

MESA FREE PRESS.

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Your average self-made man is usually made in the first place by his county paper.

If it is money Gen. Funston is after he will spurn all political honors and star in a tank drama.

Some of the larger journals are discussing brain fog. Most of them are reticent on brain fog.

If Siberia is to be dispensed with as an exile center, hereafter in enumerating the world's cruelties that country must be left out in the cold.

That a company has been formed to manufacture airships would show these various failures have not taken the wind out of their sails.

A perfumery trust with a capitalization of \$20,000,000 is being formed in New York. What a lot of watering some of this stock will stand!

Mrs. O'Leary's cow was responsible for the Chicago fire, and a drunken woman upset a lamp and set fire to Dawson City. The gentler sex isn't always to be commended.

Dewey says the only trouble with Hobson is that he takes life too seriously. He takes kissing lightly enough. Just the same, the country will take all the Hobsons it can get and take 'em gladly.

The Pittsburg Telegraph is shocked because Mattie Hughes Cannon, fourth wife of Angus M. Cannon, refers complacently to "our husband." The Telegraph should interview a woman who can speak calmly of "my husbands" and compare characteristics.

The Filipino company admitted to this country under the immigration laws is restricted to acting. Such a restriction placed upon some of the American companies touring the country would force them out of business. It would be beyond their ability to live up to the requirements.

The practical joker who said Emperor William would be assassinated if he went to Egypt has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. Germany may be behind the times in a great many things, but she can give the world several pointers on what to do with practical jokers.

Why should not the penalty for kidnapping be made imprisonment for life? Is there a more detestable crime in the calendar? For nearly every other crime, including murder, it is possible to conceive of some action on the victim's part which while not excusing might mitigate the offense. But not so in kidnapping. The child is incapable of having done an injury to his kidnaper.

Mark Twain has announced his intention of leaving a book of personal recollections behind him which is not to be published until one hundred years after his death. Perhaps he can make this arrangement secure and binding on posterity; and then, again, perhaps the curiosity aroused by the statement will so enhance the price of the books that his heirs may profit largely by the premature disposal of it.

The intensity of feeling manifested in every quarter over the stealing of a 2-year-old baby in New York showed how strong is the reprobation of this particularly heinous crime. No punishment seems too severe for the brutes who will thus expose a father and mother to needless suffering, and the very rarity of the crime and the determination with which the offender is always pursued to prove its heinousness.

A glaring defect of our language is the use of words which sound alike but have totally different meanings. For example, take through and threw; right, rite, eye, I, aye; nose, noes, knows. How a foreigner manages to learn a language full of words sounding alike but having no other relationship is one of the incomprehensible things, and it is creditable to the intelligence and patriotism of immigrants that most of them get a speaking acquaintance with English in a few years, many of them in a few months.

Kidnaper Barrow, or whatever his name may be, seems to be a genial sort of a fellow, with an eye to business that contemplates both the wholesale and retail departments of his profession. We read that it was one of his cherished schemes to abduct a child and then, in the event of a refusal to furnish ransom money, "to mail a portion of an ear or the joint of a finger, with a communication something like this: 'We will continue to return him to you in small quantities, if you so desire, but should you desire to secure him by wholesale we will be ready to negotiate a trade for \$10,000.'" We learn, furthermore, that at one time Mr. Barrow laid bold plans for the abduction of Grover Cleveland, and we have found ourselves pleasantly speculating on the arduousness and length of the task involved in supplying Mr. Cleveland to his bereaved family and friends in sections. However, this contingency is now successfully evaded and Mr. Barrow is where his studies in dissection will be suspended. It is to be hoped that the amiable gentleman will be forcibly impressed with the terrors of the law. This is one of the times when the kind of justice popular in the South

could be resorted to without any overflow of public tears.

Some interesting statistics have just been received from the Province of Quebec concerning the birth rate among the French-Canadians who inhabit that part of the dominion. In France great alarm has for several years existed, owing to the rapidly decreasing birth rate, and it has been predicted that it is only a question of time when the republic will be depopulated if the present state of affairs continues. But the French people in Quebec are not likely to let their race die out in a hurry. The birth rate in that province last year was 38.57 per thousand, as against 20.2 in France and 20.9 in Ontario. The cause of this large crop of babies is easily discovered. There is an old law in Quebec which provides that every man who becomes the father of twelve children shall receive 100 acres of land. Last year 163 French-Canadians showed that they each had become responsible for the necessary dozen and accordingly got their farms. Since 1890 no less than 2,532 such grants have been given, and one industrious old fellow has gone so far as to become the father of thirty-three children in order to obtain 200 acres in addition to the parcel of land which he received when his twelfth child was born. It is thought that this man's exploit will encourage many others to at least try for the second 100 acres that would be due at the birth of a claimant's twenty-fourth child. This system of rewards undoubtedly has advantages that might well be adopted in some parts of the United States. With such a praiseworthy scheme in vogue we might all of us live to see fair numbers of baby carriages pushed to and fro along the boulevards where the cry of a local infant is now seldom heard.

A European ambassador was asked to give the secret of success in a diplomatic career. He replied instantly, "A handsome and agreeable wife." He was himself a successful diplomatist, and his wife was a great favorite at court and in society. The social side of diplomatic life is more important in England than in any continental country. This is because the leading men, responsible for the government of the empire, are constantly visiting at country houses. An ambassador is expected to meet them on their own ground, and to adapt himself to their social requirements. He should be a welcome guest at the country houses where they are entertained. The ambassador's wife becomes an important ally when she is a favorite in social circles. She sits at a state dinner between two cabinet ministers or foreign ambassadors, and before the ladies leave their places comments have been made or facts stated in her hearing or in reply to her own thoughtful suggestions, that may prove of political value. If she is a winsome, attractive figure in the drawing room, and is a favorite with the country house guests, her prestige and popularity increase her husband's facilities for serving the interests of his own government. At court receptions and balls, where all the state dignitaries and diplomats are present, the wives of the ambassadors are on even terms; but there are few of these ceremonious functions. In a capital like London there is gaiety in the town houses during a short season, and the country houses are social centers for nine months. It is in these splendid mansions of the dukes and the earls that friendships are made, and where the men who are governing England are closely approached. Here the captivating woman—charming in person and manner, somewhat familiar with statecraft, and adroit in political conversation—is virtually the peer of the experienced and dexterous diplomat.

CHECK FOR THE SHIRT BOSOM.

This Device Oppresses and Smoothes It Out.

The stiffened shirt bosom so generally affected by the male population has a disagreeable habit of humping itself sometimes, as if making an effort to crowd its breadth between the collars of the wearer's vest. This is not only uncomfortable, but imparts a decided appearance of carelessness to what would be otherwise a very order.



BOSOM CHECK. An arrangement of wearing apparel. A simple means of holding the bosom in check has been thought out by Robert Cluett, of Troy, N. Y., and he has been recently awarded a patent on the same. It consists of a pair of tabs fastened to each side of the bosom, which are designed to fit loosely around the suspenders, being held either by a button or collar button. As there is a plurality of buttonholes the tabs can be readily adjusted to suit any figure. This tab arrangement successfully performs the mission of the single tab sometimes put on the bottom of the bosom, which latter, however, was always regarded as the personification of uselessness.

Found a Fossil Cypress Swamp. During a recent excursion to Bodkin Point, at the mouth of the Patapasco, under the auspices of the Maryland Geological Survey and the Woman's College Museum, a fossil cypress swamp deposit was found buried twelve feet beneath the surface, it having been exposed to view by the action of the waves in wearing away the bay cliffs. Numerous cypress stumps were seen in upright position, with their roots in place, and exhibiting the peculiar "knees" characteristic of these trees. Some of the stumps were of gigantic dimensions, the largest measuring about ten feet in diameter at the top. The stumps, roots and trees are in a surprising state of preservation as soft brown lignite.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS

Important Information Gathered Around the Coast.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

A Summary of Late Events That Are Boiled Down to Suit our Busy Readers.

Neil Gallagher, while riding on a brakebeam from San Francisco, where he had gone to enlist, but had been rejected, had one of his feet badly crushed under a car wheel at Sacramento.

The San Francisco Call says that there is every likelihood that the price of grain bags will rise to a high figure before many days have passed. This is in consequence of a combination made by about fourteen of the large importers and private holders, whereby over 5,000,000 bags have been cornered, or set aside to wait for a rising market.

The report of the Immigration Commissioner for the fiscal year ending June 30, shows that 3776 males and 1040 females were landed during the year at San Francisco. Of the arrivals 1667 were Japanese, 1467 English, 201 Germans, 153 Mexicans, 22 Koreans, 11 Filipinos, 150 Irish, 72 Spanish and 138 Portuguese. They brought with them a total of \$337,754.

San Francisco—The Southern Pacific Company brought suit against a number of ticket scalpers to prevent them from buying, selling or in any way dealing in the excursion tickets issued to those persons who attended the recent convention of the National Educational Association at Los Angeles. The company got an injunction from Judge Troutt against the scalpers.

Mmanuel Jardine of Alameda perpetuates the claim of that town to the ownership of freaks. Like the man in the story who danced and shouted while his uninsured house burned, "because the rats would catch him," Jardine, to free his home of flies, exploded a piece of giant powder. Pieces of the house are found every once in a while, but the flies are doing business at the old stand. It is about the proper time of year to read the green-goods artist has milked Alameda, and that a leading citizen has purchased a gold brick. Jardine is wrapped in rags and grief.

In Oakland they are all torn up over the case of a school teacher who is not a citizen of the United States. It is not known how such a test would affect the Los Angeles schools, but it is certain that a vigorous and effective kick would come if it were known that any man, not knowing the country enough to swear allegiance to it, was permitted to teach in its schools. School book publishers and latent sectional prejudice have so altered modern history as to make it a grave danger to intrust its teaching to one who owes allegiance to the government under consideration and not to the United States.

According to an opinion by Assistant Attorney-General Sturtevant, Mrs. Myra E. Wright, of San Jose, is liable to have trouble in recovering \$60,000 loaned by her to the Union Savings bank of San Jose. The opinion was in response to an inquiry by the State Bank Commissioners. In 1893 and the early part of this year W. H. Wright was one of the directors of the bank, which is now in liquidation. His wife advanced the \$60,000 to the bank, and to secure the payment of the loan the bank directors gave her a deed on the bank property. Sturtevant advises the bank commissioners to inform the officials now in charge of the bank that the Wright contracts are worthless.

LOSES HIS INHERITANCE.

Supreme Court Decides Against Convict Son of Thomas Donnelly.

San Francisco—Thomas Donnelly died intestate in this city in 1896, and the superior court ordered his estate distributed to the widow and three of his children. The court refused to order distribution to the remaining son, James J. Donnelly, because of his having been sentenced to imprisonment for life for a crime. The convict son assigned his claim to his father's estate to Charles J. Stillwell, who appealed to the supreme court for a reversal of the decree.

The supreme court has affirmed the decision on the ground that the man was civilly dead, deprived of all his rights, and could not inherit.

San Francisco—The California fruit shippers have won their fight. The Southern Pacific and Santa Fe proposition to increase the minimum carload from 24,000 to 40,000 pounds has been withdrawn.

LIQUID AIR WILL AID COAST FRUIT SHIPPERS.

Fay Fruit Company has Secured Control of the Stuff in Los Angeles.

Through the efforts of the Fay Fruit Company Los Angeles will be the second in the United States to be the home of a liquid air plant. The other city is New York.

The first particular object that the Fay Fruit Company has in view is the use of this process in its refrigerator car system in the transportation of citrus and deciduous fruits to Eastern markets.

The inventor of the process, Charles E. Tripler, has successfully demonstrated that its utility is applicable in maintaining an even and desirable temperature in fruit cars, and that its use will combine many economic features.

The present methods of using ice and of reeling fruit cars will be sup-

planted by the liquid air, and the space that has been required to store ice will be utilized in extra quantities of fruit. When it is understood that icing a car is equal to one-sixth of the space, the economy is apparent.

Experts assert that the moisture from the melting ice is frequently hurtful to consignments, and as the liquid air expands into a perfectly dry element a desirable circulation is engendered.

F. J. Horrigan, secretary of the Fay Fruit Company, confirmed the fact that his company has completed arrangements for the use of the Tripler liquid air device.

"While the liquid air method is still largely experimental," said Mr. Horrigan, "its utility has been demonstrated, and it is susceptible of so much practical use that we concluded not to let an opportunity pass. We require annually thousands of tons of ice, and as we send upwards of 2000 cars to the east we believe that with the saving in space we shall without increasing our service be able to handle a larger quantity of products. It will take about fifty pounds of liquid air to perform the same service of as many tons of ice. There is not a feature in science, domestic economy or in business that liquid air will not finally reach. The process is now so perfected that it can be made at the cost of a few cents a pound.

FROM FOREIGN LANDS.

Valparaiso, (Chile)—Dr. Allis, president of the American Presbyterian Mission, is dead.

Rome—There was an eruption of Mount Etna. After loud subterranean noises the crater vomited forth dense columns of smoke which were followed by enormous masses of sand. A strong earthquake shock occurred here at 2:30 o'clock and was followed during the ensuing fifteen minutes by a number of other severe shocks.

A mysterious epidemic, which has been prevailing among the cattle on the island of Gothland, Sweden, has spread to the human beings in the district and a large number of patients have been admitted to the hospitals. Some of the cases are extremely difficult to diagnose. Cattle are dying by hundreds.

HANGED AT ST. ALBANS.

London—Despite strenuous efforts to secure a reprieve, including an appeal to the Queen, Mary Ann Ansell, who was convicted of murdering her sister, an inmate of an insane asylum, by sending her poisoned cake, was hanged at St. Albans. The crime for which Mrs. Ansell was executed was committed for the purpose of securing the payment of life insurance money, the murderess having obtained a policy upon the life of her sister, giving a false description.

CANNED GOODS IN ENGLAND.

Regarding American products the London, Eng., Grocers' Review says: "California canned fruits are meeting with a good demand, and some good contracts are being made for new season's goods. There is very little difference to note in prices, as compared with those at present ruling for spot goods, and it is likely as the season advances that quotations will go higher than those of last season. Tomatoes are very slow of sale, and there is practically nothing doing. Gallon apples are meeting with a better demand at late rates."

HAWAII BLOWN UP.

San Francisco—The officers of the steamer Australia, which has arrived, say it would not surprise them to hear that there had been a fearful explosion at the great volcano, and that Mauna Loa is no more. After leaving Honolulu the ship ran into a remarkable cross sea, which the crew thought was caused by a submarine disturbance of unusual force. A bluish vapor hung over the water for days, and a heavy cloud, shaped like an umbrella, came, borne on the winds, from the direction of the volcano. When talking about the eruption of the volcano, Chief Officer Lawless said:

"The afternoon we left Honolulu, the evening papers contained the news that the lava flow was within ten miles of Hilo and rolling steadily. The island steamers were crowded with passengers. Some people were going to view the eruption, and others were going to see how their families and relatives were faring. In my opinion the whole crest has been blown off of Mauna Loa, and if the waters of the sea has found their way into the crater, then the whole island has been shattered. In no other way can I account for the peculiar experience we had after leaving Honolulu."

The Arizona Republican reports the purchase of the Monarch mine, in People's Valley, Ariz., by A. W. Fisher of Los Angeles, for \$20,000.

TREE CULTURE.

There is no subject of so much public importance, locally considered, as forest tree culture, and this particularly applies to Southern California. Here, it is safe to say, the planting of forest trees is more needed than in almost any other portion of the United States. Fertile as this country is, strip it entirely of trees and it would become a desert. If the rain-makers would give their attention to planting trees they would accomplish something worth while. There is no better way to conserve that dampness which insures fertility than by planting and protecting forest trees, and there is no such sure way of converting a country into a desert as by destroying the forests. When Western New York was clad with primeval forests it was penetrated everywhere by the mill stream. Since the original woods have been mostly cleared away these mill streams have been nearly all dried up.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

News of the State, Nation and the World

'Tis said the commercial traveler fears he will lose his grip if the formation of trusts continues.

One fiery fighter will be substituted for another when Joe Wheeler takes the place of Fred Funston.

Washington—Secretary of War Alger has tendered his resignation, to take effect at the pleasure of the President.

The autoists do not know whether to call the machines he or she. We are betting that "she" goes, whether the vehicle does or not.

The stories of wealth brought from the Alaska fields recently are evidence of renewed activity on the part of the transportation companies.

The Shah of Persia, who has but 800 wives, has gone crazy. To the man who has a matter of merely one wife, this does not seem so all-fired curious.

Melba is not coming to this country next season. She must have made an unusually good haul that last trip or nothing would prevent her from appearing in "our midst."

Albany, N. Y.—Mr. and Mrs. John Davis, who are making a trip across the continent in an automobile, left for Amsterdam. Wheelmen by the dozen guide them from town to town.

Manila has only one small brewery, but so long as the waterway is open to St. Louis and other "interior points" we may rest assured that the raging Filipino thirst will be assuaged.

It is said of Robert Bonner that "he never borrowed a dollar and never owed one." Were everybody like the late editor of the great family story paper it would be rocky sailing for the banks.

Jacksonville, Fla.—The United States District Attorney here has been warned from Washington to beware of filibustering expeditions from the Florida coast to Honduras, Nicaragua and other Central American countries.

Corsets are going out of fashion in Paris, according to a dressmaker's organ, but it fails to state whether among women or Frenchmen. We do not believe the men of Paris can ever be prevailed upon to surrender their stays.

The Washington Post prints conspicuously an article booming Governor Roosevelt of New York for vice presidential candidate. The Post's story has created considerable excitement here, owing to the general belief that it was inspired by some high political authority.

Postoffice department officials expect to ask for an appropriation from the next session of congress for the use of automobiles in collecting mails at all first-class postoffices. The purpose is to ask permission to use the appropriation of \$410,000 for horse hire allowance.

A French naturalist says that if the world were to become birdless man could not inhabit it after nine years' time. In spite of all the sprays and poisons that could be manufactured for the destruction of insects, the bugs and slugs would simply eat up orchards and crops.

Milwaukee reports that she has fifteen candidates for governor in her midst. But do not step so high, Milwaukee, nor look so haughty; Los Angeles has 275 candidates for Superior Judge, with messengers still coming in from the outlying wards. You're not so voluminous, Milwaukee.

Toledo Blade: The Washington correspondent of a New York paper floats the rumor that the President is considering the project of submitting the question of independence or annexation to the people of Cuba. Whether this rumor is true or not, it is manifest destiny that Cuba will one day become part of the United States. Whether the fullness of time has come may be doubted, but the final outcome may be set down as a certainty."

Washington—The war department has received the following cablegram: "Manila—Adjutant-General, Washington: Captain B. A. Byrne, Sixteenth Infantry, with seventy men surprised united robber bands, Negroes, numbering 450, killed 115, wounded many, captured a few rifles and revolvers, many hand weapons, large quantity of stock, fighting at close distance. Byrne's loss one killed, one wounded, names not given. This action very beneficial for quiet of Negroes."

"OTIS."

Governor Bradley of Kentucky will not call a special session of the legislature, neither will he send troops to Clay county under present conditions. He reached this conclusion last night. He thinks the legislature would not enact legislation relating to the judiciary necessary to reach the Clay county situation, and he doubts if the military would do any good there. A well-known mountain official told the governor he thought the whole thing could be settled by introducing a better grade of whisky into Manchester to take the place of moonshine liquor there.

At New Orleans a pair of suspenders saved the life of Charles L. Rockel, runner for the Metropolitan bank. Rockel had just entered the bank to begin his duties, when Englehart Bieber, a discharged soldier of the Second Louisiana regiment, who had been hanging around the bank all morning, slipped up behind him, and taking deliberate aim, fired. The bullet struck the juncture of Rockel's suspenders, and carried it into the man's back. When the suspenders were pulled from the wound, the bullet came out with them. Bieber says that when he went to war, he gave his deposit book for \$805 to Rockel, and that the latter drew out the money and refused to re-

turn it to him. Rockel is painfully wounded.

PRIZE MONEY CLAIMS FOR DEWEY'S FLEET.

Washington—Admiral Dewey has filed suit as a libellant in the district court in the District of Columbia to recover the prize money due him and the officers and crew of his fleet.

Upon the ships and equipments which have already been appraised and inventoried by the board of appraisers appointed by the secretary of the navy, Admiral Dewey demands the sum of \$325,141, in addition to the amount due upon the three cruisers sunk in the engagement but subsequently raised, and upon which he places a value of \$425,000. These vessels have never yet been appraised.

Hon. Hilary A. Herbert, the former Secretary of the Navy, appears as the chief counsel for Dewey.

The number of men engaged aboard the American vessels during the battle is 1836, and while Dewey declares that he is unable to give the exact number of men engaged on the Spanish side, he asserts that the number was far in excess of those under his command, and that their forces were superior. All the property recovered as the result of the battle is now in the possession of the United States with the exception of that which has been consumed. Several days ago Admiral Dewey filed a petition for a claim for a naval bounty growing out of the battle of Manila Bay, and this with many others filed before the navy department are now before the court of claims for judicial determination.

"FATHER" BOYNTON PLACED.

The Fight Among the Maccabees Has Been Settled.

Port Huron, (Mich.)—The fight for supremacy and office in the Supreme Tent, Knights of Maccabees, is over. Major Boynton withdrew his candidacy for re-election as Supreme Record Keeper, and George J. Siegel of Buffalo, N. Y., was elected to that office. D. P. Markey was re-elected Supreme Commander. Major Boynton will hereafter be chairman of the committee on appeals on the board of trustees, and with title of Past Commander. This, it is believed, will give "Father" Boynton as much power in the management of the affairs of the organization as before.

The major would rather have been re-elected to his old office, and he refused up to the time the convention was called to order, to withdraw. The fight was the most bitter in the history of the order, and the differences between Messrs. Markey and Boynton upon questions of policy entered into the dispute.

Dr. Ransom E. Moss of this city, an old friend of Major Boynton, was re-elected Supreme Medical Examiner by a vote of 49 to 42, defeating Dr. D. E. Wolf of Pennsylvania.

THAT MISSING LINK.

Chicago—A special to the Tribune from Bonesteel, S. D., says that upon the question whether his victim was brute or human depends Archie Brewer's guilt or innocence of the crime of murder.

Brewer was one of the owners of a small tent show. Among the attractions was a creature of seemingly a higher form of animal life than a monkey, and lower than a man. Brewer and Thorndyke called the animal the missing link, and laid great stress on the alleged fact that no one was able to say whether it belonged to the human or brute creation. Brewer now avers that the freak was a monkey. In a scuffle with it, the showman became angry and, seizing a heavy club, dealt his antagonist a hard blow over the ear, from the effects of which it died in the afternoon.

The local authorities immediately placed Brewer under arrest under a charge of murder. At the preliminary hearing his lawyers set up a defense that their client did not take the life of a human being, but the magistrate bound him over to the grand jury.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

The total number of casualties to persons on account of railway accidents during the year, ending June 30, 1898, was 47,741. The aggregate number of persons killed as a result of railway accidents during the year was 6852, and the number injured was 40,889. Of railway employees, 1953 were killed and 31,761 were injured during the year covered by this report. With respect to the three general classes of employees, these casualties were divided as follows: Trainmen, 1141 killed, 15,645 injured; switchmen, flagmen and watchmen, 242 killed, 2677 injured; other employees, 575 killed, 13,439 injured. The casualties to employees resulting from coupling and uncoupling cars were, persons killed 279; injured 6988. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were, killed 214; injured 6283.

THE MODOC, IN NEW MEXICO.

The Silver City, (N. M.) Enterprise says the first payment on the purchase of the Modoc group of mines in Hancock county, N. M., has been made. The company, under the general management of A. W. Tennant, with W. W. Gifford in charge as superintendent, will immediately increase the force of workmen on the mines. Ore is being extracted and shipments to the Silver City Reduction works will be commenced next week. Samples of the ore as assorted for shipment gave returns of \$1 gold and \$2 silver per ton, with 14 per cent copper and a large excess of iron. The company expects to ship forty or fifty tons per week, which amount will be largely increased as ground is opened to employ a larger force of miners.

Young Tom Edison, the son of his father, has run away and married an actress, but this is no new invention, nor is the fact that Tom's papa doesn't approve of the match.