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FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1904.

A feature of Pennsylvania's agricultural exhibit at the world's fair is a series of cases showing birds, animals and insects destructive to farm crops. The exhibit is made by Prof. Surface, the economical geologist of the state agricultural department. It is said to be the most complete collection of the kind ever brought together.

A lot of people in this country are kicking Mormon Smoot because he has more than one wife, but these same people are throwing up their hats and praying for the success of the mikado of Japan, who also has several wives, or at least he has children that he calls his own, although the empress of Japan is childless. From a Christianity standpoint Russia is not to be compared to Japan.

The cat is out of the bag at last. Some people have been wondering why President Roosevelt's sympathies lean toward Japan. Now we are told that he has taken up the wrestling fad, and has a Japanese expert to throw him about, and in turn to occasionally throw the expert over his head. The president thinks that he is inflicting punishment enough on Japanese subjects in the white house cellar, and so can hardly refuse the balance of the Japs his sympathy.

The boys and girls of the graduating class at the High school, (Torrington) celebrated St. Patrick's day by appearing at the morning session, the boys in high collars painted in emerald green, and the girls with shirtwaists, hair ribbons and belts of green. Superintendent Forbes met the delegation at the head of the stairs and sent the pupils home to change their colors.—Dispatch in Morning Paper.

The general verdict, we think, will be that Principal Forbes did the right thing. The wearing of the green and the stars and stripes, for that matter, is becoming a good deal of a farce on certain occasions. The teacher or the person in charge of pupils should see to it that the school room is not made the headquarters for burlesquers or would-be jokers. The thing is being overworked, and it is high time some one placed a firm hand on the culprits. A Superintendent Forbes was needed in Hartford the past few days.

The rapid increase in the catalogue of sports organized for college rivalry seems to have been checked by the decision reached both by Yale and Harvard to drop basketball after the present season, says a writer in a sporting journal. The reasons given are interesting as showing the attitude of these institutions toward the "minor sports." Harvard takes the ground that there are too many of these intercollegiate teams, the list including rowing, baseball, track events, indoor gymnastics, tennis, hockey, golf, lacrosse, basketball, fencing and shooting, not to mention chess and debating. It is claimed that these teams seriously overlap each other in their playing seasons, some of them diverting athletes whose services would be more efficient elsewhere, and that so few of them can pay their own way in gate receipts that their multiplicity has become a serious drain on the athletic treasury. Basketball has enjoyed such a national popularity that its decline at Yale and Harvard seems surprising. One cause of this decision, however, is that organization and specialization have been carried to excess. No sooner were students keenly interested in the game than it became an intercollegiate institution. This meant a training table coaches, heavy expense. "Trying for the team" then meant the exclusion of many young men who liked to play the game for the fun of it. The standards were too exacting and the amount of time demanded for practice too much for the average student. Nor did he wish to take up the training with the chance of being relegated to the "scrubs."

Speaking of the Bristow report and other postal matters, a writer in a New York paper says that the post office lies under the ban of some logical free traders, such as Gerritt Smith and Herbert Spencer. The late Marshall Jewell, who was postmaster-general under President Grant, told a friend once that the business of carrying letters in this country could be left with safety to private enterprise, as we had passed the point at which it ought to be a source of loss. But there are few who would venture upon that experiment. The country, for public and national reasons, needs to maintain prompt and cheap communication between its people. This is one of the bonds which hold us together as a people. Private enterprise would give us this between the older and more closely settled parts of the country. It would even cheapen the cost of carrying letters for the whole region east of the Allegheny mountains, and maintain it as cheap as it

now is in the upper Mississippi valley. It could afford to give us 1-cent postage throughout the former area, and if competition were allowed, it would be forced to do so. But in the less populous districts, for this very reason, it would have to charge more and carry letters less regularly to their people. To prevent this we have the United States postoffice, and we will continue to have it at least until the density of the population is so equalized as to make it possible for private capital to do the work equally well. That the work of carrying letters is as well managed as is the conduct of private business cannot be said with truth. The single matter of delivering letters sent from either of two cities of great population, which lie but ninety miles apart, to the other, shows this. The trains on the two railroads, which connect them, make the journey in from an hour and a half to two hours time. Yet a letter mailed before noon in either of those cities will not be delivered until late in the afternoon in the other, and frequently not until next morning, as can be testified to from repeated experience. Such are the accommodations secured for over six millions of people in the most densely populated part of the country. What must it be in those where the population is scattered over mountain or prairie?

HEARD IN PASSING

We need air-brakes on Roosevelt and wind shields on Knox.—Memphis News.

Reports from Russia indicate that the diplomats are suffering from an other attack of Hay fever.—Washington Post.

Workmen have begun to tear down the house built in 1771 by Benedict Arnold at New Haven, Conn.—Milwaukee Journal. Give it a saloon license. That's the only way to save historic relics.—New York Telegram.

Up to date the Japs have had 112 torpedo boats sunk by the Port Arthur guns, and the Russians have had 12,000 miles of Siberian railroad blown up. With all his faults the far easterner seems to be playing no favorites.—Denver Republican.

Steel is taking the place of wood in construction. Many freight cars are now built entirely of steel. Steel hopper coal cars are in use on most of the coal roads—huge things larger than the old box cars, holding fifty tons of coal and capable of being rapidly unloaded by means of hoppers in the bottom.—World's Work.

What has long been needed is an explosive of the greatest power and the least element of danger when stored. It is claimed that a perfectly safe explosive has now been found in Jovite which contains the force of nitro glycerine or dynamite, but is not so unsafe to handle. Jovite exploded at 530 Fahrenheit. When ignited in open it burns vigorously, but does not explode. It has never been known as a safe or unreliable.—Norwich Bulletin.

President Roosevelt's order which practically puts all veterans of the civil war over 62 years of age on the pension list, is a bold stroke, but will necessarily be approved by the republican majority in congress, which cannot afford to deprive him of credit for "taking care of the old soldiers." Yet it appears to be stretching the law very much to so construe it, and takes from congress an initiative which both senators and members have been in the habit of guarding very jealously.—Hartford Times.

The Hearst organizer in Connecticut is W. K. Graff. He visited Winsted Friday and entertained at the Hotel Winchester. Mr. Graff assures his hearers that, the democratic party should have abundant "financial backing." The town committee was not fully represented at the meeting, but it was decided to go ahead and start a club. The Winsted Citizen, democratic, closes its account of the gathering with: "Mr. Graff passed around cigars at the close of his informal remarks and everyone enjoyed a cigar on Hearst."—Hartford Courant.

DIETRICH HITS BACK.

Has Promise From Roosevelt to Remove Summers on Conditions.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The president will probably order the dismissal of William S. Summers as United States attorney for the district of Nebraska. He gave this assurance to Senator Dietrich.

Mr. Dietrich wants revenge because Mr. Summers brought about his indictment by the grand jury on the charge of accepting a bribe.

The president told Senator Dietrich that if the senator was exonerated by the senatorial committee now investigating his conduct he would dismiss Summers. The court before which Dietrich was being tried decided that the prosecution could not proceed since the offense, if any, was committed before Dietrich took the oath of office, although subsequent to his election as senator.

H. C. Lindsay will probably succeed W. S. Summers. He is at present in hospital too ill to hear the news of Summers' promised removal. Lindsay is Senator Dietrich's candidate for the office.

LABAREE'S DEATH.

Veteran Missionary and Servant Killed by Persian Robbers.

URMIA, Persia, March 18.—An investigation into the death of the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Labaree, the American missionary, shows that Dr. Labaree, whose son is superintendent of the American mission here, was returning from Kola to Urmia on horseback, accompanied by a servant, when both were found dead by the roadside. Their bodies had been stripped and mutilated and had numerous stabs. The horses and effects of the travelers were missing.

Dr. Labaree leaves a widow and four children. Steps have been taken to discover the assassins.

EXPRESS BUSINESS.

How Wm F. Harnden Originated the Enterprise.

From the first swing of the people toward the open and empty west, one of the chief needs was a safe, speedy and orderly transfer of personal property. Contemporaneous with the early push toward the Pacific, a man arose whose project (soon to encircle the world) was destined to fill this need. This man, whose dream and dead helped mightily to people the vacant west, was William Frederick Harnden, the founder of the express system of America and the world.

The express business seems so indispensable and inevitable a part of our life, so fixed and unalterable a part of our business, that we can scarcely realize the time when there existed no mercantile bank, no ubiquitous delivery system, no ever-ready, ever-capable medium for rendering a thousand unnamable services in fetching and carrying, and in representing us at home and abroad. To get his thought transmitted, to get himself and his goods transferred with celerity and safety, these are large problems of civilization that man has been struggling with since he began to think and to labor.

One hundred and six stage lines ran out of Boston alone, in 1834, and it behooved the promoters of the struggling railroads to conciliate these deposed republicans and jehus in order to make and keep friends with the clamoring people. So stage drivers were generally made ticket agents and conductors and pressed into every other possible service.

Naturally, those who went from the stages to the trains carried on their friendly service, in fetching and carrying along the line. But it was all a matter of accommodation and haphazard, with no record or method. The same sort of errand-mongering was operating on the sea men of both the eastern and the western waters.

The steamer John W. Richmond was at this time plying between Boston and New York. James W. Hale, an employee of Hudson's News rooms, in the old Tontine building, at the corner of Wall and Water streets, New York city, happened to be also the agent of this steamer.

He was in the habit of running down to the boat at the hour of its tri-weekly sailing to fetch out a copy of the news room's bulletin sheet to the Boston newspapers. Certain Wall street brokers, noting his punctual errand, fell into the way of asking Mr. Hale to take to the boat packets of bank notes or coin, with a request to return them to some Boston-bound traveler, to be delivered according to directions. Rather a slack arrangement a broker of to-day would consider this unpunctuated for consignment committed thus to Providence and an unknown west pocket. But no one is said to have refused to perform such an errand, and so to have betrayed such a trust. Yet hundreds of thousands of dollars nearly passed to and fro in this arduous manner, an evidence, it is said, of the nobleness that lies in men, sleeping, but never dead.

Perhaps, however, the oblique Mr. Hale, by his habit of fetching and carrying, was performing something of a service, for in the winter of 1839 and 1840, when Mr. Harnden came to New York, suffering from what we would today call nervous prostration, a momentous conversation took place.

"I am worn out," Hale said. Mr. Harnden, after a sixteen hours day in the Boston and Worcester ticket office, I must find a less monotonous position. What would you think of my doing errands between New York and Boston?"

"I believe," answered his friend, "that a good thing could be made of a parcel delivery between these cities every day. I am rested by brokers to take money and packages down to the Richmond, where in turn, I must personally passers to carry the stuff to Boston. Why not let these gentlemen pay for this service?"

"I have had that in my mind," said Harnden, "and I am going in when I have a chance to get it into effect. I believe I'll try it."

"Go ahead," said Hale: "I'll get you the patronage of a lot of brokers and make for facilities for you on the Richmond."

In a month Harnden was at work between Boston and New York, with a dozen clerks and offices and plenty of business.—Success.

WOMEN'S UNION IN CHICAGO.

From Trades Unions in Petticoats, in Leslie's Monthly for March.

"We have just fifty-one members in our union and twenty-six of them are grass widows," was the startling information vouchsafed by the walking delegate of the "Lady Core-makers" of Chicago. It was at a meeting of the executive board of the Brass Moulders' headquarters to determine whether the Lady Core-makers should run the bar at their forthcoming hall, or whether they should retain the privilege to their brother craftsmen, the brass moulders. The latter, as the debate developed, had offered the paltry sum of \$175 for the privilege. The suggestion was rejected with hisses.

"What's to hinder our own selves from running our own bar at our own hall?" queried one sister.

"That's what I say."

"I move we allow the Gentlemen Brass Moulders to run our bar in consideration of the payment to the Lady Core-makers of the sum of \$800, cash down on the spot."

Transparent umbrellas are a late novelty in London. The substance of which they are made has the color of ivory and its constitution is a secret of the inventor. Collisions are thus rendered unlikely.

Curious Italian Law.

By an Italian law every circus which does not perform every act promised in the printed programme, or which misleads the public by means of pictures, is liable to a heavy fine for each offense.

BRISTOW TESTIFIES

Assistant Postmaster General Explains His Report.

QUESTION BRINGS IN ROOSEVELT

Practically Clears Members of the House From Clerk Hire Charges. Objection Made to Bringing the President's Name In.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow in testifying before the house special committee on the postoffice report claimed for himself responsibility for only the first seven pages of the report which was sent to the postoffice committee and said the other portions of the document were the work of other officials of the department.

The clerk hire section, he said, was prepared in the office of the first assistant postmaster general and that part relating to leases by inspectors and others in his own department.

Mr. Bristow's testimony threw considerable light on all phases of the inquiry. He practically cleared members of congress from the clerk hire section of the report by stating that it was the duty of the first assistant's office to ascertain the condition of the work in an office where an increase had been recommended.

Representative Bartlett (Ga.) asked General Bristow if in determining the three cases which General Bristow had reported himself as "technical violations of the statutes" he had not found it necessary to review all of the cases included in the report. The answer was that certain inspectors—a half dozen—in his office had gone through the lease cases and had selected those where it appeared from the record an excessive rental had been paid without proper reason, and such cases were included in a report which was itself made the subject of an investigation.

"That report was made to you your—?" inquired Mr. Bartlett.

Mr. McCall interrupted to ask whether the report before the committee was not the work of at least some of these same inspectors who made up the original cases which were afterward made the subject of investigation. This was the case, replied Mr. Bristow.

"Do you know whether or not this report came directly from the hands of the postmaster general without going into some one else's hands for inspection or perusal before it was sent to the postoffice committee of the house?" asked Mr. Bartlett.

"I don't know. I have been told, but I have no knowledge of it," answered Mr. Bristow.

"Have you ever had any conversation with the president that would lead you to believe?" asked Mr. Bartlett.

"I don't think you ought to ask that question," interrupted Mr. Burton. "It is not within the scope of our investigation."

"Well," broke in Mr. Bartlett, "we cannot get the president here, and there have been hints in the newspapers about this."

"Ought we not to inquire into whose hands it went?" asked Mr. Richardson of Alabama.

"I understood General Bristow to say he did not know. It would be only hearsay evidence," declared Chairman McCall.

The committee then went into executive session.

The questions of Mr. Bartlett involving the president were not touched on during the executive session of the committee. Chairman McCall said the committee had begun to realize that the task before it was larger than at first anticipated.

The committee adjourned until Monday, when Mr. Bristow will resume his testimony.

Bowery Cheers Helen Gould.

NEW YORK, March 18.—Mission workers in New York cannot remember an occasion when one who was a stranger in all but name ever received such an ovation as was given to Miss Helen Gould last night at the Bowery mission. Wave after wave of applause swept over the 500 men gathered in the hall at every mention of her name. When she finished making a brief address the enthusiasm was tremendous, and as she stepped into her automobile to be driven away, after she had spent two hours in the mission, she was given such hearty cheers as the Bowery has not heard in many a day.

French Opera Company Struck.

NEW YORK, March 18.—The French Grand Opera company of New Orleans, which began at the Casino theater on Monday what was to have been a three weeks' engagement, struck last night after the audience was seated and after one of the hottest rows the old theater has witnessed in recent years left the house in a body. Men and women shrieked and shook their fists in the face of the advance agent, who had been left to brave the cyclone. Several tore their hair and still others wept.

Will Be With His Family.

PRINCETON, N. J., March 18.—Former President Grover Cleveland will pass the sixty-seventh anniversary of his birth at his home here. He said last night: "There will not be anything in the way of what one might call a celebration. I shall be with my family all day."

Mech Wanted; Auburn Got Him.

ROME, N. Y., March 18.—Frederick Weber, wanted in fifteen cities and several states in connection with diamond robberies, has been sentenced by the supreme court here to hard labor at Auburn for a term of not less than four years nor more than five.

Up-to-Date Japan.

The rapid extension of electric car lines in Tokio has thrown over 50,000 jirukisha men out of employment. Shortly before the war there was talk of their emigrating to Hokkaido.

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