

**Taft Moves Heaven and Earth to Reduce Weight**



New Haven, Conn., Sept. 26.—Hon. William Howard Taft, one of the most illustrious of America's living ex-presidents and just now a "school ma'am" at Yale university, has announced to the anxious world that he still weighs 250 pounds.

To the cold-blooded political economist this information can mean nothing more than a bit of additional proof that the high cost of living has not yet cast its dreadful blight over the lives of our ex-presidents. But to those who know Colonel Roosevelt's old friend personally, the news carries with it only the darkest elements of pathos.

For Mr. Taft has tried, oh, so hard to get thin. The world will never know, because Mr. Taft has generously served. He has cut out candy and sweets altogether.

He has put the ban entirely on all sedentary games and indulges only in the most strenuous sports. Physicians as well as friends have warned him against playing such quiet games as tiddle-de-winks, solitaire and marbles. It is pointed out that while tiddle-de-winks develops the muscles of the fingers, the game never has gained a reputation as the enemy of obesity.

Chasing street cars is said to be an excellent exercise. Spanking unruly scholars at Yale has also been recommended as a good fat-reducer.

Mr. Taft doesn't mind being fat so much, but it has been necessary for the university authorities to have all the doors of the rooms in which the ex-president teaches enlarged. To have been the cause of so much extra trouble is said to have given Mr. Taft much pain.

West African religion is particularly generous to the human beings, to each of whom it allots several souls, four being the usual number. Only one is immortal, however. The others, though troublesome enough during the owner's life, cease to be at the same time as the body. They are the shadow soul, the dream soul and the bush soul. One soul seems more than many of us can manage, but the poor African has a bad time between the four of them. He never knows when some enemy may plunge a knife into his shadow, thus causing him to sicken and die, or when his bush soul, which takes the form of an animal, may rush into danger and get hurt, and, as for his dream soul, that is particularly troublesome, as it wanders from his body during sleep and runs the risk of being caught by witch traps. When this happens its place is often taken by a nasty stranger spirit called a "sisa," which seems to have no other object but to cause misfortune and sickness to the being who forms its temporary habitation.

Most of the tribes have the idea of an underworld after death, neither heaven nor hell, but much like the existing world, only dimmer. Among the Tschwi tribes this idea is well defined. Their shadow world has a name—srahmanday—and they even know the way to the entrance, which is across the Volta river. This place has its markets, its town and its interests, but everything is felt in a more indistinct way.

**231 AMERICANS ENRAGED WHEN LEFT BY STEAMER**

Queenstown, Sept. 26.—After stunning Queenstown harbor, presumably concurring in the Cunard line's boycott of the port, the White Star steamship Olympic sailed for the United States at 6 o'clock last night, leaving nearly 250 enraged Americans in town to await another vessel.

After the Olympic sailed arrangements were made to provide passage for all the Americans and the mail on the Adriatic, sailing today.

New York, Sept. 26.—W. W. Jeffries, passenger manager of the White Star line, said last night the failure of the Olympic to call at Queenstown harbor was due to weather conditions. The Olympic in future, he added, will make Queenstown a port of call as heretofore.

All the news all the time—The Argus.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Packer of Montezuma, Iowa are visiting Mrs. Packer's sisters, Mrs. William Whisman and Mrs. Myron Stockberger.

Miss Marjory Feige went to Monmouth Tuesday.

Miss Izora Lee went to Champaign Monday to resume her studies at the State university.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Halstead visited at the homes of C. B. Halstead and A.

**HAMLET**

Meat For Jurymen.

At one time it was the common duty of both the plaintiff and defendant in an action to provide refreshments for the jury empaneled to try it, and from this arose the practice (which survived until 1870) of denying them "meat, drink or fire" while deliberating upon their verdict. Later on it became usual for the person in whose favor the verdict was given to offer the jury a dinner and sometimes a guinea or so for their trouble. This practice led to so much abuse that it was found necessary to pass a law prohibiting it.—London Graphic.

**THEY PUZZLE GREAT MINDS.**

Simple Words Too Profound For Human Understanding.

Q.—Can there be two kinds of infinities or two infinite spaces?

A.—The writer of this question must decide. The nearest star is distant twenty-five trillion miles. Write a row of units 111111... to the star and let each unit represent one mile; then the distance represented by a line of 1's, twenty-five trillion miles long, submerges all human powers of imagination. But write a row of 2's, twenty-five trillion miles long; then the number of miles represented would be twice as great. Then write a row of 9's, twenty-five trillion miles long, and the distance expressed would be nine times as great as that represented by the 1's.

But no human can think of the distance expressed by the 1's. Let the first row of figures extend twenty-five trillion or fifty or a thousand trillion miles to the east; then a row could be extended toward the west. Many millions of years would be required to write the long rows. Suppose that you write 9's both ways during a thousand million years each. Then the distance in miles would be thinner than a spider's thread when compared to an infinite distance.

There are possibly fifty persons now living able to think one new thought. They are the mighty of the earth, and are all transcendent mathematicians. Not one of these even tries to begin to think of infinity or eternity. They all know better. Only the superficial strive to think of the two words, so my questioner must answer his own question, for I cannot even hope to secure a glimpse, lasting a thousandth part of one second, of the meaning of one of the following list of words: Mind, space, time, duration, infinity, eternity, beginning, end, space and electrons.—Edgar Lucien Larkin in New York American.

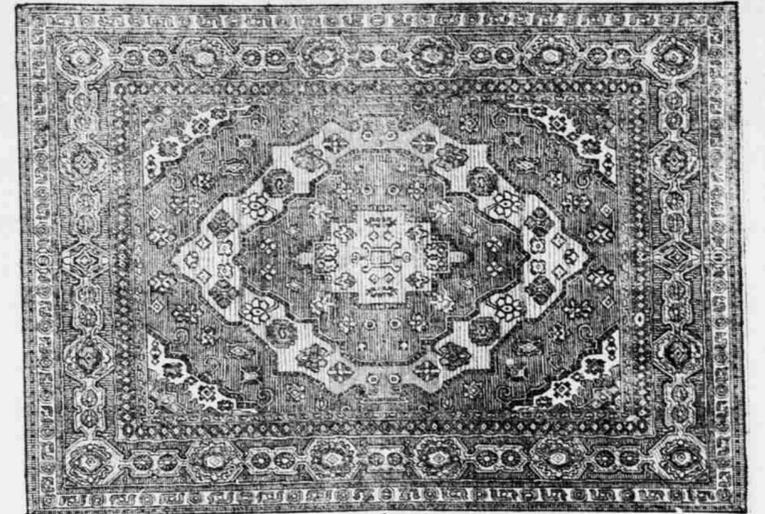
**FOUR SOULS EACH.**

Curious Beliefs of the Savages of West Africa.

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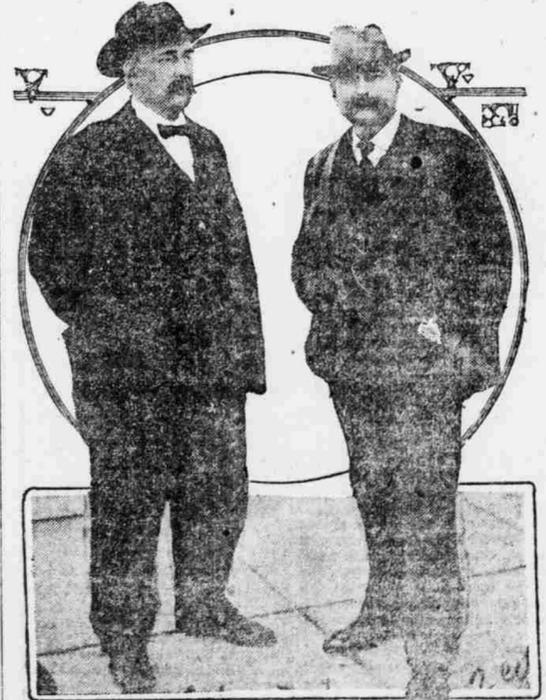
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**GATELY'S**

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**MERRITTS, LOSERS TO ROCKEFELLER, ON THE ROAD TO ANOTHER FORTUNE**



Duluth, Minn., Sept. 26.—Alfred and Leonidas Merritt of this city, makers and losers of millions, who created a sensation two or three years ago by testifying before the Stanley steel investigating committee that John D. Rockefeller and his associates had "done" them out of their rich holdings on the Mesaba range, may be on the road to another fortune. An 80-acre tract of land near Deerwood, Minn., on Range 28, which they recently purchased for \$1,200, it is now learned contains valuable iron deposits.

The present estimated value of the property is \$500,000.

The Crane & Ordway Co. of St. Paul obtained the property in question on a judgment from L. W. Sherlund of Brainerd, Minn., the foreclosure having been executed in 1907. In 1908 J. F. Greenman, a St. Paul attorney, believing the ground to have a prospective value, offered the company \$2,000 for the 80 acres, but his offer was refused. For several years thereafter the land lay idle. Mr. Greenman later having resumed negotiations

with the Crane & Ordway Co., who offered the property for various sums between \$1,000 and \$2,000. There were no bidders.

Mr. Greenman meanwhile kept the land in mind, constantly making inquiries about it, so he finally decided last fall that he would take a chance on it, and an offer of \$1,000 net was accepted. Mr. Greenman says he believed he could get his money back and took a chance on the speculation. "One rainy day, when things were dull," he says, "I learned Leonidas Merritt was in Indianapolis, so I went over and sold him the tract for \$1,200, and was glad to get that price. I had gone to big expense to make the title absolutely clear and had frequently had prospectors look it over. The only satisfaction I got was that it was good for nothing but farm land, as it was not on the range."

"I took up the matter with several steel companies, but none of them would consider a purchase, nor would they consent to drill it for me. I therefore was convinced that the property was worthless for mining purposes."

Operations have been going on frequently of late at Range 28, and the understanding is, as the drills have not been removed, that the tract will be mined and that a big steel corporation will undertake the work of uncovering its hidden wealth. The name of the owner of the land could not be ascertained at Deerwood, where it also was said the result of the "discoveries" there have been kept under cover. It was said the Helmer Exploration company and another concern had charge of the drilling.

L. P. Ordway of the Crane & Ordway Co., said when an offer of \$1,500 first was made on the property he opposed the sale and advised that the company retain possession, at least until some investigation had been made.

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