THE STOCKHOLDERS WHO ATTENDED ANNUAL RAILWAY MEETING.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Illinois Central Railroad company in Chicago recently millionaires and section men brushed elbows and farmers and business men exchanged confidences, all being owners of stock in the company. The youngest capitalist present was a boy 15 years old, who owns two shares. There were women, too, who owned stock.

Young Cornelius Vanderbilt, looking the part of a leader of fashion in his faultless attire, could not boast any more frequent attendance at these meetings than Charles Bacon, who has come every year from Hammond, La., to vote his shares on any question of the management of the great system which might require his personal consideration.

A section boss from Iowa who sat in a rear seat never moved his position or opened his lips except to vote "aye" during the entire meeting, but neither did John Jacob Astor, who sat beside him. Both sat with their legs crossed and while Mr. Astor displayed silk lavender half hose, the Iowan showed white wool socks below his short, baggy trousers.

One of the character types was Mr. Bacon, whose long beard and hair showed aversion to the barber, and who had made a soiled white muffler take the place of a collar. There again there were a number of apparently well-to-do business men and several women who had come to participate in the annual deliberations of the stockholders.

QUEER BEAST IN CLEVELAND.

Crew of Fireboat Captures Strange Amphibious Animal.

As William Dempsey, chief engineer of the fireboat Clevelander, stepped from the boat to the rock on a recent Saturday afternoon, he rubbed his eyes and pinched himself to see if he were awake, for there in the shadow of the old government building-house sat a rat but such a gigantic rat as Dempsey had never seen before. As the engineer pinched himself again, the monster rodent scurried off and disappeared in the deserted building.

The crew of the fireboat were sceptical when Dempsey told of a rat nearly two feet long, but the next day other members of the crew caught glimpses of the monster, and plans were laid for its capture. Dempsey sent his bull terrier into the building, but it soon came out howling, badly bitten and torn. Then a trap was made of a carboy box with the bottom removed, and the animal was caught.

And now the question is, "What is it?" The animal is a strange one, and as yet no one has been able to classify it. It measures thirty-six inches from tip of nose to tip of tail, and has the form of a rat. It is undoubtedly a rodent. The tail is eighteen inches long, round and free from hair. The body is covered with long, coarse, grayish brown hair. The feet have each four toes, with long, birdlike claws, and the hind feet are webbed. Evidently the animal is amphibious.—Cleveland Leader.

WILLING TO PLEASE "MACHINE."

Senator Penrose Would Allow Them To Select Wife for Him.

Senator Quay tells a story to illustrate Senator Penrose's loyalty to the organization without regard for his personal opinions or comforts. Quay, in a spirit of well-concealed raillery, told the junior senator one day that no inconsiderable part of official popularity lay in entertaining during the Washington season, and advised him to go in more lavishly for social honors and attentions.

"Why," said Quay, "a senator your age ought to be married. Indeed, Penrose, I'd advise you, for the sake of the organization, to get married. Your chances of re-election through influential demand by the bigwigs will be increased a thousandfold if you take a charming wife down there with you next term. With your money, you ought to be able to do it well."

Penrose pondered deeply a minute or two, and then asked:

"Do you really think a thing like that counts?"

"Sure!" answered the Old Man.

"Well," said the junior senator, resignedly, "let the organization pick out the woman and I'll marry her."—Philadelphia Ledger.

OUR "HUMAN CLEARING-HOUSE."

Priest Talks of Courage of Arriving Immigrants.

"The more I see of the immigrants who come into the new world at this port the more I admire their courage," said a priest who has long been engaged in the work of looking after those of his religion that pass through the great human clearing-house on Ellis Island. "And it is because of their courage that the government makes no mistake in admitting them to the land. That is the capital out of which these strangers in a strange land build fortunes. As for the money capital—just think of it. The average amount of cash in the pockets of the immigrants is $11.10. And yet I venture to say that few, very few, of the half-million immigrants that landed here in the past year have become public charges. In fact, the rarity of applications for the deportation of immigrants after they have been admitted proves that almost none of them comes upon the poor authorities. The aggregate of $5,560,000 a year which these people bring to this country in cash is as nothing in a land of wealth, but the infusion of their energy, endurance and thrift into the nation is a wholesome counteractive to the enervating influence of luxury."

Prosperous Irish.

The saying that Irishmen flourish in every country but their own has been brought nearer home lately by various allusions to sons of Erin who have made great fortunes in the West. Mr. Mackay died the other day in London, perhaps the richest man in the world. Then the fatal motor-car accident to Mr. Fair in France reminded us of the millions made by his father, an Irish emigrant to the States. And now Battle Abbey has been leased by Mr. Grace, the member of a flourishing Irish family, which never, however, flourished to the pitch of spending thousands a year in rental. The Graces of Grace Castle, County Kilkenny, possess a baronetcy which dates back for more than a hundred years; and Battle Abbey is appropriately enough inhabited by the descendant of Le Gros, one of the earliest of the Anglo-Norman settlers in Ireland.—London Chronicle.

Historical Old Volumes.

The late John D. Lyman of Exeter, N. H., bequeathed to one of his daughters some old volumes of the North American Review which, as he stated in his will, were once borrowed by Young Colbath, then a bound apprentice to a farmer, and who in later years had his name changed to Henry Wilson, and subsequently became a United States Senator from Massachusetts and Vice President of the United States.

Surely "Clean" Verses.

"Whatever else they may say about Scribblem, he at least writes clean verses." "For instance?" "Well, did you ever read his soap ads in the street cars?"—Baltimore News.

English Postoffice Employes.

There are more than 5,000 postmistresses in England, and the postoffice department employs altogether about 30,000 women.

Average Length of Dog's Life.

The average length of a dog's life

ST. JOSEPH RIVER, MICHIGAN.

—Photo by Eugene J. Hall, Chicago.

WHY IT DIDN'T SUIT HIM.

Too Much Water Did Not Appeal to the Man From Maryland.

They were seated at a round table in the biggest room in the Maryland club, the glasses in front of them newly primed, the smoke from their cigars curling upward, while they listened to the yarns of the man from Arizona. He had told them stories of hunting, of mining, of train robberies and the like, and now he was holding forth on the wonders of irrigation.

"No one," said he, "can properly appreciate the wonders it has worked in the central part of our state, where the desert has been literally made to 'blossom as the rose.' More than 125,000 acres in the Salt river valley alone now bloom with palms, alfalfa, trees, orange groves and other foliage, while grass and growing crops of grain, vegetables and the like cover the fields where a few years ago not a vestige of green was to be seen on the burning sand of the great desert.

"Three large cities, one the capital of the state, have sprung up; two railroads have been built into the district to carry away the surplus product, and $30,000,00 has been added to the wealth of this great country of ours. All this has been accomplished by irrigation, by bringing water in ditches and distributing it where it will do the most good.

"To accomplish this we have expended $3,000,000 and dug hundreds of miles of ditches. There is much yet to be done, however, in our neighborhood, it being estimated that no less than 400,000 acres await reclamation in that immediate vicinity.

"The venture has proved immensely profitable, too, and our farmers are perhaps the most prosperous in the world. I know of no better place in this country for capital seeking investment." And he paused to note the effect of his suggestion.

"That's sholy interestin'—mighty interestin'," mused the Eastern Shore man, as he tossed off the contents of his glass, "but I cain't say that I'd cyah to live in a country, suh, whar watah is regyarded as the mainstay of existunce."—New York Tribune.

Morgue Keeper a Humorist.

One of the queerest of French authors, Clovis Pierre, died this week. He was a poet whose talent would have received recognition doubtless even if the contrast between his vocation and his avocation had not tickled the fancy of the Parisians. He lived and wrote his poetry at the morgue, of which he was registrar. He was a merry soul who found most of his inspiration in the corpses in his care and who used to describe himself as the manager of a big hotel well known to Paris, which was a quiet place of rest for travelers from all countries. He dwelt at the morgue for thirty-two years before he retired on a pension.

Poetry may bring returns—if a stamp is inclosed with it.

THEY WOULD NOT RETREAT.

Horse Battery Kept on Firing Although Constructively Dead.

Among the amusing features of the recent mimic war one incident is recounted by Adjt. Gen. Thomas Barry, chief of staff, as one of the most unusual conflicts in the history of war. Among the points defended by the army was a signal station on Montauk Point. Here was stationed a horse battery, intended to cover the signal corps and also to be able to withdraw in case of serious attack. This latter duty was not fully comprehended by the gallant artillerymen. Accordingly, when the Kearsarge, the Alabama, the Brooklyn, the Olympia and all the other big ships of the fleet sailed up and opened their batteries on the signal station, bringing into play every gun, from the 13-inch to the rapid-fire ones, the defenders of the shore displayed no intention of retreat.

Wheeling their two small cannon into point blank range, they returned the fire of the combined fleet. Faster and faster came the shots of the horse artillery. Theoretically they were annihilated; practically, they were only spurred to still greater activity. Not until the umpires signaled them to stop firing, and later informed them that they were all dead, did the brave gunners pause. Not since the day of the Matanzas mule has so unequal a fight been waged so successfully.

Highly colored—rainbows.

NEW MINISTER TO SPAIN.

Arthur Sherburne Hardy Has Had Much Diplomatic Experience.

Arthur Sherburne Hardy, appointed minister to Spain in the recent diplomatic shifts, is a son of New England. His father was the late Hon. Alpheus Hardy. Born in Andover, Mass., in 1847, he was graduated from West Point, served as a second lieutenant in the Third artillery, and was professor of mathematics at Dartmouth college. He wrote novels, the best known of which were "But Yet a Woman" and "Passe Rose." During his career as a diplomat he has been minister resident and consul general at Teheran, Persia; minister to Greece, Roumania and Servia, and minister to Switzerland, having been assigned to the last named post in December of 1900 by President McKinley.

Princess a Successful Author.

King Edward's second daughter, Princess Charles of Denmark, is making a success in literature from a royalist standpoint. She has written a book, but it has not been printed. It is circulated in manuscript among the crowned heads of Europe. Not to be outdone by her royal literary aunt, Queen Helena of Italy has written a poem, which is to appear shortly in the German review, Berliner Leben. It is entitled "The Other Crown," and gives the reverse of the medal of royalty as usually seen by popular eyes.

Credit to the Negro Race.

Moses Leonard Frazier, the only negro who was ever graduated from the school of political science in Columbia university, New York city, is a shining light. He has been graduated from three colleges, conducts a real estate business and finds time to manage a barber shop. He is a master of philosophy, a bachelor of philosophy, a master of arts and an inventor. Mr. Frazier was born in 1860 and he was 35 years old before he had earned sufficient money to enable him to enter college.

Salvation Army Tunes.

A street incident led Gen. Booth to put religious hymns to the popular tunes of the day. One Sunday he was trying to attract attention to his mission by means of a choir stationed on the sidewalk, but the people flocked across the street to where a hand organ was grinding out catchy tunes. "Ah, I have it," exclaimed the general. "I'll catch them with catchy music, and along with it I'll give them the message of salvation."

Premature.

The czar has had another stroke of luck, inasmuch as some well laid plots for wrecking the train in which he was traveling failed of their purpose. The nihilists ought to be good enough to wait until he is the father of an heir before touching him off.

Time Must Be Remembered.

The other day an unfortunate Maine man was drowned while trying to show his wife that he could swim as well as he did when he was a boy. This shows how time occasionally casts a glamour over the happenings

TREASURY IS WELL PROTECTED.

Burglars Would Have Hard Work Securing Nation's Wealth.

The treasury of the United States at Washington, containing an immense amount of gold and silver coin, is guarded both by men and modern mechanism. Every vault is connected with an electric alarm so sensitive that the slightest touch of the hand will sound a warning at the office of the guards and in the police stations of the city of Washington. False alarms have occasionally sent armed men hurrying to the treasury. A signal allowed to continue would bring out the troops at Fort Meyer, three miles away. Besides these mechanical safeguards, seventy-two men, under a captain, are engaged in watching the treasury. Of these, one-fifth are detailed for day service and two-fifths for each of the two watches of the night.

TRUE DAUGHTER OF AMERICA

Child of the Late Marcus Daly Wanted No Foreign Title.

Mrs. H. Carroll Brown before marriage was Miss Margaret Daly, the elder daughter of the late Marcus Daly, the capitalist and mine owner of Montana. She has inherited a large fortune. With her sister she passed several years in Paris, where she was educated in a convent. About a year and a half ago she became the wife of Mr. Brown, a Baltimore man, who is a member of the Maryland club, the Elkridge Fox Hunt club and has been master of the hounds of the Green Spring Valley Hunt club. She always declared, even during her residence abroad, where she was much sought after by the nobility, that she would wed an American or remain single. Her father despised foreign fortune-hunters, whatever their titles.

Mrs. H. Carroll Brown.

A Millionaire's Lavishness.

Thomas F. Walsh, the multimillionaire and former owner of the bonanza Camp Bird gold mine at Ouray and former president of the National Irrigation association, spent money with a lavish hand during the three days' session of the irrigation congress at Colorado Springs. Mr. Walsh not only spent money like water for the entertainment and happiness of his friends and the delegates, but felt much aggrieved to think that he could not part with more of his gold. His hotel bill was $1,000, to which was added an itemized account of $6,000 for "extras."

The Strongest Wood.

Lancewood is the strongest in the world. Its tensile strength is 23,000 pounds. That is to say, a piece of lancewood an inch square, will stand that strain before breaking.

New Method of Murder.

A man named Sourivieff has been arrested in St. Petersburg on the charge of murdering his wife by piercing her brain through the ear with a

FOE OF PRESIDENT CASTRO.

Gen. Matos Leads Revolutionary Forces in Venezuela.

Gen. Matos is the leader of the revolutionary forces opposed to President Castro in Venezuela, and at the present writing it looks as if the movement would be successful. Gen Matos is an able man and has the confidence of a majority of the citizens o the republic, but the army is divided in its allegiance. President Castro is believed to have accumulated much money during his incumbency, and if defeated will follow the usual course of deposed heads of South American republics—proceed to Europe and enjoy life in luxury.

Pelletan Between Two Fires.

The launching of the French steel cruiser Kleber, which took place at Bordeaux the other day, has given rise to an amusing dispute. La Lanterne and some other Paris papers strongly urged Camille Pelletan, the minister of marine, to affirm his convictions by forbidding the religious ceremony of christening the vessel. A crusade on the other side was started by the reactionary organs. The latter gained their point. The Kleber was solemnly baptized and blessed by Abbe Harmann. M. Pelletan is now accused of being a man without the courage of his convictions by the socialist and free thought press.

Has Much Valuable Jewelry.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell, the English actress, has a great love for jewelry of every kind and wears some beautiful rings and necklaces. One of her rings consists of one large pearl which opens and shuts and contains a portrait of Mrs. Campbell's late husband. She is also the proud possessor of four very beautiful and valuable dogs, which are simply devoted to her and follow her almost everywhere. Mrs. Campbell has no great love for society, but she often entertains her friends in her charming flat in Ashley Gardens, London.

Costly Absentmindedness.

Nikola Tesla, the electrician, was fined $100 by Judge Foster in part 1, general sessions, recently for failing to appear as a talesman on the jury panel of that court for the October term. Mr. Tesla said that he had overlooked the summons because he had been absorbed in very important work, and, besides, had been away on Long Island for three days. "I got the notice too late," explained Mr. Tesla, "but nevertheless I will apologize to the court. When I become absorbed in my work I forget everything else."

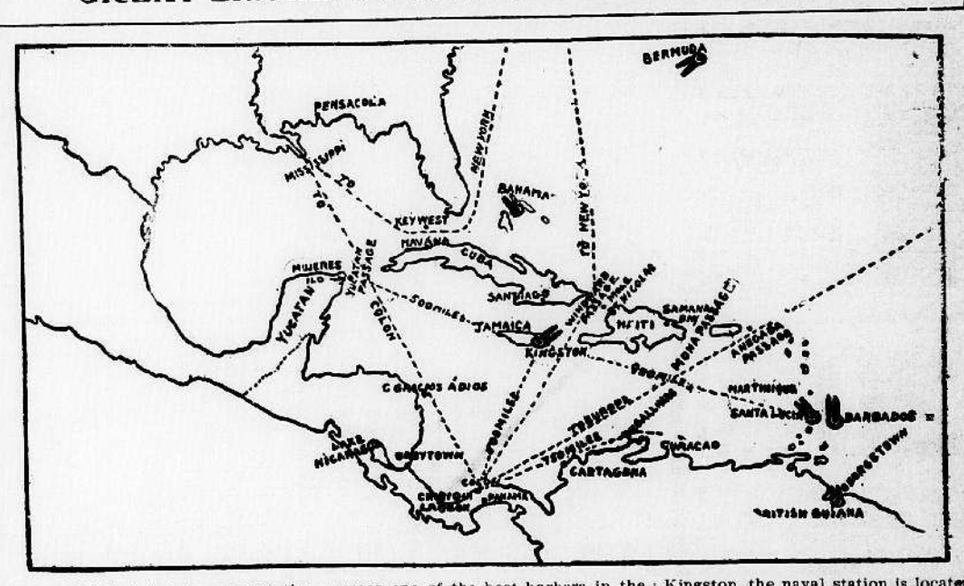
Marion Crawford Is Better.

Marion Crawford, whose health has been causing his friends some anxiety owing to a hemorrhage with which he was seized some days ago, is recovering satisfactorily at Sorento, Italy.

Want Teachers in Costume.

Women school teachers in Roumania have been recommended by the minister of public instruction to wear the picturesque Wallachian peasant costume.

GREAT BRITAIN'S FORTS IN WESTERN WATERS.



Great Britain's latest augmentation of her already strong West Indian fortifications indicates her purpose to retain the full strategic advantage which their situation gives to her possessions in the Caribbean sea or bordering upon it. Her present effort in carrying out this policy is the creation of two entirely new batteries defending the approach to Port Royal, the naval station on the Island of Jamaica.

In Kingston harbor Jamaica possesses one of the best harbors in the West Indies. It is practically landlocked and capable of sheltering as large a fleet as Great Britain will ever be able to spare for service in that part of the world. The harbor is long and narrow, the southern shore being formed by a narrow sand spit, which approaches the western shore to within a distance about equal to the Narrows.

On the harbor side of the point of the sand spit and opposite the city of Kingston, the naval station is located. There are already four forts commanding the entrance. One is situated on the point close by the naval station, the zone of its fire covering the channel which must be used by all vessels approaching the harbor from the eastward.

The newest of the present batteries is on the opposite side of the entrance and so located that its guns enfilade the channel. The other two forts command the harbor proper.

PRICE WAS A KISS.

Young Man Had an Excellent Chance to Buy a Dog.

A handsome bachelor of Baltimore, well known in social and educational circles, acknowledges the truth of the following story: He was driving with a very pretty and attractive young woman, when on the outskirts of the city they met a lad of about 12 years leading by a chain a singularly ugly but finely bred bull terrier. The pretty girl went into raptures over the dog, and her escort determined the animal should be hers.

"Say, sonny," he called, "what will you take for your dog?"

"Nawthing," replied the lad.

"Nonsense," cried Mr. Blank. "Here's $5 for him."

"No, I won't. This here dog ain't for sale."

"Ten," said Mr. Blank, and then, growing desperate, "fifteen, twenty." But the owner still refused.

All the time the conversation was going on the youth, although talking to the man in the buggy, kept his vehicle, and at last he said, gravely:

"I don't want yer money, but if you'll just give that lady there a kiss you may have the dog."

Mr. Blank was speechless. He stared at the boy an instant, and then put the whip to his horse, starting him off at a run.

The story goes that a mile was gone over without a word being spoken, when as the horse's rapid gait became slower as it turned down a country lane the pretty girl turned ever so slightly and said, shyly: "Oh, Mr. Blank, why don't you buy that dog!"—Baltimore Sun.

Somewhat Mixed Metaphor.

Among the recent visitors to Oxford university was the Sultan of Perak, and right royally did the heads of the various colleges entertain him. As his son had been educated there, he thought it well to flatter his hosts on every possible occasion and at a banquet which was given in his honor he is supposed to have paid them the highest compliment in his power by quoting the following Malay proverb: "When you are among buffaloes, you must bellow like a buffalo, but when you are among sheep, you must bleat like a sheep."

The learned dons and professors who sat near him were unable to see how these words applied to them or to the university, but their distinguished guest soon enlightened them: "I am glad to say," he pointed out, "that while my son was at Oxford he became fully impressed with the truth of the latter part of this proverb." The sultan did not explain how his words were to be interpreted, and several grave scholars are still trying to find out their exact meaning.

American Physician Honored.

Dr. Ernest Laplace, professor of surgery and clinical surgery in the Medico-Chirurgical college and hospital at Philadelphia, who recently returned from Europe, has brought back a decoration which was conferred upon him by the French government in recognition of his valuable scientific and medical researches. The decoration carries with it admittance to the Palmes Academiques, an honor much sought after by medical and scientific men.