and $2000 was taken. The burglars got away.

### A Pittsburg Merger.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 11.—The merger of electric lighting and power plants in the coke regions and the Pittsburg, McKeesport and Connellsville railway system has been effected. It is said the capitalization will be considerably over $5,000,000.

Jackson, Miss.: In the report of the state auditor it is shown that the resources of the 162 state banks is $41,000,000. This represents a net increase over last year of $6,000,000.

### Cold at St. Paul.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 11.—Yesterday brought the coldest weather of the season to St. Paul and surrounding territory. Some thermometers registered zero weather, but the official temperature of the weather bureau at 7 a. m. was 3 degrees above.

### Baron Arthur de Rothschild Dead.

London, Dec. 11.—A dispatch to a news agency from Monte Carlo announces the death there yesterday of Baron Arthur de Rothschild.

## MEANNESS OF A GREAT FIRM.

### Refuse to Pay Express Charges on Cheap Article.

"Of all the mean things I ever heard of this is the worst," said Mrs. Blank the other morning at breakfast. Mr. Blank was deeply interested in the morning paper, but he looked up long enough to say, "What's the matter?" "Everything," answered his wife. "I went to Bargain company's the other day and got one of those lovely little new-fangled flat iron arrangements, and thought it was just the thing for Cousin Emma, for you know in the country she does not hear of all the latest inventions in the housekeeping line. It cost 25 cents and I paid for it and ordered it sent to her—she only lives seventy-five miles away. Now they write me that as the article only cost a quarter and the express charge is 30 cents, they decline to forward it prepaid, unless I wish to make more purchases for the same address. I only trade at Bargain company's occasionally, I know, but I think they are mean. They would only be out 5 cents and here I've got to spend 10 cents for car fare to go down town and get that parcel, and then express it myself, or else buy some more presents for Cousin Emma, who would have had that handy little thing by this time if they had sent it right away." Mr. Blank chuckled, and when Mrs. B. wanted to know what was so funny, he answered: "The political situation," and started for the door.—Brooklyn Eagle.

## THE "400" AND THE ZOO.

### Irish Woman Had Queer Idea of the "Society."

"Some people," said the Philadelphia woman, "have a queer idea of what the '400' does, and it does queer things, goodness knows, without having things it doesn't do, laid to it.

"I was going through the zoo the other day with a friend," she went on, "and while we were standing before a cage in the lion house my companion turned to me and asked:

"'I wonder who keeps all this up?'

"Before I had a chance to reply, we were both astonished to hear a deep Irish voice reply:

"'Sure, madam, it's the society.'

"We turned and beheld as healthy a looking specimen of the working-woman as ever I laid eyes on.

"'The society?' questioned my companion, in a half amused way. 'What society?'

"The washerwoman looked us all over with contempt; then she blurted out:

"'The society—the society! What ninnies ye are! Sure, an' haven't ye ever heard of the "400"—the society of Noo York? That's the society that keeps this here place up!'

"And with that she turned on her heel and left us two ignoramuses staring in blank amazement after her retreating bulk."

### Did Not Enjoy Play.

It is a true story, but the names have to be changed for domestic reasons. Last Friday afternoon Mr. Stivers telephoned from his office in Wall street to his wife in her home in Harlem:

"I will be detained at the office until late," he said, "and will not be home until about midnight."

"All right," she answered. "Not a word of reproof or complaint. When Mr. Jones, who occupies the adjoining flat, and whose wife was from home, came in, she met him in the hall, accidentally, and told him what a lonely evening she was to have.

"No, you will not," he answered gallantly. "I invite you to go to the theater to see 'The Cavalier.'"

They got seats in a lower left hand box, and just before the curtain went up they were surprised to see Mr. Stivers enter the lower right hand box accompanied by Miss Brown, who was his blonde typewriter—up to the next morning.

There were four persons in the audience who did not enjoy the play.—New York Herald.

### How to Handle a Cup.

"Few women who think they are up in everything that is attractive know how to handle a cup gracefully," remarked a man who has dined for a great many years in New York restaurants and studied the women. "A woman who knows how could be just as effective with her teacup as with her fan. All it requires is a little care and practice. When a woman at table with him is drinking a man usually keeps his eyes upon the hand lifted to the lips. The women know this, but all the thought they give to it is to display their rings, often twisting the hand out of shape to do it. The proper way is to grasp the handle of the cup with the index finger, passing it just through the ear and against the thumb. The other fingers should be held open and away from the cup, except the second finger, which should be steadily pushed against the side. This gives a graceful appearance to the entire hand, which any man with a sense of the beautiful cannot fail to notice."—New York Press.

### The Threadbare Theme.

'Tis Love they've fluted, luted, sung;
'Tis unto Love they've crept and clung;
And e'er round Love new garlands hung.

'Tis Love, Love, Love, the livelong day,
Until it seems quite thumbed away,
The old, worn string whereon they play.

Some long ago are dead and cold,
Earth, sun, and stars are growing old,
But still the tale is far from told.

Nor shall it e'er be told, in truth,
White April knows not autumn's ruth,
While Youth looks in the eyes of Youth.

Nor shall the string once hang outworn,
Since Life itself of Love is born,
And as Life wanes must sing its morn.
—Arthur Stringer in the Bookman.

## Louisiana . . . . News.

### GOVERNOR HEARD'S MESSAGE.

#### To Louisiana Legislature on the Boll Weevil.

New Orleans, La.: Gov. Heard, in his message to the special session of the legislature, which convened at Baton Rouge today, in conformity with the sentiment expressed at the convention held in this city on the 1st inst. for the purpose of discussing the boll weevil situation and passing necessary laws to check the evil, said:

"The weevil, first coming from Mexico, has now spread across the state of Texas, and this year has injured the cotton crop of that state, according to various estimates, from $15,000,000 to $50,000,000. If a check is not found, it is only a question of time when Louisiana and the entire cotton belt will be a prey to its ravages. As to the laws to be passed by that special session, a separate board of commissioners with plenary powers may be appointed, or the state board of agriculture may be authorized to carry into effect any laws that may be passed. My opinion is that the work may be done by creating a board of commissioners composed of the commissioner of agriculture, the director of the experiment station, the state entomologist and two prominent and practical cotton planters."

No suggestion as to the nature of the legislation needed is made in the message. A bill has been prepared and was introduced this afternoon.

Immediately the session had been formally opened a bill was introduced providing for establishing and the organization of a state crop pest commission, and to define its duties and powers; to fix penalties for violations; to make it a misdemeanor for any person, firm or corporation to bring into the state, or to have it in his possession, except certain persons, any living Mexican boll weevil in any of its stages.

The members of the commission who are not already salaried state officials, will receive $5 per day. The commission has full and plenary power and has authority to prevent the bringing into the state of any cotton seed or other article of farm product. The attorney general shall be the attorney for the commission. Any crop may be destroyed if the commission deems that course best. A compensation shall be fixed. The sum of $25,000 is appropriated for the use of the commission, and all fines under the law go to the commission, which will make any rules and regulations it deems necessary.

The governor's suggestion as to the composition of the commission is followed in the bill.

### Negro Murderer Killed.

New Orleans, Dec. 12.—Michel Zilberman, a French soldier, who has just completed a long service in Africa, last night killed a negro murderer with the negro's own gun. Alfred Reed had killed a negro on Dryades street and escaped, hiding in a feed box in the rear of a house on Baronne street, near St. Joseph. Alfred Pallet, his daughter, and Zilberman went out to feed the horse, Zilberman holding a candle. The negro fired at the party and Zilberman jumped into the feed box, took the negro's pistol and emptied it into him. The police had searched the premises half an hour before for the negro.

### Sully Buys a Share.

New Orleans, La: A new record was established today in the selling price of a seat on the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, when Daniel J. Sully, partner of S. F. B. Morse, paid $5,000 for one share of stock, which entitles him to membership. This is conclusive evidence that Sully & Co. will found a branch office here.

Lake Charles, La.: The public library, which was donated to this city by Andrew Carnegie, will be open to the public on January 1 with over 2000 well selected volumes. A popular fund of $4,000 has been raised with which to buy books. A librarian has been engaged and has been spending the past several weeks in New Orleans studying the library system there.

Franklin, La.: One store and three residences belonging to M. O'Malley have been totally destroyed by fire.

Baton Rouge, La.: Governor and Mrs. Heard celebrated their silver wedding anniversary Saturday night, and were the recipients of congratulations from friends all over the state There was an elaborate reception at the executive mansion.

"America is the greatest coal producer in the world," says a newspaper correspondent triumphantly. And incidentally the American coal consumer is something of a producer when it comes to footing the winter bills.