

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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WHEN SHOULD GIRLS MARRY?

A grandmother has undertaken to answer the question in the headline in a magazine article. Having had experience, she thinks she knows what she is talking about. It is her opinion that no girl should marry before she is 25 years old. There never has been and never can be any fixed rule for the mating of human beings. Ages ago parents were the sole arbiters of the marital destinies of their daughters. They gave in wedlock when and where and to whom they pleased, and the daughters had nothing to do with the bargain. The matter is one in which there is pretty nearly independence of thought and action on the part of American girls. Parents may try as they will to shape their daughters' love affairs to conform to their own ideas, but it is a rare case in which they succeed—and even then success on the part of the parents is not a guarantee of the girl's happiness. It has been estimated that a woman's chances of marriage begin to diminish at the twenty-fourth year and decline rapidly to the thirtieth year, when they have almost disappeared. The period of greatest expectation is from 19 to 23. It is between these periods that the majority of women must make up their minds, and they do it from the dictates of the heart oftener than from any other consideration.

The frequent assertion that the soils of the United States are wearing out is not conceded by Prof. Milton Whitney, chief of the bureau of soils, United States department of agriculture. He has prepared a bulletin in which statistics of yield since 1867 are carefully compared, and in which he arrives at the following conclusion: "We are producing more crops per acre than formerly. This is undoubtedly due to better and more intelligent cultivation, more and better systems of rotation of crops and in later years to the intelligent use of fertilizers through measures of control in the hands of every individual farmer." Much that has been said on the subject of exhaustion of the soil was alarming and even disheartening. That Prof. Whitney sees no reason for a pessimistic view is reassuring.

The bureau of statistics at Washington reports an enormous increase in building operations throughout the country. This is another sure indication of the revival of business activity in every direction. When financial stress is felt the work of building is one of the first to feel the effects. The Washington statement shows that the value of building permits issued in 100 of the largest cities in the United States for the year ended July 1, 1909, was \$20,000,000 in excess of that for the same period in 1908, when building was at a high tide. There have been noticeable gains in other directions, but in building the movement appears to be a veritable boom, owing to the demand for increased accommodations.

Dr. Stiles, chief government zoologist, has just given advice in a department bulletin for the treatment and eradication of the "hook worm" or "lazy" disease so prevalent among the poor whites of the southern states. The disease produces an anemic condition and an utter disinclination for labor. Judging from the latter symptom, it would seem that the "lazy worm" does not restrict its activities to sections south of Mason and Dixon's line. It is hardly less majestic to rise up and assert that it has incubated in the municipal blood, in view of the exasperating delays in various movements planned for Philadelphia.

The sultan of Morocco's picturesque idea of locking the rebellious El Rhogel in a steel cage, strapped to the back of a swaying camel and marched, circus style, through the streets in a free parade, shows an oriental kind of humor hard for the western mind to appreciate. So is his humorous idea of punishment with boiling pitch in it. Somebody ought to remind him that this is the sultan's bad day.

It requires some figuring to see how a New York woman could hire out for domestic service at \$18 a month while herself keeping a servant at \$22 a month. The answer is that she was lifting jewelry and the like from places where she was employed. After robbing 30 women this kitchen itinerant has gone to a reformatory for three years.

Germany grows about nine times as big a potato crop as the United States, although this country is much more than nine times as big as Germany. And some pessimists talk as if America were already near the limit of its possible food production.

The department of agriculture is now attacking the character of cats as rat-catchers. Their long standing as back-fence solists, however, is still unquestioned by the department.

The submarines are breaking records as well as the airships. Popular travel, however, for the present is still confined to the surface of the earth, but is doing its best to rival the air above and the waters under the earth in point of peril.

There is no word in the English language that expresses the criminal depravity of the individual debased enough to wreck a passenger train laden with little children, women and men—unknown to the criminal.

MAP SHOWING WHAT PEARY CLAIMS IS ROUTE TRAVELED BY DR. COOK.



PEARY DISPUTES COOK'S CLAIMS

Commander Submits Statement and a Map In Support of His Contention That His Rival Did Not Reach The North Pole.

New York, Oct. 12.—The following statement of Commander Robert E. Peary, which he submitted, together with the accompanying map, to the Peary Arctic club in support of his contention that Dr. Cook did not reach the north pole, is now made public for the first time. The statement and map have been copyrighted by the Peary Arctic club.

(Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1909, by the Peary Arctic club, in the office of the librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.)

Signed Statement of Peary, Bartlett, McMillan, Borup and Hansen, in Regard to Testimony of Cook's Two Eskimo Boys.

The two Eskimo boys, Itook-a-shoo and Ah-pelah, who accompanied Dr. Cook while he was away from Anoratok in 1908 and 1909, were questioned separately and independently, and were corroborated by Panikpah, the father of one of them (Itook-a-shoo), who was personally familiar with the first third and the last third of their journey, and who said that the route for the remaining third, as shown by them, was as described by his son after his return with Dr. Cook.

Notes of their statements were taken by several of us, and no one of us has any doubt that they told the truth. Their testimony was unshaken by cross-examination, was corroborated by other men in the tribe, and was elicited neither by threats nor promises, the two boys and their father talking of their journey and their experiences in the same way that they would talk of any hunting trip.

To go more into details: One of the boys was called in, and, with a chart on the table before him, was asked to show where he had gone with Dr. Cook. This he did, pointing out with his finger on the map, but not making any marks upon it. As he went out, the other boy came in and was asked to show where he had gone with Dr. Cook. This he did,

also without making any marks, and indicated the same route and the same details as did the first boy.

When he was through, Panikpah, the father of Itook-a-shoo, a very intelligent man, who was in the party of Eskimos that came back from Dr. Cook from the northern end of Nansen's strait, who is familiar as a hunter with the Jones sound region, and who has been in Commander Peary's various expeditions for some fifteen years, came in and indicated the same localities and details as the two boys.

The first boy was brought in again, and with a pencil he traced on the map their route, members of our party writing upon the chart where, according to the boy's statement, they had killed deer, bear, some of their dogs, seal, walrus and some musk-oxen.

The second boy was then called in and the two went over the chart together, the second boy suggesting some changes as noted hereafter.

Finally, Panikpah, the father, was again called in to verify details of the portions of the route with which he was personally familiar.

The bulk of the boys' testimony was not taken by Commander Peary, nor in his presence, a fact that obviates any possible claim that they were awed by him.

Certain questions on independent lines from the direct narrative of the Eskimo boys were suggested by Commander Peary to some of us, and were put by us to the Eskimo boys.

Still later, Commander Peary asked the Eskimo boys two or three casual questions on minor points that had occurred to him.

During the taking of this testimony, it developed that Dr. Cook had told those boys, as he told Mr. Whitney and Billy Pritchard, the cabin boy, that they must not tell Commander Peary or any of us anything about their journey, and the boys stated Dr. Cook had threatened them if they should tell anything.

The narrative of these Eskimos is as follows: They, with Dr. Cook, Francke and

nine other Eskimos, left Anoratok, crossed Smith's sound to Cape Sabine, slept in Commander Peary's old house in Payer harbor, then went through Rice strait to Buchanan bay. After a few marches Francke and three Eskimos returned to Anoratok.

Dr. Cook, with the others, then proceeded up Flagger bay, a branch of Buchanan bay, and crossed Ellesmere land through the valley past at the head of Flagger bay, indicated by Commander Peary in 1898, and utilized by Sverdrup in 1899, to the head of Sverdrup's "Bay Flord" on the west side of Ellesmere land.

Their route then lay out through this flord, thence north through Sverdrup's "Huerka sound" and Nansen strait.

On their way they killed musk-oxen and bear, and made caches, arriving eventually at a point on the west side of Nansen strait (shore of Axel Heiberg land, south of Cape Thomas Hubbard).

A cache was formed here and the four Eskimos did not go beyond this point. Two others, Koolookwah and Inughtoo, went on one more march with Dr. Cook and the two boys, helped build the snow igloo, then returned without sleeping.

(These two Eskimos brought back a letter from Dr. Cook to Francke, dated the 17th of March. The two men rejoined the other four men who had been left behind, and the six returned to Anoratok, arriving May 7th. This information was obtained not from the two Eskimo boys, but from the six men who returned and from Francke himself, and was known to us in the summer of 1908, when the Roosevelt first arrived at Etah. The information is inserted here as supplementary to the narrative of the two boys.)

After sleeping at the camp where the last two Eskimos turned back, Dr. Cook and the two boys went in a northerly or northwesterly direction with two sledges and twenty-odd dogs, one more march, when they encountered rough ice and a lead of open water.

They did not enter this rough ice, nor cross the lead, but turned westward or southwestward a short distance and returned to Heiberg land at a point west of where they had left the cache and where the four men had turned back.

Here they remained four or five sleeps, and during that time Itook-a-shoo went back to the cache and got his gun which he had left there, and a few items of supplies.

When asked why only a few supplies were taken from the cache, the boys replied that only a small amount of provisions had been used in the few days since they left the cache, and that their sledges still had all they could carry, so that they could not take more.

After being informed of the boys' narrative thus far, Commander Peary suggested a series of questions to be put to the boys in regard to this trip from the land out and back to it. These questions and answers were as follows:

Did they cross many open leads or much open water during this time? Ans. None.

Did they make any caches out on the ice? Ans. No.

Did they kill any bear or seal while out on the ice north of Cape Thomas Hubbard? Ans. No.

Did they kill or lose any of their dogs while out on the ice? Ans. No.

With how many sledges did they start? Ans. No.

How many dogs did they have? Ans. Did not remember exactly, but something over twenty.

Did they have any provisions left on their sledges when they came back to land? Ans. Yes; the sledges still had about all they could carry, so they were able to take but a few things from the cache.

From here they then went southwest along the northwest coast of Heiberg Land to a point indicated on the map (Cape Northwest).

From here they went west across the ice, which was level and covered with snow, crossing good going, to a low island which they had seen from the shore of Heiberg Land at Cape Northwest. On this island they camped for one sleep.

The size and position of this island, as drawn by the first boy, was criticized by the second boy as being too large and too far west, the second boy calling the attention of the first to the fact that the position of the island was more nearly in line with the point where they had left Heiberg Land (Cape Northwest) and the channel between Amund Ringnes Land and Ellef Ringnes Land.

This criticism and correction was accepted by the first boy, who started to change the position of the island, but was stopped, as Commander Peary had given instructions that no changes or erasures were to be made in the route as drawn by the Eskimos on the chart.

From this island they could see two lands beyond (Sverdrup's Ellef Ringnes and Amund Ringnes Lands). From the island they journeyed toward the left-hand one of these two lands (Amund Ringnes Land), passing a small island which they did not visit.

The above portion of the statement of the Eskimo boys covers the period of time in which Dr. Cook claims to have gone to the Pole and back, and the entire time during which he could possibly have made any attempt to go to it.

The answers of the Eskimo boys to Commander Peary's series of independent questions, showing that they killed no game, made no caches, lost no dogs, and returned to the land with loaded sledges, makes their attainment of the Pole on the trip north of Cape Thomas Hubbard a physical and mathematical impossibility, as it would demand the subsistence of three men and over twenty dogs during a journey of ten hundred and forty geographical miles on less than two sledge loads of supplies.

If it is suggested that perhaps Dr. Cook got mixed and that he reached the Pole, or thought he did, between the time of leaving the northwest coast of Heiberg Land at Cape Northwest, and his arrival at Ringnes Land, where they killed the deer, we must then add to the date of Dr. Cook's letter of March 17th, at or near Cape Thomas Hubbard, the subsequent four or five sleeps at that point, and the number of days required to march from Cape Thomas Hubbard to Cape Northwest (a distance of some sixty nautical miles), which would advance his date of departure from the land to at least the 25th of March, and be prepared to accept the claim that Dr. Cook went from Cape Northwest (about latitude eighty and a half degree north) to the Pole, a distance of five hundred and seventy geographical miles, in twenty-seven days.

After the sun returned in 1909 they started, pushing their sledge, across Jones Sound to Cape Tennyson; thence along the coast to Clarence Head (passing inside of two small islands not shown on the chart, but drawn on it by the boys), where they killed a bear; thence across the broad light in the coast to Cadogan Flord; thence around Cape Isabella and up to Commander Peary's old house in Payer Harbor near Cape Sabine, where they found a seal cached for them by Panikpah, Itook-a-shoo's father. From here they crossed Smith Sound on the ice, arriving at Anoratok.

(Signed) R. E. PEARY, U. S. N. ROBERT A. BARTLETT, Master U. S. S. Roosevelt. D. B. McMILLAN. GEORGE BORUP. MATTHEW A. HENSON.

A Washday Device.

Every washer woman knows the nuisance of hanging on a large family's handkerchiefs, collars, finger bowl doilies and other small articles. To pin them to the line takes time and patience.

One old colored woman has hit on a plan of drying that saves her many minutes. She had her mistress make her a long shallow bag of strong, white mosquito netting, with a drawstring at the top and tapes sewed at the corners, and at intervals of three or four inches between.

Why He Was Late.

An Atlanta merchant has frequent occasion to robuke Ike, his darkey porter, for his tardiness in reporting for duty in the morning. Ike is always ready with a more or less ingenious excuse.

"You're two hours late, Ike!" exclaimed the employer one morning. "This sort of thing must stop! Otherwise, I'm going to fire you; understand?"

"Deed, Mistah Edward," replied Ike, "it w'at mah fault, dis time! Honest! I w'at kicked by a mule!"

Feathers For Human Birds.

The aerial racer at Reims are responsible for the enthusiasm with which advanced oristlers on both

When the smaller articles were ready for hanging on the line they were laid carefully in the bag, the string drawn up so they would not blow out, and the bag pinned to the line by the tapes, for the sun and air to filter through the open meshes of the net.—Philadelphia Press.

Hints of the Message.

It is a good guess that President Taft on his tour is handing out samples of his message to the coming regular session of congress. That document will doubtless be a summary of

sides of the channel are exploiting costumes for the aeroplane. It is a subject for congratulation that up to the present the palm must be awarded to the English outfitters, as in their model costumes utility is allied with smartness.—Draper Times.

Predicts Hair Famine.

Hair has considerably risen in price. In the city of Limoges, the principal market for hair, a kilo of hair worth £2 a few years ago now fetches £4. This rise has been caused by the increased size of hats which necessitate

might as well be for automobiles as anything else. At that, in many cases it is possible that the investment is a wise one, for which it will pay to hire money. On the whole, however, such transactions suggest the cynical sign of the saloonist: "If drinking interferes with your business, quit your business."

In order to replenish the depleted supply of corn in the Republic of Mexico, the duty on that cereal from the United States has been temporarily rescinded.

takes an extra supply of hair so as to offer a proper basis to the new structures. Moreover, the young French peasant girls are less anxious to part with their tresses; and the dealers in hair are unable to cope with the demand made upon them. The crisis is attaining huge proportions, and wearers of false hair would do well to lay in a stock of theirs—they will be compelled to pay famine prices.—Gentleman.

Thirty-four persons were injured in two street car accidents in St. Louis Monday afternoon.

ROBBER A LAWYER

BANDIT WHO BORROWED AUTO TO STEAL CASH MAY BE LOS ANGELES LAWYER.

INITIALS FOUND ON CLOTHES

Was a Fugitive From Justice, Having Had Money Difficulties in Home Town—Is Chased by a Mob.

Chicago, Illinois.—The inquest over the body of the Highland Park daylight bank robber, who committed suicide before the eyes of his pursuers, was to solve the mystery of the identity of the man, who was known in many cities under the assumed name of L. Harrison, but who is almost positively named in Los Angeles, Calif., as Lamar A. Harris, a fugitive lawyer of that city.

Before he ended his life the desperado shot Marshal John H. Sheehan. The bullet struck his star over his heart and glanced into his arm.

The robbery was committed, the pursuit concluded and the robber had killed himself all within fifteen minutes.

In endeavoring to fix the man's identity the police found on the inside of the shirt collar on the body at Highland Park the initials "L. A. H." The same initials were found on a tin laundry tag on his hose. In his suit case at the LaBalle hotel were found the name of a Nashville, Tenn., young woman and other indications of a recent visit to the Tennessee city.

Scrawled across the margin of a legal brief bearing the printer's mark, Nashville, Tenn., was written the name "Miss Grace Marshall." Beneath this was written, "Marshall, Freeman & Rogers."

A balky automobile proved Harris' undoing. He evidently determined to rob a bank, for he went to J. E. Keelyn of Evanston, owner of a machine, and borrowed the latter's auto for the afternoon. Keelyn's chauffeur, Fred Schwab, went along. Harris gave Keelyn the name of Wilson. Schwab drove the robber to several banks in Evanston and the North Shore suburbs, but each time Harris came out and was driven to another institution.

When Harris told Schwab to stop in front of the Arakine bank in Highland Park, Schwab let his engine stop while Harris went into the bank. Five minutes later Harris came running out of the bank with a revolver in one hand and a bag of money—\$500—in the other. He had held up Cashier John C. Duffy and the other clerks at the point of his revolver and grabbed all the money in sight.

When Harris came out Schwab tried to crank his machine, but his engine would not start. Harris did not wait, but leaped out of the seat and ran down the street. In the meantime Marshal Sheehan had been notified of the robbery and came running up the street. He fired at Harris as he retreated and the latter fired back. Several citizens, armed with shotguns and revolvers, then joined. Sheehan and they cornered Harris in a coal shed where he fired through the door at Sheehan. The bullet struck the marshal's star just over his heart, glanced and inflicted a bad flesh wound in his arm.

Meanwhile Harris had fled from the shelter of the shed and ran on to some railroad tracks nearby. Sheehan fired again despite his wound, hitting the robber in the side. Suddenly Harris wheeled, placed the muzzle of his revolver into his mouth and pulled the trigger.

Springfield, Illinois.—The validity of the 3-cent passenger rate act passed by the legislature in 1907, is attacked in an injunction proceeding instituted in the United States circuit court in this city by Phillip Barton Warren of Springfield, solicitor for the receivers of the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis railway.

The Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis railway, with a line running from Peoria and St. Louis, via Springfield, passed into the hands of receivers in July of this year, John F. Ramsey of St. Louis and H. M. Merriman of Springfield being placed in charge of the business.

In his petition for injunction, Warren specifies seven reasons why the relief asked for should be granted, chief of which are that the 3-cent rate act is oppressive, confiscatory and discriminatory and denies the company the right to a judicial investigation of the reasonableness of the charges permitted.

To Stand 2,000,000 Volts Test.

New York City.—A sensational experiment is to be made at the electric show at Madison Square Garden when Dr. Henry E. Walte, who is exhibiting electrical instruments for medical use at the electric fair, will send a current of 2,000,000 volts through a human body. The demonstration will be public and will be made upon Richard Garrick, who has agreed to submit to the test, relying on the doctor's assurance that he will live to tell of his experience.

U. S. Embassy Secretary Quits.

London, Eng.—Craig Wadsworth, second secretary of the American embassy here, has resigned. He is going to some warm climate, where he will spend nine months seeking to recover from nervous trouble from which he has been suffering for some time.

Theater and 14 Houses Burn.

Plainville, Kansas.—Fourteen business houses and the opera house were destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$20,000.

President Zelaya Is Overthrown.

Colon, Panama.—A revolution has broken out. Juan J. Estrada, governor of the department of Zelaya, has been proclaimed provisional president. The president, Jose Santos Zelaya, is at Cape Gracias.

Aid Saves Marissa, Ill.

Marissa, Illinois.—A fire that blazed uncontrolled and threatened the destruction of the heart of the town until it was rushed from Lantzburg, caused a \$100,000 loss here. An entire block was razed.

EXECUTION STIRS WAR

SHOOTING OF FERRER HAS SET COUNTRY WILD.

Pope Was Interested—King of Italy Also Wanted to Save Man From Death, But Failed.

Paris, France.—In the face of the protest of Pope Pius and King Emmanuel of Italy, Francisco Ferrer, found guilty before a court martial of having incited the Barcelona riots of last summer, was executed.

As the first rays of the sun glistened on the facade of the Montjuich fortress at Barcelona, the convicted schoolmaster was led to the moat and shot. His execution is looked upon as the spark that will set off the revolutionary magazines and endanger the life of King Alfonso.

"Alfonso will pay with his life for the death of Ferrer"—that was the threat the revolutionaries held out to the Spanish government, and Ferrer is dead.

All Spain is aroused to the danger and the crisis is rapidly spreading throughout Europe. Rome and Paris, revolutionary centers, are prepared for protesting demonstrations, and in Spain an uprising is feared. In Paris, in Rome and at many other points in Europe, the Spanish consulates are heavily guarded.

The large cities in Alfonso's domain are under a semblance of martial law and every available trooper is held in readiness. Extra guard surround the palace and the military hold Barcelona in a firm hand. There the first outbreak is expected.

The German radicals regard the Barcelona as a martyr. Nor have these signs of sympathy been confined to the people. The pope, it is said, followed every angle of the case with great interest, and expressed the idea that an effort should be made at the Spanish court to save the convicted man. King Emmanuel was equally interested. Both he and Cardinal Merry Del Val, the papal secretary of state, sounded the Spanish ambassadors at the Vatican and the quinal as to whether their intervention at the Spanish court would aid Ferrer.

The reply was in effect that King Alfonso and Premier Maura wished no interference.

STATE GAINS \$805,302,729

New Tax Assessment Law Adds 70 Per Cent to the Wealth of Illinois.

Springfield, Illinois.—All the county assessors having made their reports to the state board of equalization, that body made totals which show an aggregate assessment of all real and personal property in Illinois of \$1,139,252,406, an increase over last year of \$805,302,729, or 70 per cent.

Sixty-six and two-thirds of the increase is accounted for by the operation of the new law raising the assessed value of property from one-fifth to one-third of its full cash value. These figures do not include the assessment which the state board will make on railroads and the capital stock of corporations.

Twelve counties report assessments on real and personal property of \$25,000,000 or more. They are Cook, McLean, Sangamon, Laclede, Peoria, Kane, Vermillion, Champaign, St. Clair, Winnebago, Livingston and Will.

ST. LOUISIAN TO LEAD ELKS

New Missouri Association Elects Editor N. M. Vaughn President.

Mexico, Missouri.—Representatives of about 25 of the state lodges of the B. P. O. Elks met in this city and organized a state association by electing N. M. Vaughn of St. Louis president.

Other officers were chosen as follows: First vice-president, E. C. Orr, Chillicothe; second vice-president, J. W. Mellor, Scotland; third vice-president, D. Webb, St. Joseph; secretary, G. C. Marquess, Lexington; treasurer, R. G. Sanders, Maryville; sergeant-at-arms, F. O. Klass, Kirksville; door-keeper, L. Harshman, Poplar Bluff; chaplain, E. D. Graham, Mexico; trustee, three years, M. A. Dempsey, Cape Girardeau; trustee, two years, Hamp Rothwell, Columbia; trustee, one year, H. J. Baine, Trenton.

Will Spend \$100,000,000.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Approximately \$100,000,000 will be expended by the various iron and steel companies in the Pittsburgh district for new plants in 1910. Of this amount \$15,000,000 will be expended by the Jones & Laughlin Steel company; \$55,000,000 by the U. S. Steel corporation; \$6,500,000 by the Republic Iron and Steel company; \$15,000,000 by the various smaller concerns, and \$6,000,000 by the Bethlehem Steel company.

Car Mangles a Corpse.

Chicago, Illinois.—Matthew Jallo, driver of a hearse part of a funeral cortege, was probably fatally injured, the corpse which was being conveyed to a cemetery was hurled from the vehicle an dangled beneath the wheels of a street car, and the lives of the motorman and street car conductor were threatened by angry members of a funeral, when a North Avenue car crashed into a hearse at Lincoln street. The conveyance was completely demolished.

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