FIELD OF SPORT.

Killing Bass With Giant-Powder Cartridges.

George Dixon Will Refuse to Fight Under the "No-Contest" Rule—An Athletic Club on Its Last Legs.

The Sportsmen's Protective Association met last evening at Ixora Hall, with Dr. Leek in the chair.

It was reported that several young men who reside near Guerneville, in the vicinity of Russian River, have been killing black bass by means of giant-powder cartridges, and that the attention of the Fish Commissioners was called to the fact. The bass at the present time are caring for their young and one cartridge can do more havoc to the fish than a hundred fishermen.

H. Battu and W. A. L. Miller were appointed a committee to visit the Fish Commissioners at their next meeting for the purpose of learning whether the fish from the State fish hatcheries will be distributed in the natural streams or in the waters which flow through preserved lands, and whether it is the intention of the new board to introduce on this Coast Eastern trout which would thrive in the streams of the near counties which sadly need restocking.

J. K. Phillips was appointed a Director in the place of Twitchell, who resigned.

A LETTER FROM O'ROURKE.

A letter was received yesterday by a prominent sporting man from Tom O'Rourke, who is now acting as George Dixon's manager. It states that when Dixon will arrive in this city his first step will be to talk business with the President and Directors of the California Club. An extract from O'Rourke's letter reads:

I understand that the California Club has a peculiar way of deciding contests between men who have fought themselves to a standstill, and have become consequently physically unable to decide the question of superiority. It may possibly be that Dixon and Willis, who are both clever fellows, will fight until such time as nature will rebel, and then what, might I ask, will be the result? No contest, I suppose. Well, that's just what I will have something to say about. You can depend upon it that Dixon will not sign a "no contest" agreement, and I doubt very much if Mr. Willis will be overanxious to accede to the club's wishes in that respect. We are drawing large houses on the road.

DWINDLING IN MEMBERSHIP.

According to members who recently resigned from the California Club that sporting institution is dwindling in membership very fast. Nearly 200 members have sent in their resignation since the Corbett and Jackson fight, and as the club is not on a very substantial footing financially, many are seriously doubting whether there will be money sufficient on hand in July to pay the purse offered Dixon and Willis.

The Occidental Athletic Club has appointed Billy Jordan master of ceremonies and official referee. The initiation fee will be raised to $10 on the first of next month. About the 15th inst. the gymnasium will be open to members, and Professor Watson and Joseph Acton will teach boxing and wrestling. Slavin and Smith will go into immediate training for their match on the 30th inst.

HAND-BALL CONTESTS.

In the Philadelphia racquet court a special match was recently played between Phil Casey and Dr. Phil Smith against James Dunne Sr. and Bernard McQuade. Ex-Alderman Dunne, in his new tasty uniform of white flannel trousers, striped shirt and dark blue cap, all the Quaker City pattern, looked fit enough to play for a man's life, and his display was of such a high order that even the veteran Nicholas, who had seen all the best players of the time, remarked: "Why, Mr. Dunne can play anybody." Champion Casey's movements were watched with a deal of attention, and the champion seemed to be in exceedingly good humor. McQuade and Smith also played an excellent game. The spectators were quite enthusiastic and applauded every good play. The score was:

Dunne and McQuade	15	21	17	21	21	—95
Casey and Smith	21	15	21	5	12	—74

Referee and marker—John Dunn.

At the Union Ball Court, on Howard street, the following games will be played on Sunday: James Wren and James Kearny vs. John Condon and Professor Kelly, James Dillion vs. J. Daly, Mike Lonergan vs. Mike Leahy, John Condon and Robert Shields vs. James Wren and Professor Kelly. J. P. Kelly has challenged Peter Hutchinson to play best two out of three games for a consideration.

M. Shea, the well-known disciple of St. Crispin, is making the shoes which Riordan will wear in the match against Champion Casey.

During Manager Armstrong's absence A. L. Pennoyer will take the management of the Union Court.

TURNER, THE FOOT-RACE STARTER.

George Dugdale Turner, the famous starter of amateur foot-races, has retired permanently from the position of pistol-firer. Of Turner Malcolm W. Ford writes:

The amateur athletic world will be sorry to learn that Mr. George Dugdale Turner, the celebrated pistol-firer, has decided to retire from the field of starting races after the intercollegiate games on May 30th. All athletes who have had the pleasure of starting under him cannot fail to notice his absence at future important games. Turner was always kind and considerate, giving every one fair warning as to what they should do when he had charge of them, and it is safe to say that not a sprinter in the country can be found who will not say he felt perfectly safe in Turner's hands.

Turner's method of starting a scratch race is to have the men stand about six or eight feet back of the mark, when he would tell them to take their marks. The sprinters would then walk up and stand upright with their feet in the positions they would assume when setting. Turner would then say "set." He would hold them until all were steady, and if any one fell over or ran over the line he would order all off the mark, bringing them back of the scratch again, and in a repeat use the above performances.

If there happened to be one competitor who was so restless as to make three or four attempts necessary, Turner would speak to him in a quiet way, assuring him that it would be better for him to keep perfectly quiet, for he would give everyone time to get ready. I used to "set" with perfect freedom and confidence, for I knew no man would beat the pistol.

HOME NEWS FROM ABROAD.

H. A. Rix, the Pacific Coast Athletic Association's representative of the Amateur Athletic Union Central Governing Board, recently wrote to James E. Sullivan, the union's Secretary at New York, as follows: "Scott has resigned from the presidency of the Pacific Coast branch of the A. A. U., and I do not know who will take his place. The Olympic Club building is in progress, and within a few months we will have a fine club-house in which to entertain the boys when they come out here. I hear that next Saturday there will be some record breaking for the Pacific Coast at the Berkeley games in the half-mile run and 120-yard hurdle race."

The Eastern amateur sprinters are adopting the Australian "kangaroo" style of starting. In one of the heats of the 150-yard handicap at the Berkeley athletic games not less than three men started from all fours. Some of the sprinters of the Olympic Club will soon try the new system of getting away.

THE ENGLISH GAME.

Although the English game of cricket has cut very little figure on this Coast for a number of years, it now seems as if it will develop into a leading pastime; that is, judging from the very excellent games that are being played at Kinkuerville and Alameda on Saturdays and Sundays.

On the country ground at Taunton, England, a remarkable cricket match was played between the Somerset and Glastonbury clubs. The Glastonbury men went first to the bat and were disposed of in an hour for 86 runs. The Somersets got 656 runs for nine wickets. The feature was the work done by Nichols, the Somerset professional, who carried out his bat for 311. Going in with the first wicket down, he remained till the call of time at 6 o'clock. His hits included thirty-nine fours, ten threes and twenty-one twos. He took five wickets for 17 runs. Gerald Fowler made 121 and then purposely knocked his wicket down.

RAT-SHOOTING AT CLOSE RANGE.

The well-known auctioneer rifle-shot, William Hinchliffe, has purchased a new rifle especially made for rat-shooting at close range. As a means of becoming quick and accurate with the rifle Hinchliffe recommends rat-shooting. He says that any man who can grass a rat between holes when on a foraging expedition can consider himself on a par with Dr. Carver or Lillian Smith. Hinchcliffe has consummated a match with W. Dolan, which will take place at South San Francisco in the near future. It will be strictly private, however.

The Crown Gun Club of Stockton held its fourth medal shoot at the club grounds on Sunday and the following was the result of the contest: First class—H. Ralph 21, J. W. Edwards 18, H. G. Balkwell 19, C. Merrill 18, C. S. Ralph 16, George Ellis 18, D. E. Williams 15, and George W. Burnett 7. Second class—A. Knowles 17, F. P. Clark 12, J. Douglas 14, F. Mersfelder 11, G. Atherton 10, W. Ditz 9, and George Ditz Jr. 9.

Father Connolly's Picnic.

The picnic of the Sunday-school of St. Paul's parish at Schuetzen Park, San Rafael, to-morrow promises to be largely attended. At a meeting held at the parish residence last night the Chairman of the Prize Committee reported that over one hundred valuable articles had already been received as prizes for games and gate prizes. The Chairman of the Transportation Committee stated that a large number of tickets had already been disposed of. The object of the picnic is to defray the expenses of the large Sunday-school connected with the parish, a work in which Rev. M. D. Connolly, the pastor, has always manifested the greatest zeal and in which he has so well succeeded, as was evident at the entertainment given by his former pupils, the Sunday-school of old St. John's at the Grand Opera House last Christmas, when the "Nativity Play" was produced.

PANHANDLE DISTRICT.

The Supervisors Petitioned for Improvements.

The Panhandle Improvement Club met last evening at the rooms of the Real Estate Exchange on Post street, Dr. C. D. Salfield presiding. In opening the meeting Dr. Salfield spoke briefly upon the subject of needed improvements in the Panhandle District and the best methods of obtaining them. Since our organization, said he, we have accomplished but little. We petitioned the old Board of Supervisors for better police and fire protection and for a better system of street-lighting. To all of our prayers we received the same answers—"funds exhausted." We shall get nothing from this or any other board, unless we make ourselves heard and bring what influence we can to bear to secure the needed reform. Our taxes are higher than in any other portion of the city. The dollar limit only serves the interest of the very wealthy and is in conflict with law, which provides that all property shall be assessed according to its true value. Taxes on unimproved property are altogether too high.

Eleven petitions to be presented to the Supervisors were read and signed by about 125 members of the club. These petitions ask that a school-house be erected west of Baker street and south of Fulton, also, that police and fire protection be granted to that portion of the city within the above-named limits; that Fell street from Lott to Stanyan, and Stanyan from Fell to Fulton be sewered; that Oak street from Baker to Stanyan be regraded to the official line and grade; that sidewalks be constructed on Haight and Page streets from Baker to Stanyan; that Almo square and the surrounding streets be improved; that a better system of street lighting be provided for that portion of the city bounded by Baker, Stanyan, Oak and Frederick streets; that appropriations for the park be increased; that the cow limit be extended to First avenue; that the law requiring property owners to "bulkhead" property to prevent drifting sand be rigidly enforced; that steps be taken to effect the earliest possible removal of the City Cemetery.

A committee composed of Messrs. English, Wilson, Fisher and Haas was appointed to ask the Park Commissioners to remove the fence on either side of the panhandle on the way to the park.

MARINE INSURANCE.

The Difficulties in the Way of the Pool Surmounted.

The new arrangements entered into by the marine insurance companies engaged in the wheat and flour business went into force nominally on June 1st but practically yesterday.

As stated in THE CALL at the time the insurance companies having realized that the rates on wheat and flour from this Coast to Europe had not only ceased to be profitable but insured a continuous loss, decided some months ago to raise the rates. A pool had been actually formed and was going into force when, at the last moment, opposition came from an unexpected quarter, namely, from the agents of several of the large companies who are also wheat and flour shippers.

The promoters of the plan to raise rates had also to contend against the jealousy of the smaller companies who were not successful in securing large accounts. To meet the difficulties and adjust the differences needed time and tact, but the advanced rates have at last been secured by pooling the various interests.

There are sixteen companies engaged in the insurance of wheat and flour risks, and the business has been distributed in proportion to the magnitude of the different companies and their success in securing good accounts. The underwriters have made many needed concessions to the shippers by including a number of ports on the Continent at rates charged for the United Kingdom. These concessions and a slight discrimination in favor of flour have satisfied the shippers, with the result that a pool has been formed and a fair division of the whole wheat and flour business of the Coast has been made. The shippers are now quite in harmony with the plan to raise the rates, and without their consent and approval nothing could have been accomplished. The advance is one-quarter of 1 per cent, which makes the rates in future in force as follows: Iron ships with wheat or flour 1⅝ per cent, wooden ships 2 per cent.

An additional quarter per cent is charged ships sailing from Oregon and Sound ports.

ENGLISH HOP FLY.

A Note of Warning to Growers in California.

Some time ago hop-growers along the Sacramento River noticed the appearance on their vines of an aphis, which they feared was the English hop fly. As soon as the matter was referred to Secretary Lelong of the Horticultural Society he detailed Mr. Craw, entomologist of the board, to make a careful inspection of the Sacramento hop-fields.

He has recently returned with the news that the aphis supposed to be the hop fly is the common grain louse. He also found the cabbage louse and the plum louse in the vicinity of some of the hop-fields, but none on the vines.

In August, 1890, Secretary Lelong received several packages of infested hop leaves from Lane County, Oregon, which proved on examination to be the English hop fly. Communication was at once had with F. L. Washburn, State Entomologist, who visited several regions and urged hop-raisers to destroy all plum thickets, where the hop fly lays its eggs, and from which they spread to the hop vines soon after hatching.

Mr. Lelong suggests to hop-growers in this State to examine their vines, and if aphis is found to communicate with him at once. The cabbage and plum aphis can be easily distinguished from the hop fly. They are shorter and of a darker green color.

SUMMER RACES.

Final Arrangements for the Meet—New Purses Offered.

The Pacific Coast Trotting-horse Breeders' Association have appointed Messrs. Burke, Loeber, McIntosh and Tompkins a committee to secure entries for that portion of the summer programme which had failed to fill. In order to lighten their duties as much as possible the Directors offer the following purses:

A $1000 purse for 2:25 pacing class for the second day, entrance 10 per cent; a purse for road-sters that have been used on the road since June 1st, to be driven by owners, one mile and repeat; also a purse for road teams used on the road since June 1st.

A purse of $1500 for the third day, August 6th, for the free for all pacing purse, Heacock's Adonis to go to a wagon; 10 per cent entrance.

A purse of $3000 for Saturday, August 15th, for the 2:18 class. The terms are 5 per cent for named horses and 5 per cent additional from the winners of the first three moneys.

The Directors decided to hold their fall meeting from October 5th to 17th inclusive. They approved the idea of purchasing the Wallace Register, and ordered a circular to issue calling upon all members of the association to take fifty shares of the stock.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

It Will Close the Year in Splendid Financial Condition.

The Trustees of the Public Library held their monthly meeting last night and authorized the expenditure of $3000 for needed publications of current American literature, as recommended by the Librarian.

This amount, it was found, could easily and safely be spared, as the Treasurer's report showed a cash balance of $12,024 59, notwithstanding it is near the close of the fiscal year.

The Librarian reported that the Potrero branch had greatly fallen off in the last month, only eight new cards having been issued. It was estimated that every book read there cost the library about 30 cents.

The Trustees could not understand this strange condition of things and ordered an investigation, the result to be reported at the next monthly meeting.

The number of books issued during May was 11,305 for outside use and 8454 for inside use; new books, 188; number of visitors, 20,613, of whom 16,798 were males.

Rolling-Mill Man Hurt.

Hugh Chalmers, a young man employed in the Pacific Rolling Mills, was brought to the Receiving Hospital last evening at 6 o'clock, suffering from a scalp wound and a broken shoulder-blade. He was struck by the machine at which he was working. His injuries are not dangerous.

Brutally Beat His Daughter.

Soon after being locked up for drunkenness last night at the Southern Station, Thomas Manning was identified as a man who is wanted on a charge of cruelly beating a sick daughter over a year ago, he having left the city while the charge was pending in the Police Court.

SMELTS ARE RUNNING

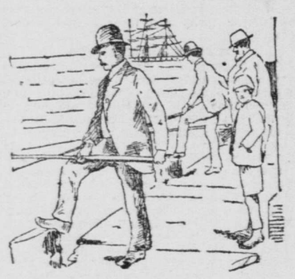
Hundreds of Them Daily Caught on the City Front.

Some Pertinent Pointers for Anglers—When and Where to Fish—An Old Stager's Experiences of Smelt-Fishing.

FISH lies should be, like Cæsar's wife, or an egg, or an oyster, or a shirt-collar, above suspicion. The fishliar must be an artist in his line or he will not succeed. And it is in the department of smelt-fishing that the biggest lies, and the most shameful failures have admittedly been recorded.

Every now and then in the stale, flat and unprofitable season of newspaper life some announcement appears with sea-serpent regularity that the smelts are running in Richardson's Bay to such an extent that if the angler does not steal away from the banks very quietly the fish will follow him home. Records of two, three, and even four pounders, are common. The local professional fishermen read the story, stick their tongues in their cheeks and reap a rich harvest from that class described by Carlyle as constituting the majority of the population of Edinburgh.

The fact is that there are plenty of smelt in the bay all the year round, but at certain seasons they bite more freely than at others, and they have also a marked predilection for the eddies in the neighborhood of a strong rush of water. The eastern side of the San Francisco Bay has of late years enjoyed more patronage than the city side, and large catches have been made from



Expectancy.

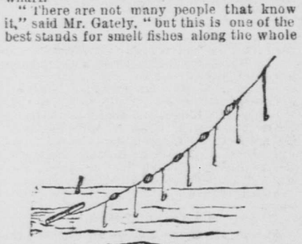
time to time off the fish yard on Kershaw's Island, at Old Sausalito, and at the railroad wharf at Tiburon where an eddy is formed by the tide through Racoon Straits.

But this year the smelt-fishing promises to be transferred to the city front, or west side of the bay, and for the past two weeks the pretty, toothsome, silvery fish have been caught in increasing numbers all the way from the Presidio Wharf to the Mission Rock.

The Long Bridge, formerly a favorite resort of smelt-anglers, has been ruined for such sport by the formation of extensive banks of sewage. The smelt, be it noticed, resembles its congeners of the salmon family in a distaste for foul, muddy water. The moment the blue tint of the bay water gives way to brown or gray, the angler may as well reel up at once and go home. Also it is speedily revealed that the smelt is a surface swimmer, feeding at depths of two to five feet, and, lastly, the angler on the sunny side of the wharf will catch twenty to one against his rival on the shady side.

Patrick Gately, a well-known teamster of this city, is an authority on smelt lore since the days of 1854, when he cast his first line in the waters of the bay. Mr. Gately recently acted the part of Gamaliel to a CALL reporter on Lombard-street Wharf, and imparted in a quarter of an hour more information about smelt-fishing than could be obtained from books in a year. It so happened that the eventful turn of the tide was just then near at hand, so the illustrations were practical. The last of the ebb was running out and every now and then a smelt would be seen wriggling at the end of one of the forty or fifty poles stretched out from the wharf.

"There are not many people that know it," said Mr. Gately, "but this is one of the best stands for smelt fishes along the whole



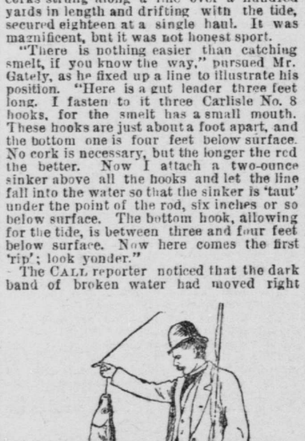
A trolling line.

water-front. I'll tell you why. You see there are three 'rips' of the tide during which the smelts run. One is where the last of the ebb is met by the first of the flood. Look out yonder by Angel Island and you will see a dark line that grows wider every minute. By and by it will sweep right across over here. All this time the water is being pressed up into the bight between this wharf and the Presidio, and for the next hour the smelt will bite livelier every minute if they are going to run at all. No two days are alike. Yesterday I caught thirty in as many minutes right at this spot."

Parenthetically the CALL reporter noticed that several of the fishermen were gathering them in two at a time. An individual who had gotten out what is known as a "float," a foot-length deal stick with hooks and corks strung along a line over a hundred yards in length and drifting with the tide, secured eighteen at a single haul. It was magnificent, but it was not honest sport.

"There is nothing easier than catching smelt, if you know the way," pursued Mr. Gately, as he fixed up a line to illustrate his position. "Here is a gut leader three feet long. I fasten to it three Carlisle No. 8 hooks, for the smelt has a small mouth. These hooks are just about a foot apart, and the bottom one is four feet below surface. No cork is necessary, but the longer the rod the better. Now I attach a two-ounce sinker above all the hooks and let the line fall into the water so that the sinker is 'taut' under the point of the rod, six inches or so below surface. The bottom hook, allowing for the tide, is between three and four feet below surface. Now here comes the first 'rip'; look yonder."

The CALL reporter noticed that the dark band of broken water had moved right



As it looked to him.

across the bay and was now within a quarter of a mile distant, moving shoreward in a crescentic line with the convexity toward the wharf.

"That is the first of the flood; now look out!" said Mr. Gately.

Swift as the flight of the shadow in a solar eclipse, the dark band swept on. Meanwhile every one was pulling out smelts, one two, three at a time; the wharf was alive with fish flopping on the boards. In another minute a perceptible humming sound was heard; the lines were driven back by the rush of the tide, which came on, swash, swash, swash. The fun with the smelts grew fast and furious. The average catch was a dozen to each rod in the next ten minutes, and there were over fifty rods at work. A shriek of triumph hailed the landing of one smelt which honestly measured seventeen inches from eye to fork of tail, and weighed nearly a pound and a half. The average length was nine inches, with a weight of about five to the pound.

Presently the sport commenced to slacken. The shoal had gone on up the bay with the tide.

"We shall have to wait now for the second rip," said Mr. Gately, quietly. "It will be here in about twenty minutes, and is caused by the water from the Sacramento checking the flood tide and forcing it over to this side.

Even while he spoke a second dark band advanced across the bay, and once more the sport grew brisk. Presently there was another "let up," and the smelt-oracle pronounced that the last chance would be on the "third rip." That would come when the flood tide asserted its mastery over the Sacramento. It came in less than half an hour. There was another rush to the rods, which had been fastened down to the piles to look after themselves during the slack interval. Ten minutes more and the smelts had ceased biting again. Half an hour passed, but not another one was caught.

"Its all U. P. now," said the veteran, as he put away his tackle. "Recollect these things. There is just about two and a half hours when you can catch smelt; that is from the last of the ebb till the first of the flood, up to the third rip, when the flood tide runs full and strong. You will catch more in all that time than in all the rest of the day; in fact it's no use to fish any other time. Find out the time of low water, and get down to the place where you intend trying your luck half an hour before then. At the Presidio Wharf it's an hour earlier than here; lower down the bay it's an hour later. The tide is nearly an hour later every day, so that if to-day the first rip comes at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, to-morrow it will be nearly 4, and so on.

"As for bait, spiral worms are the proper things. If you cannot get these try garden worms, or even clams. Never be in a hurry to pull up the line when you get a bite. The smelt is a game fish, and a rusher, and will hook itself if your hook is as small as it should be. Also remember the mouth of the fish is very tender, and you cannot bring it to bank too gently."

It became evident about this time that the fishing was over for the day, so the CALL reporter took his leave of his mentor, and departed.

THAT MANTRAP AGAIN.

A Woman's Narrow Escape From Death on East Street.

Another person went through the death-trap at the foot of Market street at 8:30 o'clock last night. This time the victim was a woman, and only for the bravery displayed by a couple of boys the accident would have been a fatal one. The victim's name is Curley and she is a resident of Oakland, who had come over to this side of the bay to do some shopping.

Miss Curley alighted from one of the Union-street cars on East street, and was going to the ferry in order to take the boat for Oakland. She did not go far, however, before she went head first through the wharf, which is being torn up. She gave one sharp scream as she disappeared, but this was enough to attract the attention of Charles Ke hoe and Jeremiah Sullivan, two boys, who were lounging about the ferry.

They at once gave the alarm and without waiting for further assistance plunged in and succeeded in keeping her head above water until help came, when she was lifted out more dead than alive. Officer Dower, who was quickly on the scene, was about to ring for the ambulance, but to this the woman objected and asked to be taken to her home.

She was helped to the house of Mr. Bent on Clay street, and was soon furnished with dry clothing. She still persisted in going to her home, and was taken across the bay by a CALL reporter. A physician was sent for and the injured woman put to bed. She was hurt about the chest and limbs, and no doubt will be confined to her room for some time.

Miss Curley lost her hand-bag, containing her purse with $27 in it and several keys. This is the third accident that has happened at the same place within one week, and more are certain to follow, as the place is entirely unprotected. Miss Curley and her friends threaten a suit for damages, and say they will make those responsible pay dearly for their negligence.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The United States and Canada have 19,373 newspapers.

Robert Christie, the English champion checker-player, is only 24 years old.

The King of Greece has made $6,000,000 in speculation on the London 'Change.

Willard, Iowa, has a four-legged chicken, and Akron, Ohio, possesses a horned rabbit.

William Virtue, a New York boy, has belied his name by forging signatures to money orders.

A gypsy woman at Nyack, N. Y., recently made an unsuccessful attempt to steal a little girl.

"Old Sport" Campana, the aged pedestrian, has started on a tramp from Chicago to Omaha.

A Brooklyn Police Commissioner has fined a Knight of the Star for chewing gum in his presence.

Hay 32 years old has been found in Wetmore, Md., and is said to be well preserved, bright and sweet.

Of all the Southern States, it is said that Kentucky alone has made no provision for her ex-Confederates.

Sixty million tons of iron ore are in sight around Iron Mountain, Mich; more than can be mined in twenty years.

Diphtheria and scarlet fever have wrought sad havoc in a Detroit (Mich.) family, whose six out of eight children have died within a year.

George Mussulman of Mendon, Mich., has a $300 wager that he can collect 1,000,000 postage stamps in twelve months. He has now 100,000 on his string.

A safe used in the Castle Garden office of the New York immigration authorities was sold at public auction the other day and brought $1. It was empty.

A colored preacher quoted a well-known passage in Shakespeare thus: "As we travel along the road from whence the traveler's bones never return."

At Wellston, O., Joseph Irwin, a respected business man, became violently insane after his marriage. He is in a critical condition and the bride's life is despaired of.

Oroville (Ala.) has a boneless boy. He is 4 years old, weighs 25 or 30 pounds, cannot stand, but can scratch the base of his head with his feet, or roll himself into a ball.

An Atchison (Kans.) Italian makes a good living by traveling from place to place along the river and finding work for his countrymen. They pay him $1 apiece for his trouble.

Feather beds or pillows should never be put in the sun, for the heat draws out the oil from the feathers, giving them a rancid smell. Air them on a windy day where the sun will not touch them.

As a result of the recent conflagration at Allston, Ont., not a dry-goods or grocery store is left in the town. Over 130 business houses were destroyed, and the burned district covers an area of six blocks.

T. E. Crowley, living near Strang, Nebr., was bitten three times by a rattlesnake the other day. He drank half a gallon of whisky and has felt no bad effects either from the snake bite or the liquor.

A Brooklyn candy-store keeps open but one hour on the Sabbath—that following the close of a Sunday-school session—when the proprietor does a thriving business with the youngsters and shuts up shop.

A Paterson (N. J.) woman recently captured a burglar in her room and held him until police assistance arrived. At that juncture her husband emerged from under the bed, where he had been hiding.

A sporting estate in the Highlands of Scotland, which was valued a few years ago at £84,000, was offered for sale ten days ago at Edinburgh, and the reserve price was only £35,000; but there was not a single bid.

A sugar, fifteen times sweeter than that extracted from cane, and twenty times sweeter than beet sugar, is reported by a German chemist from cotton-seed meal. It cannot be sold to compete with the ordinary article.

Ira Morrison, who died recently, was a native of Milton Hill, Vt., where he was born in 1807. During his lifetime he had never been farther from his birthplace than Albany, 40 miles distant. He never rode on a railroad train but once.

Women are the chief enemies of the new-fangled letter-boxes. The objection urged by them is that it is impossible to post a letter in these boxes unless one has both hands free for the purpose, and it rarely happens that a woman out upon the streets has both hands unincumbered.

While James Liddy was riding in an Indianapolis street-car the brake-handle slipped from the driver's grasp and struck a pistol in his breast pocket. A bullet from the weapon killed Liddy instantly. His widow recovered $5000 damages from the car company.

A New Orleans oyster loaf is half of a ten-cent double-pointed loaf of white bread. It is split down one side and then a part of its soft interior is taken out and all the rest is toasted. After that a dozen fried oysters are put in the loaf, and it is closed and has a wedge of toasted bread fitted into its open end.

A new form of water shed is designed to utilize the flow of streams where a dam cannot be constructed, and where the current alone is available. The apparatus consists of a series of wheels shaped like propeller blades, each wheel operating independently, but all connected with a common shaft.

A confirmed drunkard, in his dreams, imagined that he had found a cup of excellent toddy and put it by the fire to warm in order to bring the flavor out the better. But the moment he attempted to taste the delicious draught he awoke. "Fool that I was," he cried; "why could I not have drunk it cold!"

There is a movement on foot to start a printing trades' institute in Paris under the directory of a practical printer, where American and English boys can be taught the trade. Lord Lytton, the English Embassador, patronizes the undertaking, and several members of the American colony are on the Board of Managers.

MEN ABOUT TOWN.

Short Stories Gathered From the Hotel Corridors.

Was Afraid to Take the Risk—Sometimes Costs a Finger—Quite a Distinction. Senators Badly Needed.

"Did you ever stop to think what an awful risk H. Z. Osborne of the Los Angeles Express assumed when he accepted the position of Collector of Port of Wilmington a few days ago?" asked a Los Angeles politician last night, as he leaned over the counter at the Palace and thoughtfully eyed the clerk. "Strange combination of circumstances that," and he thoughtfully shook his head as he proceeded to light a cigar. "Now there was poor Downing, whom Osborne succeeded, who was apparently well and strong when he was named for the place, and he lay down to die. He was the fourth man to die after being appointed to that place under Harrison, and not one of them served his commission more than a few weeks. Funny part of it is that I made a fight for it, and it progressed so far that the President wrote me a letter saying that my name would be presented for confirmation. Just about that time I was seized with an attack of palpitation of the heart, and that settled it. I don't think I am superstitious, and yet the fate of the four Collectors rose up before me and I weakened. I became convinced that if I accepted the place I would follow my predecessors, and so I sat down and wrote my declination. Perhaps I was foolish, but you know how it goes."

Needed a Senator.

"The letting of the contract at Washington yesterday for the construction of cruiser No. 13 recalls the experience of Irving M. Scott in securing the award for the one known as No. 6, which is now being built at the Union Iron Works."

The speaker was a prominent politician, and he had just been bemoaning the fact that California had not been properly represented in the United States Senate for years.

"When the bids were opened," he added, "it was found that Cramp was $14,000 under the Scotts, but in going through the papers Mr. Scott found that his competitors had drawn a pen through one of the specifications. Nothing had been substituted, and Scott saw a chance to make a vigorous protest.

"'Just let me wipe out that specification,' said Mr. Scott, 'and I'll make your vessel $100,000 cheaper.'

"Some hard work was needed to be done at once, and it was decided to appeal to the President. Now what was the result? One of the Senators could have arranged it all, but no Senator was on hand. Senator Hearst, unfortunately, was in Washington, but too ill to leave his bed. Senator Stanford was in Europe for his health, Jones of Nevada was enjoying himself with a party of friends at the Hoffman House in New York, and Stewart was quarreling with the President. In this emergency Mitchell of Oregon was appealed to, and through his efforts the contract came to San Francisco. For nearly ten years Californians have been compelled to depend upon the Senators of other States."

America's First Strike.

"Do you know that this Government had been in existence over fifty years before such a thing as a strike was known among the laboring people?" asked Frank Gassner of Cincinnati, as he leaned thoughtfully against the cigar-stand at the Occidental yesterday. "Yes sir, fifty years, and it was reserved for Ohio to be the scene of the first revolt. It was in 1840, in June, I think, that the employes of Wolf & Co.'s foundry in Cincinnati struck for an increase in pay, and in a few days it spread so as to include all the iron-workers of the city. For more than a month both sides held out, and at the end of that time the laborers succeeded in securing money with which to start a co-operative foundry. They chose a business manager and a superintendent from among their own number, and started out with a great boom. At the end of three years they went to the wall, and after everything was cleaned up they were still $300,000 behind. As each of the incorporators was personally responsible under the Ohio law for the liabilities of the concern, without limitation as to time, every one of the strikers was compelled to leave the State in order to prevent their savings being seized to satisfy their creditors. So ended the first strike."

Longest on Record.

"I spent a few days near Humboldt, Nev., recently," said George D. Evans, who is at the Palace Hotel, "and I saw a field of alfalfa several acres in extent growing out in the desert, and I was assured that not a drop of water had fallen on it, nor had it been irrigated for more than two years. In spite of all this it was growing rapidly, and that too in the midst of a country where a grasshopper would starve to death in twenty-four hours. How do I explain it? Quite a simple matter, but it interested me greatly. It had been supplied with water when first planted from the sink of the Humboldt, but when that became exhausted the alfalfa, contrary to expectation, continued to thrive. Now, strange as it may seem, the roots of the grass had actually penetrated to a depth of seventy feet below the surface and had reached a subterranean lake, whence the moisture was drawn."

Quite a Distinction.

Assemblyman Tim Barnard of Butte County, who is among the guests at the Grand Hotel, has a little niece recently out from Kentucky, who, although but 12 years old, is well up in politics, and inclined to be facetious at her distinguished uncle's expense.

The genial Assemblyman relates that he met his little niece a few day's ago, and she began at once to ask questions about the politics of California.

"Now, uncle," she inquired with all seriousness, "what is a hold-over Senator?"

The matter was fully explained, and after listening patiently she said: "Well, that isn't what we call a hold-over in Kentucky."

"What is the difference?"

"In Kentucky we give that name to any Senator who can hold over a quart and walk!"

Has Been Neglected.

Philo P. Graham, editor of the Middleton Independent of Lake County, is at the Palace. His chief errand in coming to San Francisco was to see John L. Sullivan, but in addition to that he is endeavoring to interest capital in the mines of Lake County. "That section," he said, "has been entirely neglected and yet, strange as it may seem, the southern portion of the county possesses mineral resources that, if once developed, would surprise the people of the State. Near as it is to San Francisco, no effort has ever been made to open up the mines, which are extremely rich."

O'Donnell's Bear.

Dr. C. C. O'Donnell's pet bear escaped from its cage yesterday morning and made a break for liberty and Chinatown. A policeman endeavored to stop him in his mad career, but came off second best in the brief encounter. The animal was captured a few moments later by getting his chain entangled around a lamp-post, and was marched home by his owner. The Chinamen en route were greatly alarmed by Bruin's appearance, and whistles were blown on all sides during his brief visit to the oriental quarter.

Woe! Woe! Unutterable Woe.

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