

# Red River Prospector.

RED RIVER, - - NEW MEXICO.

The last annual silk crop of China was estimated at 21,000,000 pounds weight. Of this total more than 60 per cent is consumed in China.

In the electric cars and railway waiting rooms of many cities the boards of health have posted notices, forbidding, under heavy penalties, the unwholesome and nauseous practice of spitting on the floors. But have the authorities ever looked into a smoking car?

The honor of being made an earl cost Lord Roberts, as it costs every new-made peer of high degree, thousands of dollars in fees. Nevertheless, hosts of Englishmen, and probably not a few plain American citizens who esteem themselves—while not under temptation—good republicans, would gladly pay the price.

The municipal government of St. Petersburg has appointed a commission to study the question of sanitary workingmen's homes. The city, with its marshy surroundings and its liability to overflows, is regarded as unhealthy at best. The evil is aggravated by the use of the privy of rooms beneath the overflow line.

William Dickerson, an engineer, living at Chelsea, Mass., is the moving spirit in an organization of fifty or sixty men and women of that part of the state who say they are descendants of Oliver Cromwell, and as such entitled to a share in the division of more than \$25,000,000, which, they have been assured, has been lying for generations in the Bank of England.

The sound of the woodsman's ax may soon be a thing of the past. In the forest of Potter county, Pa., a machine is to be tested which is claimed to be capable of peeling bark, cutting down trees and then transforming them into logs. After being fastened to a tree the machine will peel it from the ground to the branches, then cut it down and saw it into the required lengths.

Boys who "work their way" through college often hit upon odd ways of turning an honest penny. Girls in similar circumstances also appear to be resourceful. Several Hadcliffe students are earning their college expenses, or a part of them, by tending babies. They receive from twenty-five to fifty cents an hour, and are acquiring information not obtainable through the regular curriculum.

Five years ago when Alfonso White-man of Williamsport, Penn., died, his family was surprised at the smallness of his fortune. They were sure he had more money, but could not tell where, a few days ago, Charles White-man, a son, was rummaging about the attic of his home, when, in the secret apartment of an old trunk, he found, tied up with red tape, a package of government bonds, to the amount of \$40,000, evidently placed there by his father.

Other holidays commemorating events of the past: Arbor day speaks for posterity. John Frederick Oberlin, the famous Arian pastor, would not permit the peasant boys and girls to come to communion until they had planted at least two trees in their rock-strewn valley. Had the great educator of a century ago lived on the present site of Chicago the university of that city might not to-day be paying \$5,000 for transplanting a single row of big elms to its campus.

The British foreign office, it is said, is not disturbed by the speeches made in the senate on the Nicaragua canal question. "They are dismissed with the remark that treaties cannot be abrogated without the consent of both the contracting parties." "Cheer up," said the lawyer to his client; "they can't put you in jail for that." "Maybe they can't," replied the victim through the bars, "but they have." Whether treaties "can" be abrogated or not, we know of one that will be.

An application to congress for an appropriation of \$10,000 has been made by Secretary Hay as a preliminary step to the entertainment in Washington next December of the international congress which considers the protection of patents, trade-marks and other industrial properties of a similar nature. An article of the convention concluded in Paris in 1883 provides for the periodical revision of the agreement. The last conference was held last December in Brussels. The arrangements for the conference include the gathering from the various parties to the convention and the distribution of the suggestions for amendments, all of which must be completed at least six months before the meeting.

The University of Chicago is said to have been chosen as one of the nine institutions which will select the candidates for the Nobel prizes. The other eight are the Universities of Berlin, St. Petersburg, Vienna, Rome, Leyden, London, Paris and Zurich. M. Nobel was a Swedish millionaire, who left a large legacy for prizes to the greatest benefactors of humanity. The prizes go to the greatest discoverers in physical science, chemistry and physiology; also to the author of the greatest literary work of idealism and to the greatest promoter of peace.

# Current Topics

## Andrew Carnegie's Wife.

Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, wife of the great philanthropist, has been his ablest helpmeet in all his projects to do good to his fellow men. It was, in fact, through his benevolent work that Mr. Carnegie met his wife. She was Miss Louise Whitfield, daughter of John Whitfield of the importing firm of Whitfield, Powers & Co., and she and her future spouse became acquainted through a philanthropic plan in which both were interested. Miss Whitfield was an heiress in a small way. She possessed \$50,000.



MRS. ANDREW CARNEGIE.

which she was using in charitable work. She had also beauty, good humor and health. The king of the steel industry had known her sixteen years before her marriage. After that happy event Mr. Carnegie's immense fortune was at the disposal of his wife for her benevolent activities, and these, though obscured by her husband's prodigality, have been, nevertheless, useful and extensive. Mr. and Mrs. Carnegie have one pretty daughter.

## The Baseball Season.

The annual parley of the baseball managers has come to an end in both leagues and within a few days the ardent patrons of the sport will be shiveringly watching the opening spring games from the bleachers. In view of the situation which developed last season, the experiences of the year should be of unusual interest as indicating what is to be the status of baseball in the future. Two leagues are again in the field competing for players, and in some cases competing also for patronage, with conflicting dates in the same cities. Whether the interest in baseball in these cities is to wane or increase would seem to rest largely upon the success with which the managers keep the clubs in those cities near the top of the list. However much the public may have some to regard any one organization as representative of professional baseball, the first consideration will be the game itself. Whether or not two leagues are desirable, now that two have been formed let the aim on both sides be to put up the very best kind of game possible. Rattling, closely contested games will accomplish more than the baseball magnates could hope to achieve by any amount of diplomatic maneuvering before the opening of the season.

## Handy Bundle Carrier.

Here is a handy arrangement for the school children or even older students to and from school, and it might also be useful in carrying other articles besides books.



Its principal feature is its simple method of adjustment around a package or pile of books. The device is mounted on a flat strip of wood, and consists of a metallic handle, with a rotary winding spool and a long cord. One end of the cord is affixed to the winding spool and the other end, after it has been passed around the bundle, is inserted in the aperture in the opposite end of the base. The winding spool is loosely mounted on the handle, and is provided with a ratchet device, which will lock it when the cord is wound tightly. Before finishing the task the handle is released from the end opposite the drum, and by turning it partially around, rewinding the cord a little further and then returning the handle to its socket an extra reef is taken in the cord, which affords a strong grip on the bundle.

## The Kaiser in a Shiver.

Dread of assassination has unnerved many a chief of state, but the fear-some irritation now shown by the German emperor was hardly to be expected from a man of his heroic pretensions. Even if the assault which has thrown him into chills and fever had been of a most sinister and dangerous character it would have been his part to maintain an appearance of self-poise and dignity, and considering the nature of the incident it should have been ignored entirely. A boy whistling over the smart of a snowball is about as impressive a figure as the grievous monarch in his present state.

## California's Redwood Parks.

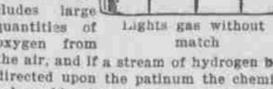
The state government of California has decided very wisely to purchase the redwood grove in the big basin, Santa Cruz county, and has set aside \$250,000 for that purpose. This grove is well located for a show place and contains some magnificent specimens of the redwood, one of which is more than twenty feet in diameter. Northward in San Mateo county there are forests of a similar character, and the work of destruction in that region and in the region still farther north beyond San Francisco Bay emphasizes the need of immediate action to prevent the complete obliteration of a splendid and unique possession which should certainly be cherished by the state.

## Tramp Corporations.

A revised corporation law went into effect in West Virginia a few days ago. That state still hopes to compete with New Jersey in the business of creating large corporations for purposes of state revenue. The new law places no limit upon the capitalization of a company, but it requires the payment of a license fee and an annual tax, each of which varies from \$20 to \$1,010 on corporations ranging up to \$4,000,000 capitalization, with \$50 extra for each added million. The most undesirable feature of the law is found in the fact that the state does not hold the corporations it creates to account. It creates them and turns them loose on other states.

## Automatic Gas Igniter.

The illustration shows an internal and external view of the automatic gas lighter recently patented. It is very simple in its construction being formed of a mixture of bone-ash and platinum black. It is well known that platinum black occludes large quantities of oxygen from the air, and if a stream of hydrogen be directed upon the platinum the chemical combination of the two gases takes place with sufficient energy to raise the temperature of the platinum black until it becomes red hot, or sufficiently hot to render incandescent a platinum wire placed over the slot of the gas burner. Formerly these igniters have become inefficient in a short time, on account of the atoms of one of the ingredients coalescing with those of the other, when the atoms are too closely connected to occlude oxygen at the ordinary temperature with sufficient rapidity to heat the platinum wire. However, this inventor claims to have discovered a process which will overcome this difficulty. To accomplish this result the bone-ash is heated to a high temperature to purify it and is then mixed with water and platinum black to form a paste, which is subjected to a high degree of heat in a mold of the required shape. It is then ready for connection with the wire which forms the igniter.



Lights gas without match

## Was a Staunch Methodist.

Rev. Dr. Arthur Edwards, a prominent figure in Methodism for twenty years past and editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate, died at his home in Chicago the other evening. Dr. Edwards had distinguished himself as a clergyman, soldier and editor. His best years were spent as editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate, in which capacity he wielded a wide and powerful influence in the affairs of the Methodist Episcopal church and was a potent factor in molding Methodist policy. He was a deep student, and through his early training had a much more intimate knowledge of the practical affairs of life than the average clergyman. This



DR. ARTHUR EDWARDS.

gave him a bond of sympathy with the laity, with whom he was always popular. Because of his ability and grasp of affairs he was chosen to serve as a member of the principal governing bodies of the church. His knowledge of questions of church history was profound. Dr. Edwards was born at Norwalk, Ohio, Nov. 23, 1834. When he was 7 years old his uncle, a lake captain, adopted him, and he went to live with his foster father in Michigan.

# TREELESS QUESSANT.

IT GETS ITS WOOD FROM AW-FUL FORESTS.

An Island Off the French Coast That Is One of the Most Deadly Traps for Ships in All the World—Traveler's Experiences.

Far out in the Atlantic ocean, off the northern French coast, almost due west from Brest, lies a great rocky island that is one of the most deadly traps for ships in all the world. It is the island of Quessant, the notorious Ile de l'Espouvante, the island of terror. Bare, without a tree to break its monotony, it lies in the path of the ships seeking the English Channel. If they steer too far north the hundred shoals and reefs of the British coast open their jaws for them. If they sail too far south Quessant reaches for their bones. Bleak and far away from any other land as the island of terror is, it still has its population. What mysterious thing it is which attracts that population and makes it cling? The infrequent visitor sees funny flocks of little sheep, scarcely twice as large as hares. He sees small herds of rough-coated ponies, almost as tiny as the sheep. These are the only signs of productive industry to be seen. There is fishing, of course; but fishing can be prosecuted better from the mainland, with less risk and a more convenient market. What is the mysterious attraction, then? So asked Alexander Shuette, the traveler, recently when he made his way from the coast of Brittany to Quessant. The answer came, at least in part, one evening when a great storm swept in from the Atlantic and beat at the shores with unexampled fury. He says: "The daughter of my hostess led me up the narrow staircase to my room. As I ascended I noticed without remarking the oddity of it at the time, that the staircase was of shining oak. I was ushered into my room, a large, low chamber, completely paneled from top to bottom. Putting the lamp on a huge oak table that shone like a mirror, she said:

"If you should need more firewood, monsieur, you will find it in the next room. Do not spare it. It is bitter cold, and there will be more than enough firewood in Quessant in two or three days. Goodnight." I sat down before the blazing fire and prepared for a cozy evening. The storm raged in the narrow streets of the little village. The surges thundered against the granite breast of the coast like endless artillery fire, and sometimes I imagined that the very island trembled under the onslaught of the hundreds of millions of tons of water. As I sat listening I gazed into the flames. The wood struck me as strange. And then I wondered. On the entire island there is not a single tree. And yet I had been told not to spare firewood. "There will be more than enough in two or three days." I arose and opened the door into the next room. That room was possibly twenty feet high and was filled almost to the top with timber. First with wonder, then with growing awe, I gazed at the piles of wood. Truly, she was right, the little maid, when she said that one need not be economical with firewood on the island of Quessant. There were timbers of every shape—splintered masts and spars, planks from decks and sides, remnants of a steering wheel, benches from the forecabin, yellow, black, brown, white and red woods; even two figureheads; some bright, as if they were new; some crusted with shells and hung with seaweeds. In the entire room there was not a piece of wood that did not come from some wrecked ship. The heavy carved chairs, the polished oaken table, even the bed in which I was to sleep, all came from shipwrecks. Now I understood the meaning of the word 'strand rights.' In favor of this island, far away from the world, and murderous for the ships that tie the world together, Aeolus with his Bride of the Winds is more fruitful than is Ceres to the mainlands with her harvest moon and her Blessings of Fruit. The Blessings of Quessant come from the gale. The forests of Quessant! Are there such others in the entire world, so unique, so terrible? This forest, instead of trees, has the mighty masts of ships. In that tremendous forest are the oaks and pines of Canada and Maine, the cypress of Florida, the baobabs of Africa, the teak of Hindustan, the ebony and sandal woods of South America. The awful forests of Quessant form the visible apex of a vast cemetery that stretches from New York to Cape La Hague."—New York Press.

## THE SPANISH GIRL.

She Has None of the Freedom American Girls Enjoy.

The Spanish girl has none of the free and happy times our girls enjoy after emancipation from the drudgery of the school room and before the cares of womanhood begin, says a Madrid correspondent. All Spanish girls are convent bred and their education consists very largely in learning to embroider, which is an art in which they excel. At 14 or 15, or even sometimes at 12 years old, they make their debut in society and are considered marriageable. Girls of 14 and boys of 16 frequently marry, but divorce is unknown in Spain. If a husband and wife cannot agree they separate and live apart.

The "new woman" as we know her is unknown in Spain, and though the ladies of that country are often graceful and clever horsewomen, the bicycle is only just beginning to make its way among them. Not only is there among gentlemen a prejudice against cycling, as not being a graceful accomplishment, but their natural indolence makes them prefer to be carried on horseback to having to exert their muscles to propel a "bike."

As a rule Spanish girls take a considerable interest in dress, and though they have a great love of bright colors they contrive to wear them so they are becoming. Spanish women have greater need of care in the matter of dress than have English women, for they fade so much sooner. They come to maturity far earlier than their northern sisters, and, perhaps on account of their earlier marriages, at 40 they often have lost every vestige of youth and beauty and are perfect old hags.

## War on the Prairie Dog.

There is trouble ahead for the prairie dog. It is proposed to begin war upon the little fellow and try to drive him from the western plains. This tricky, interesting animal is accused of many offenses, chief among them being that he kills the grass and ruins good grazing land. Poison is one of the means suggested for ridding the prairies of eastern Colorado and western Kansas and Nebraska of this exceedingly active animal, and it may be that in a few years instead of the great prairie dog villages that the western traveler sees as he speeds across the country the only specimen to be found will be in cages or in public parks.—Chicago Record.

## A Gist of Sentences.

The salvage of the ancient sculptures from the sea, off Cythera is now about finished, writes an Athens correspondent, and the spare rooms of the ministry of public instruction are literally filled with statues more or less perfect, and with fragments to be gradually pieced together. When this work has been completed Athens will possess a collection of ancient Greek sculptures excelling all others in the world put together. The city is full of tourists, for whom the recovered statuary is the common center of interest.

The emigration of Irishmen to Great Britain for harvest has been steadily increasing for the last three years.

# THE "KID" AND HIS "GANG."

Brave Act of a "Tough" in Saving a Baby.

It was not a long procession or a pleasing one, but it attracted much attention. There was a policeman in the lead. Beside him walked a stocky, bull-necked young fellow in a yellowish suit of loud plaid. His face was bloody, and his right wrist encircled by the bracelet of the "twisters" which shackled him to his captor. The face of the policeman was also bloody and his clothes were torn. Behind these two walked three other patrolmen, each with a handcuffed prisoner. The "kid" and his "gang" had been caught in the act of robbing a saloon, and the fight had been lively, although short. The prisoners had been taken to the detectives' office, and photographed and registered for the rogues' gallery. They were now on their way to court, and thence, in all probability, to jail. At Broadway there was a jam of cars and heavy trucks, and the procession had to wait. Nobody has been able to tell just what happened, but they all agree as to the essential points. First, the bystanders saw a streak of yellow, which was the kid; then a streak of blue, which was the policeman. The prisoner had wrenched the twister from his captor's hand, and made a dash across the tracks. The policeman, thinking of course, that he was trying to escape, had followed. Then everybody saw a little child toddling along in the middle of the track. A cable car, with clanging bell, was bearing down upon it with a speed which the gripman seemed powerless to check. The baby held up its hands and laughed at the sound of the gong. On the other side of the street a woman was screaming and struggling in the arms of three or four men who were trying to keep her from sacrificing her own life to save that of her child. Then the kid stood there with the child safe in his arms, the steel twisters hanging from his wrist. He set the baby down gently at his feet, loosened the clasp of her chubby hand on his big red fist, and quietly held out his wrist to the policeman to be handcuffed again. He had had one chance in a million for his life when he made that desperate leap, but he had not hesitated the fraction of a second. Jacob A. Rills was among those who saw the splendid deed. If he felt the need of any encouragement in his fight with the slums and his war upon influences which convert young men like the kid into "toughs" before they are twenty, he must have left that Broadway crossing with new hope and a more determined spirit.—Youth's Companion.

# FAVOR PANAMA CANAL.

It Could Be Built for Less Than the Isthmian Route.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record says the final data of the Panama and Darien commissions has been complete for a considerable time. The commissions will verify the conclusions of the international Isthmian commission as to the entire feasibility within the range of present engineering practice of the Panama canal, which it will say can be completed at less cost than that for which the canal at Nicaragua can be built.

## Woman Conductors.

A correspondent says: "Nearly all the train conductors in Valparaiso are now women. The change from men is said to be a satisfactory one."

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