WEB AROUND JESTER

MARVELOUS WORK OF THE PROSECUTION IN GETTING EVIDENCE

EXPENSE WAS NO OBJECT

An Army of Pinkertons and the Best Legal Talent to Be Found Employed—The Most Remarkable Murder Trial in History and the Manner in Which It Has Been Conducted.

PARIS, Mo., Oct. 28.—Alexander Jester, who was indicted on Tuesday for the murder of Gilbert Gates in 1871, was arraigned today. He entered a plea of not guilty, and, in the presence of the court, signed an affidavit alleging prejudice against him in Monroe and Marion county and asking for a change of venue.

One of the most mysterious and sensational murder cases in the history of the United States has been on trial in Paris, Mo., during the past two weeks. It is the case of Alexander Jester, accused of the murder of Gilbert W. Gates, and John W. Gates, of Chicago, the former president of the Illinois Steel company, and now president of the American Steel and Wire trust, is the brother of the murdered man.

The case abounds with material that would have delighted the heart of a Poe, or a Gaboriau, and which, for dramatic incident, far transcends the efforts of fiction. The great age of Jester—he is eighty; the time that has elapsed since the disappearance of Gates—twenty-eight years ago; the fact that Jester was denounced and arrested on the information of his own sister; the remarkable story of this woman's search for her brother, in order to obtain revenge for his having, years before, thwarted her in a love affair; the position of Jester when arrested, a well-to-do resident of Shawnee, O. T., where he bore an assumed name and enjoyed the confidence and respect of the entire community; the great work of the prosecution, in obtaining and preparing evidence, and the acumen and patient delving, which, after the lapse of twenty-eight years, prepared an almost perfect case against the prisoner; and, lastly, the prominence of the legal talent employed to assist the state, W. S. Forrest, of Chicago, and ex-Gov. Charles P. Johnson, of St. Louis, having been engaged by Mr. Gates to assist T. P. Rodes, prosecuting attorney of Monroe county, Missouri, and his brother, Joseph H. Rodes, of Sedalia, a lawyer thoroughly acquainted with Missouri's criminal statutes; all these make the case one of unparalleled interest and importance.

AMAZING PIECE OF WORK.

By far the most astonishing and interesting thing in connection with this celebrated case is the tremendous effort put forth by the prosecution in working up the evidence against the accused. It has been a matter of amazement, not to laymen only, but to the legal profession as well, that after the lapse of twenty-eight years such a mass of evidence, so thoroughly digested and so lucidly presented, could have been gathered. In order to make this clear, a brief story of the crime is necessary:

Gilbert W. Gates left his home in De Kalb county, Illinois, in August, 1870, for Kansas. He was then eighteen years old. He drove a pair of bay horses to a wagon, was accompanied by a shepherd dog, had several suits of clothes and underclothes, a breech-loading rifle, an open-faced silver watch, and a peculiar gold chain. He reached Kansas safely, and remained there until about the holiday time, when he started for home with the outfit. At Fort Scott, Kan., he fell in with Alexander Jester, who was bound to Indiana, and who drove a team of gray horses, and had a buffalo calf in his wagon. The night of Jan. 24, 1871, the two outfits camped near Middle Grove, twelve miles from Paris, Mo. The next day Jester was seen driving one team and leading the other. The body of a man, who was at the time supposed to be intoxicated, was lying in one of the wagons, and, later in the day, witnesses, who were over the route of the wagons, saw a trail of blood back to the camping ground, where the dead shepherd dog was found, he having been shot. The direction Jester was going would bring him to the Mississippi river, and the prosecution claims that he cut a hole in the ice and thrust Gilbert Gates' body into it.

THE SEARCH FOR GATES.

The parents of young Gates at last became alarmed at not hearing from him, and began an investigation. His movements were traced accurately until the 25th of January, and then the circumstance of Jester having possession of his outfit and being bound for Indiana led Mr. Gates Sr. to trail the latter. He was finally traced to a point near Richmond, Ind., but when Mr. Gates arrived there Jester had gone. He found that Jester, who had formely lived in that vicinity and who had borne a bad reputation, had been there a short time before, but had left, and taken with him for the West a brother-in-law named Street, and his wife, Mrs. Cornelia Street, and seven children. They were bound for a place about eighteen miles north of Wichita, Kan., near a point now called Valley Center, Kan.

Mr. Gates went back to Wichita and got a warrant for the arrest of Alexander Jester for the murder of Gilbert Gates. With the warrant and a deputy sheriff he visited the ranch of Alexander Jester and found only his wife at home. His wife said she expected her husband home in a day or two, as he had been off to Indiana. Mr. Gates talked about buying the farm and said he would call again. Next day he rode up with Sheriff Walker, of Sedgwick county, and the deputy sheriff, and as he got in sight of the house he saw his son's two horses just being turned out. Arriving at the home, the sheriff arrested Alexander Jester, and as soon as he put the handcuffs on him the first remark Jester made was: "Oh, yes, I bought Gilbert all out."

Mr. Gates found either on the person of Alexander Jester or in his possession his son's silver open-faced watch and gold chain and the rifle above described, two shirts and one pair of trousers made by the boy's mother, and a hat, which latter he recognized on the head of one of Jester's nephews, who had returned with him from Indiana.

JESTER ESCAPES FROM JAIL.

Jester was indicted in the October or November, 1871, term of the Monroe county court at Paris for murder in the first degree. Jester asked for a change of venue, which was granted, and he was removed to Mexico, where he broke jail Jan. 18, 1872, with several other prisoners. He had not been heard of since until his sister, Mrs. Cornelia Street, last June, wrote a letter to the sheriff of Wichita, Kan., telling of his whereabouts, and his arrest followed.

The magnitude of the task before the prosecution was appalling. John W. Gates called in the Pinkertons and intrusted to them the work of getting evidence. Since Jester was arrested last June these men have been going over, as with a fine tooth comb, the country over which Jester and the boy together, and Jester alone, traveled in 1871. Not a scrap of evidence was allowed to escape. They traveled in vehicles, on horseback, and even on bicycles when other means of transportation failed them. Rain, shine or melting heat made no difference to them. They gleaned the testimony these witnesses could give under oath. Then other men were sent to interview them and to transcribe their evidence. Where a witness had moved, they located him, and his statements were obtained, and if it was valuable his attendance at the hearing insured.

All this testimony was typewritten in this city by stenographers in the employ of the Pinkerton agency. It was written in "half measure," leaving half the paper as a marginal space on which the lawyers could write their comments as to the method in which the evidence should be adduced in court, or as to supplementary evidence needed to make the primary evidence most efficient. There are tomes upon tomes of these transcripts.

Every day these reports of the operatives gathering evidence were sent in triplicate, one to Gov. Johnson in St. Louis, one to Attorney Forrest in Chicago, and one to Rodes Bros. in Paris. These attorneys digested and arranged this evidence as it came to them, and made suggestions as to the best use to which the evidence could be put to tell the complete story of the crime charged against Jester.

"Every modern appliance for the collection and transmission of the evidence was used," says Mr. Forrest. "Nothing shows better the great advance from that time to this than the way the preliminaries to the case were handled. The attorneys conferred by telegraph, telephone, and letter. When the operatives finished their preliminary work they had wound around Jester a complete chain of circumstantial evidence, absolutely without a flaw. There were no eyewitnesses to the killing. Otherwise the case was complete.

"Not even the Gateses have an idea of the strength of the case we have. It is without a flaw in its consecutiveness. Facts make a strong rope."

JOHNSON'S HISTORY OF CASE.

After all the evidence was in, Gov. Johnson wrote out a complete history of the entire case, beginning with the leaving of home by Gilbert Gates in August, 1870, to the escape of Jester from the Mexico jail in 1871. In the margin of this detailed story, beside each statement, the name of each witness who could testify to it was given. This statement, which required a month for its preparation, was dictated by Gov. Johnson to his stenographer in St. Louis and prepared in triplicate. This statement is additional to the statements of each witness' testimony.

A single instance will show the energy of the operations of the lawyers. Thomas Rutledge, the man who is said to have seen Gilbert Gates' blood, was in Sullivan county, Missouri, whither he had removed from the vicinity of Middle Grove, where he was living in 1871. He was sick abed, weak with age and infirmity, when the case opened at Paris. His family physician absolutely prohibited his getting out of bed or his attendance at the hearing. H. F. Clifton, a Pinkerton man, went to his home and brought down the witness, his wife as nurse, and the family physician, all together. It cost hundreds of dollars, but the expense was not spared.

Rutledge was one of the most damaging witnesses the state has yet hurled at the defense. He testified as to Jester's actions just after the disappearance of Gates; to seeing Jester drive along the neighborhood road with two wagons, one covered, which Jester was driving; the other open, which was driverless. He told of Jester's uneasiness when he appeared, and of his sister observing a prostrate human form in the front wagon.

The state also prepared an elaborate map of the neighborhood where Gilbert Gates disappeared. It shows every small curve in the road, and all the places which figure in the tragedy are marked with red ink. All the attorneys traveled over the Middle Grove vicinity before the trial to familiarize themselves with it.

The gigantic work done by the state's attorneys was also shown in the arguments for the admission of testimony. They had anticipated that the defense would try to exclude the letters written by Gilbert Gates to his parents before his disappearance. These letters were no longer in existence, but they contained important evidence tending to show that Gilbert Gates was on his way home. They could only be introduced in the testimony of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Gates, parents of the missing boy.

The state's attorneys had prepared court rulings on some fifty similar cases, in which testimony showing the antemortem intention of the deceased was admitted.

EVERY PRECAUTION TAKEN.

Another curious precaution which the state's attorneys took was to put the evidence given at the preliminary hearing in such shape that it could be used at the final trial before a jury in the form of depositions. The witnesses in the case are all old and feeble and may die at any time, and the state's attorneys are not going to allow death to make any more breaks in the record than it has already made. All the evidence was transcribed as soon as possible, a relief of stenographers being supplied for this purpose. Then it was read to the witness, and if any corrections were needed the witness was recalled, re-examined on the defective points, and re-cross-examined. Then the witness signed the statement and the court attested it.

The leading hotel at Paris, Mo., is the headquarters for the state. Every room in the hostelry is occupied. In some rooms two and three witnesses bunk together. They come from all parts of the country, from Dallas, Tex., to Biddeford Pool, Me. The Pinkerton agency did the work. Not only did they trace the witnesses over the intervening twenty-eight years, but they saw that they came to Paris, Mo., at the proper time, and, more than this, they are now guarding these witnesses from the public with as jealous care as that with which Sheriff Clark is guarding Alexander Jester. They are not allowed to discuss their testimony with any person not connected with the state. Let a newspaper man approach one of them, and in a second a Pinkerton man forms a third party to the interview.

"You'll have to get an order from the lawyers," they say. "I'm only doing my duty, you understand, but you can't talk with the witness."

Jester's attorneys, Patrick Cullen and J. S. McIntyre, both Missouri men, feel they are badly handicapped, and charge that the Pinkerton men have done more than simply to round up the witnesses. Attorney McIntyre, when the case opened, asked the court to exclude the Pinkertons from the room, but this the court refused. His bitterness toward the detectives led him to make the following statement "It is evident to me from the deportment of witnesses and the character of the evidence as given by them, inasmuch as it fits with such great regularity into the testimony of other witnesses excluded from the room, that coaching has been done, and it is equally evident to me that the coaching must have been done by the head of the Pinkerton service in this case, who has rounded up the witnesses and has supervision over them even now."

And Jester, the little dried-up old man, against whose life all this formidable preparation has been made, how does he take it? Apparently without fear or indication of weakness. He does not ask pity. He has a worried look, but it is not the worry of yielding. His face is unyielding, unrelenting. His jaw is screened by his beard, but it is a bulldog's jaw, and without a tremor. His nerve is something phenomenal, especially so in view of his age and physical feebleness. He has even been able to extract some enjoyment from his trial, and once, when one of the witnesses against him told the court of a series of exhibitions Jester had given of his ventriloquial powers in 1871, the entire court room was convulsed with laughter, the gray-haired prisoner laughing as violently and loudly as any one there.

Jester is a man of deep religious convictions, his belief, however, being somewhat like that of the fanatical roundheads who fought with Cromwell. The terrors of religion seem to have more attraction for him than its beauties. He quotes the Bible fluently and has evidently been a close student of it, but the passages in it dealing with the wrath of God and a future state of punishment in which the devil and a lake of brimstone and everlasting fire occur are the ones most ready to his tongue and most frequently quoted. Drinking, gambling, smoking and chewing he condemns as bad habits and has none of them. Card playing he believes is not intrinsically a wrong more wrong than checker playing, but it should be shunned, he says, because an appearance of evil goes with it.

Beware of Overfeeding.

When cow's milk is fed to babies with enfeebled digestion it must be largely diluted with warm water. Overfeeding is the frequent cause of infantile dyspepsia.

SENSATIONAL INCIDENTS IN THE CAREER OF ALEXANDER JESTER.

TRAVELING WITH GILBERT GATES IN 1870.

ARREST OF JESTER FOR THE MURDER OF GATES.

ALEXANDER JESTER AS HE APPEARS TODAY.

JESTER'S ESCAPE FROM JAIL IN 1872.

JESTER LAUGHING AT EVIDENCE IN THE MURDER TRIAL.

FAMOUS CARD SHARP

LOUIS HOUCK, WHO HAS JUST DIED, HAD A LONG CRIMINAL RECORD

HAD TO FLEE TO EUROPE

Traced Through the Country by Detectives, and Finally Captured—He Had Played Cards With the Prince of Wales and Others—Well Known for Many Years Throughout Ohio and Indiana.

HARTFORD CTY, Ind., Oct. 28.—The news of the death of Louis Houck has been received here from Durango, Mexico, and recalls the adventurous career of a man known the world over as "the three-card monte king." Houck had traveled the world over and two or three winters of late years were spent in this city and other parts of the gas and oil fields where big games were played.

Houck was only one of the many American gamblers who enjoyed the distinction of having been feted by the aristocracy of England and having defeated the Prince of Wales at baccarat. The story of his life is hardly an instructive one nor adapted to the use of Sunday school superintendents in pointing a moral or adorning a tale. But it is interesting as the history of a man who was at the head of his class the world over, who was charged with murder, relentlessly hounded by detectives, captured and sent to prison; was paroled and pardoned; was a member of some of the most exclusive and fashionable clubs in this and foreign countries, and who hobnobbed with royalty scarcely a year after his release from the penitentiary, where he served part of a sentence for an atrocious crime. He gave the "glad hand" to the scions of European kingships and dealt "short hands" from a "cold deck," as a friend tersely put it.

Houck was an Indiana product of which the state was not proud. He was a native of Connersville, born and raised in a Christian family and his early life was surrounded with every influence which should have tended to develop the better qualities of his nature. He attended a common school and what little education he had was gained there. Incidentally he also learned the mysteries that lie concealed in a deck of cards. He soon became an adept and rapidly became the most feared and most expert man in gambling and "three-card monte" in the country.

TAKES TO THE ROAD.

From the card sharp of the plebeian kind he became a "train man." He traveled on railroads carrying plenty of wealthy passengers, and every now and then a victim would fall into his net. Then he changed roads, but never for a moment did he abandon his business. He never got into trouble until he was going from Toledo to Columbus, O., on a Hocking Valley train. Paul Lohman, a traveling man, had been inveigled into a game of cards and the victim discovered he was being fleeced and grabbed his money. In the struggle which followed Houck drew a revolver to protect himself. In some manner, Houck always claimed accidentally, the gun was discharged and Lohman was killed. The train was nearing Delaware, O., and Houck ran from the car and leaped at the first street crossing. An attempt was made to stop the train, but just off from the street crossing there was a long and high trestle, at the other end of which was the station. Houck's confederate also rushed for the car door, but by the time he reached the platform the train was on the trestle and it was too high to risk a leap. He was trapped and turned over to the officers. He contended that Houck had fired the fatal shot and he was convicted of a minor offense only and served less than two years in the penitentiary. Before Houck was recaptured his confederate died.

After leaping from the train at the street crossing Houck went to the Big Four station and there boarded a north bound train, which had just pulled in. On it he escaped to Cleveland and thence to Canada. A large reward was offered for his capture by the Delaware county commissioners and many detectives took up the scent, but it was John T. Norris who persisted in the trail and finally captured him two years later after a chase that will live in the criminal annals of the country for many years.

FLEES TO EUROPE.

From Canada Houck went to Antwerp and remained in Belgium and Holland for some time, as there were no extradition treaty in effect between these countries and the United States at that time. He went to the countries of North African and remained for some months at Tunsi, Algiers and Morocco. From Africa he went to South America and finally drifted toward the isthmus, through Mexico and lower California. He gradually grew bolder, though always remaining near the line, and frequently crossed over into the United States. Norris never lost sight of him, and when Houck became more fearless Norris went to Southern California determined to capture him. Houck was surrounded by friends, for he was a good "mixer," and his friends were loyal. Norris was standing by a telegraph office window when one of Houck's friends entered and wrote a telegram. When the message was clicked off Norris, who understands telegraphy, read it. The message was sent to a town only a few miles away, and to "Doc Davis," Houck's assumed name. It read: "Look out. Ohio is here."

The message had scarcely been sent when Norris approached the operator and said:

"Where did I send that message?"

The operator told him and Norris quickly replied:

"I have made a mistake in the address. It should go to ——," and he named another town. The message was recalled and sent to where Norris had directed, while he left at once for the town in

LOUIS HOUCK.

which Houck was and arrested him. Houck was too surprised to make resistance, and he accompanied the officer peaceably. He was brought back for trial, admitted the killing, but claimed it was unintentional. While everyone who knew Houck believed this true, as he was far too smart a man to kill except as a last resort, he was sentenced for sixteen years.

FAMOUS LEGAL STRUGGLE.

His trial was one of the greatest criminal battles of Central Ohio, and he had the benefit of the best legal talent that money could produce. Among his attorneys were Maj. Blackburn, of Cincinnati, and T. E. Powell, one of the Democratic candidates for governor of Ohio, who was defeated by Gov., now Senator, Foraker. After the sentence his faithful wife took up her residence at Columbus and went to work to secure his release. Notwithstanding she had the opposition of the judge who presided at the trial, the prosecuting attorney and the jurors, she succeeded in bringing enough influence to bear to secure a parole for him after he had served seven years in prison. On plea of having an opportunity to engage in the lumber business at Connersville, this state, he secured a full pardon. After a short time here his old inclination to rove again took possession of him and he started out again.

He was an accomplished linguist and spoke five languages fluently. He could carry on conversation in Hebrew, and it was a favorite trick of his to assume the character of a Jew. While he was in hiding in Southern California, after the murder, he appeared as a wealthy Jewish merchant who wintered in the South for his health. He was made a member of one of the most exclusive Hebrew clubs of that section, and he was never suspected. When he was arrested his friends flocked to his assistance and would have placed large sums of money at his disposal. He only laughed at them, admitted his identity and went back to Ohio to face his fate.

After his release he abandoned "three card monte" and gave his attention to poker. As has been stated, he was a man of exceptional attainments, and his travel and acquaintance gave him a polish that made him an acceptable member of the most exclusive clique of blue-blooded aristocracy. He gained membership in the Fifth Avenue club, New York; the Jockey Club of the City of Mexico, the Royal club at Cape Town, South Africa; the Wanderers' Club of Johannesburg, South Africa; the Travelers' Club of Lambeth, England, and the Grosvenor Club of London.

PLAYS A GAME WITH WALES.

It was at the latter club that he encountered the Prince of Wales and his exclusive set. It was his particular delight to relate how he got the prince in a baccarat game and "skinned him." It was one of his boasts that he never played a game of chance or took money from anyone who was not able to lose it. He said he had never taken a cent from a wife, widow or children. Houck was never a dissolute man and drank only when it served his purpose. He remained absolutely loyal to his friends through all his adversities, and no man ever had cause to reproach him if Houck considered him a friend. Money borrowed was scrupulously repaid and favors granted were never forgotten. After his return from England he traveled under his true name, L. Erricson Houck. He continued to travel, and finally died far away from his family and friends. Versatile, gentlemanly, determined if need be, always suave and courteous without a hint of subserviency, he might in another business have enrolled his name high on the rolls of his country's fame. As it was, he was a man to be feared by those who fell within his toils.

His wife still lives at Columbus, O., and his three sisters—Mrs. Fayette Martin, Mrs. M. W. Philabaum and Miss Maggie Houck, of Richmond—survive him.

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THE PLYMOUTH

Seventh and Robert Streets. The Old Clothing Corner.

QUEER AUSTRALIAN TRIBES.

Totem Customs of the Yaraikannas of North Queensland.

London Times.

Prof. A. C. Haddon, F. R. S., gave a very amusing account before the British association of some of the totem customs of the Yaraikanna tribe of Cape York, North Queensland.

In opening, he remarked that the Yaraikanna were fairly typical Australians in appearance; six men were measured with average height 5 feet 4 inches, and cephalic index 74.7. A lad was initiated by his mawara, apparently the men of the clan into which the boy must subsequently marry; he was anointed with the "bush medicine" in the hollow of the thighs, groins, hollow by the clavicles, temples, and back of the knees to make him growl, and the bull-roarer was swung. In the Yampa ceremony the initiates (langa) sat behind a screen in front of which was a tall pole, up which a man climbed and caught the food thrown to him by the relatives of the langa. Then the bull-roarer was swung and shown to the langa; lastly, a front tooth of the langa was knocked out, with each blow the name of a "land" belonging to the boy's mother or of her father was mentioned, and the land the name of which was mentioned when the tooth flew out was the territory of the lad. Water was next given to the boy, who rinsed out his mouth and gently emptied the water into a palm-leaf water vessel; the clot by its resemblance to some animal or vegetable form determined the ari of the lad. The ari appeared to be analogous to the manitu or okki (or "individual totem" of Wazer) of the North American Indians. After the ceremony the boy was acknowledged to be a man. The Okara ceremony, among which may be noted that children must take the "land" or "country" of their mother, that a wife must be taken from another country, and that all who belonged to the same place were brothers and sisters.

SMOOTH FACES AND BEARDS IN POLITICS.

In the time of George Washington the cleanly shaven face was the accepted type of the political man.

There have been a few exceptions to the rule since then, but a review of our presidents shows that the majority of them have had smooth faces.

Martin Van Buren wore whiskers; Zachary Taylor, John Adams and John Quincy Adams small "siders." But to offset these exceptions there appear among the smooth faces Thomas Jefferson, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James K. Polk, James Madison, James Monroe, John Tyler, W. H. Harrison, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce and Andrew Jackson.

Then, after Abraham Lincoln, U. S. Grant, Rutherford Hayes, James A. Garfield, Chester Arthur, Grover Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison, all of whom wore beards or mustaches, comes William McKinley, who, with his smoothly shaven face, brings back the old custom.

Bryan also has a smooth face, and Thomas B. Reed has shaved off the mustache which he wore for many years.

Former Senator Arthur P. Gorman is smoothly shaven, also ex-Gov. William J. Stone, of Missouri.

On the other hand, there are a number of possible candidates for the presidency who have not yet adopted the custom of Webster, Clay and Calhoun.

Gen. Funston wears a full beard. Dewey and Roosevelt still cling to the mustache.

It is a curious fact that the different professions seem to have distinctive customs of wearing or not wearing beards or mustaches.

The actor, necessarily, is smoothly shaven.

Lawyers vary somewhat as to their hirsute adornment, but the majority wear mustaches.

Military men adopt a shapely pointed beard or goatee, or simply a mustache.

Musicians are prone to cultivate a mustache with long, pointed ends.

Physicians, strange as it may appear, as a rule wear a beard of some description.

It would seem that the beard might be a means of carrying germs from bedside to bedside, but the doctors apparently forget the germ theory in reference to their whiskers.

In the case of young doctors the beard is often the sole distinguishing mark of wisdom which they possess, and is assiduously cultivated.

LACK OF LIGHT

Said to Be Producing Weak-Eyed Officers at West Point.

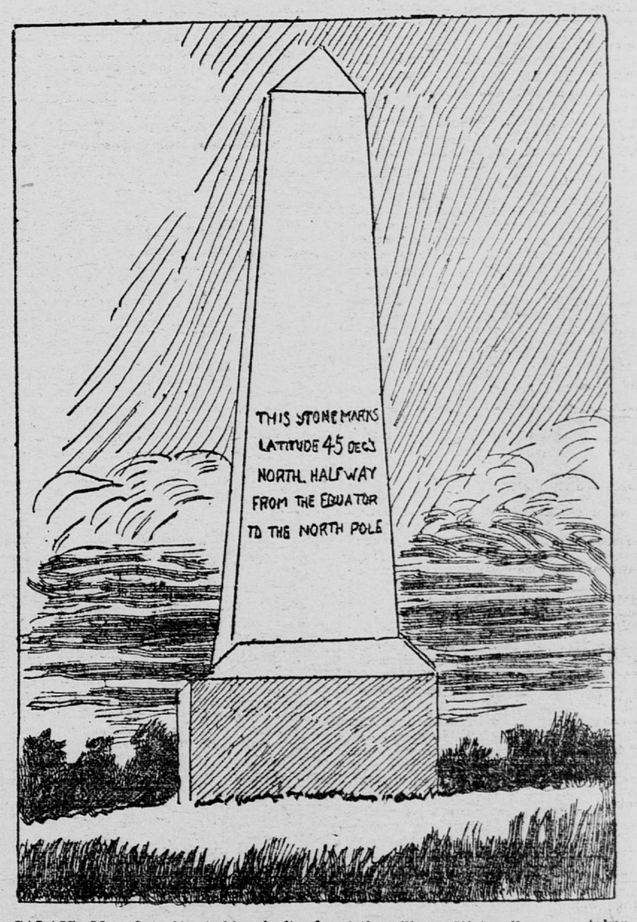
Brooklyn Eagle.

There is danger of the average American army officer of the future being a weak-eyed soldier, and unless congress provides for the big military school at West Point on a more liberal scale than in the past a majority of the lieutenants to be graduated from there in the next few years will suffer from defective vision. This is all because sufficient light is not supplied, due to small appropriations of money for the support of the academy. In a report to the war department Maj. J. M. Banister, surgeon at the cadet hospital, states that the prevalence of eye strain among the cadets was a source of trouble last year. "I have during the last scholastic term," he says, "examined the eyes of 18 per cent of the cadets to detect and correct errors of refraction, which were responsible for severe eye strain. Being a specialist in ophthalmology in my private capacity, I have corrected these ocular defects, and all of these cadets except three have been enabled by the use of glasses to continue their studies. The three cadets excepted were suffering from such condition of hyperaesthesia of the retina that they were unable to use their eyes and were granted sick leave. I am of the opinion that the lighting of the cadet barracks is at fault. Each room is lighted by three gas burners, a central Argand burner and two lateral ordinary burners, suspended above the table placed in the center of the room. I believe that one Welsbach burner, with green porcelain shade in a stand, on the table in the form of a drop light would give a far better light than is furnished by the three burners now in use, and would be a great preventive as regards eye strain."

Sexes Politically Equal.

In Iceland men and women are in every respect political equals. The nation, which numbers about 70,000 people, is governed by representatives elected by men and women together.

EQUIDISTANT FROM THE POLE AND EQUATOR.



CALAIS, Me., Oct. 24.—A big shaft of granite will soon be erected by the government of the United States at North Perry, a village about twenty miles from this town. The purpose of the erection is to mark the geographical spot which is midway between the north pole and the equator. On the stone is the inscription: "This stone marks latitude 45 degrees north, half way from the equator to the north pole." The shaft will rise near North Perry's solitary church, and will be the most curious sight in the vicinity. The people of the village—500 in all—are so taken by surprise that they can discuss little else than the oddity of the government's proceeding in so distinguishing their settlement. The North Perrians are not precisely men of science. Most of their time is devoted to working in lumber camps and guiding parties of hunters, and perhaps not one of them has ever dreamed he has been living in a town built upon such a site. On the day of the "unveiling" North Perry will take a holiday and celebrate its new honors with a picnic.

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