

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The rice mills of South Carolina clean and polish about \$100,000,000 worth of rice each season.

There is a prejudice in the navy against giving a woman's name to a war vessel of any type. It is believed to be unlucky.

Kansas permits the sale of spirits for mechanical purposes, and one applicant writes that he needs "four gallons mechanically—going to have a barn raisin'."

The Filipinos have such a mania for cockfights that they even go to church Sunday morning with their cocks under their arms, so as to lose no time in getting to the pit.

After carefully consulting makers of ping-pong sets, it can be estimated that the great sum of \$627,500 has already been spent for the implements of the game in America.

A comparison has been drawn in Norway as to the profit of the fisheries in the sea and in the rivers, which shows that the former are three times as remunerative as the latter.

Bolivia produces one-twelfth of the world's tin, and is rich in copper and placer gold, yet it has only 200 miles of railroad for its 600,000 square miles of territory.

While 100 tons is a load for an English freight train, an average load on one of our railroads last year was 340 tons.

Mounted on a "single-footer," Mr. Shaw, secretary of the treasury, goes for a ride nearly every afternoon.

The animal's gait is so smooth that the rider gets about as much exercise as though he was swinging in a hammock.

MURDER OF AN IOWA GROVE. Brutal Crime Against Forestry and Nature Committed in the Hawkeye State.

Up in the rich Missouri valley, near the little town of Salix, and just a few miles below Sioux City, the Northwestern railway passes the home of a humble farmer that has for many years been a landmark.

The woman at first was inclined to laugh at his threat, but finally he became so insistent and maintained such a menacing attitude that she reported the matter to the police and the medical student was arrested.

This student had devoted a good deal of time and much energy to the study of bacteriology. He was familiar with the various forms of microbes common to different contagious and infectious diseases.

By culturing typhoid fever microbes and communicating them to a well or other source of water supply a whole town could be subjected to an epidemic of the disease.

It is in this believed, is the first instance on record in which a crime of this character has been brought to the attention of the authorities.

During the fifteen years or more that have elapsed since the writer began courting a brown-eyed sweetheart in the city of the Sioux that grove has been a source of great admiration, and time and time again have travelers been heard to say "they never saw such a beautiful group of trees in their lives."

It is any wonder, then, that a few days ago, when the Northwestern train neared Salix and a newspaper man prepared to point out to a brown-eyed sweetheart wife and a brown-eyed sweetheart baby the old-time friend, the grove, a chill came over his heart when the train rushed by the old home and disclosed half of those beautiful trees lying on the ground, with a temporary sawmill, built at the side of the road, rapidly ripping into lumber the remaining trees as fast as the cruel axmen could chop them down?

Chickens Fed by Alarm Clock. Walter Bernard some months ago secured a small tract of land on Chamber's Prairie, a few miles east of Olympia, and stocked the place with a few dozen chickens.

Didn't Have a "Monkey Ranch." At one of the downtown luncheon clubs, where members of the produce exchange meet and swap stories, the following was told a few days ago: "I was making a tour through the uplands of Wyoming with Crittenden, of Lincoln, and one day while jogging over the hills, the axel broke. We used a rope and some splints and managed to worry along several miles. Then we came to a ranch and yelled to a man off in the field to come our way. He was a big, fine looking Swede. When he got within shouting distance our man yelled: 'Have you a monkey wrench?'"

No Flies on Anglomaniacs. At the Newmarket races King Edward wore a gray suit, brown boots and a gray overcoat, single breasted, which buttoned through the cloth, no fly being used.

Why Paderewski Wept. Paderewski wept when he started for Europe last week, says the Chicago Record-Herald. Perhaps he was afraid that before he could come back again Morgan would have it all.

Need of Baseball World. Baseball rules should be revised in such a way, suggests the Chicago Tribune, as to permit each captain to give his legal counsel a chair near the umpire.

WICKED BACTERIA.

New and Terribly Effective Weapon Given Criminals by Science.

Microbes May Be Used by Anyone Wishing to Extort Money from Wealthy Persons—An Illustrative Instance.

Microbes as death dealing agencies present new possibilities to unscrupulous men who, prompted by a spirit of revenge or retaliation, may seek to obliterate their victims in the most approved scientific way.

Modern study of bacteriology has placed a new and terribly effective weapon in the hands of humanity. It is a weapon with which entire communities and towns may be stripped of their inhabitants.

All of these menacing possibilities have developed through the advanced study of bacteria and the various uses, beneficial and otherwise, to which micro-organisms may be put.

It is this work of scientific men that has placed such a terrible death agency within reach of any one who cares to go into the study of bacteriology even in a superficial way.

This student had devoted a good deal of time and much energy to the study of bacteriology. He was familiar with the various forms of microbes common to different contagious and infectious diseases.

By culturing typhoid fever microbes and communicating them to a well or other source of water supply a whole town could be subjected to an epidemic of the disease.

It is in this believed, is the first instance on record in which a crime of this character has been brought to the attention of the authorities.

During the fifteen years or more that have elapsed since the writer began courting a brown-eyed sweetheart in the city of the Sioux that grove has been a source of great admiration, and time and time again have travelers been heard to say "they never saw such a beautiful group of trees in their lives."

It is any wonder, then, that a few days ago, when the Northwestern train neared Salix and a newspaper man prepared to point out to a brown-eyed sweetheart wife and a brown-eyed sweetheart baby the old-time friend, the grove, a chill came over his heart when the train rushed by the old home and disclosed half of those beautiful trees lying on the ground, with a temporary sawmill, built at the side of the road, rapidly ripping into lumber the remaining trees as fast as the cruel axmen could chop them down?

Chickens Fed by Alarm Clock. Walter Bernard some months ago secured a small tract of land on Chamber's Prairie, a few miles east of Olympia, and stocked the place with a few dozen chickens.

Didn't Have a "Monkey Ranch." At one of the downtown luncheon clubs, where members of the produce exchange meet and swap stories, the following was told a few days ago: "I was making a tour through the uplands of Wyoming with Crittenden, of Lincoln, and one day while jogging over the hills, the axel broke. We used a rope and some splints and managed to worry along several miles. Then we came to a ranch and yelled to a man off in the field to come our way. He was a big, fine looking Swede. When he got within shouting distance our man yelled: 'Have you a monkey wrench?'"

No Flies on Anglomaniacs. At the Newmarket races King Edward wore a gray suit, brown boots and a gray overcoat, single breasted, which buttoned through the cloth, no fly being used.

Why Paderewski Wept. Paderewski wept when he started for Europe last week, says the Chicago Record-Herald. Perhaps he was afraid that before he could come back again Morgan would have it all.

Need of Baseball World. Baseball rules should be revised in such a way, suggests the Chicago Tribune, as to permit each captain to give his legal counsel a chair near the umpire.

IS HAPPY IN POOR HOUSE.

Former Partner of Jay Gould Passing the Closing Years of His Life in Public Institution.

Joshua Lynn, once Jay Gould's partner, is spending the evening of his life in the poorhouse in Karsville, N.J. He is blind, but philosophical. He has just passed his 73d birthday.

"For, after all, there is nothing in this world that can happen to us which really ought to cause us a moment's unhappiness. Take myself, for instance. I have been a wealthy man in my day—a wealthy man with plenty of friends and a wife whom I loved devotedly. They have all passed away—wife, friends, and fortune—and I am left to end my days in the poorhouse. Could I have foreseen such an end when I was an ambitious young man or even so recently as 20 years ago, I should have gone mad, I suppose. But instead of that I find myself not discontented, not unhappy—certainly much happier than many so-called fortunate people."

"I am not unhappy simply because I have learned to look at things philosophically and all my life I have not attempted to hunt for happiness outside of my own mind and heart. So much is written and preached on this subject of happiness—so much nonsense—that people have grown tired of the word. It has become a mockery, and the man who declares himself happy is usually considered either an egotist or a fool."

Lynn was a partner of Gould over 50 years ago. They made money in a tannery and in other ventures. In after years Gould helped his former partner with tips on the stock market. Bad investments swept the old man's fortune away. Then came the death of his wife and children and total blindness.

Several Bids Received by the Government for Establishment of Telegraph Line There.

Bids were opened the other day by Gen. Greeley, chief signal officer of the army, for the construction of a wireless telegraph system in Alaska. This is the first practical system to be installed by the government, and will cover the distance between certain prominent military posts in the territory.

Popular attention at the old salon at Paris has chiefly been devoted to M. Detaille's works. M. Chartran's portraits of the Roosevelts and M. Herner's portrait of his sister-in-law.

M. Lagarde, a personal friend and disciple of the landscape painter, M. Trouillebert, has been acquitted by the correctional court of a charge brought by the artist's widow of fraudulent imitation of her husband's works.

Snapshot photography has become such an absorbing passion in Paris society that an amateur exhibition held in the Galerie des Champs Elysees attracts as exhibitors scions of almost every aristocratic family.

At one of the downtown luncheon clubs, where members of the produce exchange meet and swap stories, the following was told a few days ago: "I was making a tour through the uplands of Wyoming with Crittenden, of Lincoln, and one day while jogging over the hills, the axel broke. We used a rope and some splints and managed to worry along several miles. Then we came to a ranch and yelled to a man off in the field to come our way. He was a big, fine looking Swede. When he got within shouting distance our man yelled: 'Have you a monkey wrench?'"

No Flies on Anglomaniacs. At the Newmarket races King Edward wore a gray suit, brown boots and a gray overcoat, single breasted, which buttoned through the cloth, no fly being used.

Why Paderewski Wept. Paderewski wept when he started for Europe last week, says the Chicago Record-Herald. Perhaps he was afraid that before he could come back again Morgan would have it all.

Need of Baseball World. Baseball rules should be revised in such a way, suggests the Chicago Tribune, as to permit each captain to give his legal counsel a chair near the umpire.

UNCLE SAM'S TREES.

New Enterprise of the Government to Encourage Planting.

Interesting Exotics from Foreign Lands Among the Varieties Given Out—Extensive Operations in the Southwest.

Uncle Sam has undertaken a new enterprise. Having urged for a long time the expediency of tree-planting, he has at last gone into the business himself in a practical way, and is giving substantial encouragement to the movement by distributing young seedlings of valuable species all over the country.

It must not be supposed, however, that anybody can obtain trees gratuitously, simply by asking for them. They are distributed exclusively through members of congress, and are shipped under their franks to such addresses as they may indicate.

For the object of this new enterprise is not so much to encourage tree-planting in a general way as to accomplish the introduction of valuable species. In the semi-arid southwest, to cite an instance, much benefit is likely to be derived from the carob tree, which is now being distributed in that part of the country.

There is a widespread notion, of uncertain origin, that the seeds and pulp of the carob were respectively the locusts and wild honey eaten by St. John in the desert, and the pods are supposed to have been the husks which sustained the existence of the prodigal son after his money was gone.

The pink oak is to be distributed over the south and also in Hawaii. It is one of the finest of the oaks, being specially suitable for streets, to Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas goes the handsome burr oak, which has a shaggy bark and the largest acorns borne by any species of oak native to North America.

Several bushels of seeds of the Kentucky coffee tree were collected in the capitol grounds last autumn, and the seedlings obtained from them are being sent out to Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas. This is a very handsome pod-bearing species. It attains a height of 60 feet.

Perhaps the most interesting branch of the tree-distributing work is that which has to do with the nut trees. For a long time past the department of agriculture has been most anxious to encourage the production of improved varieties of walnuts, pecans and other nuts, deeming that these might advantageously supersede the wild crops gathered in the woods.

Not long ago an agent of the department found in Greece some wonderful walnuts, about six times as big as ordinary walnuts, and sent home some living wood from the trees, with buds. This material was used for making grafts upon common walnut seedlings, and, as a result, several young trees are now on hand, every one of which is expected to produce the huge nuts.

The "pecan" belt extends through Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, and up to southern Iowa. Scattered through it here and there are a few individual trees which produce nuts of extraordinary size, paper-shelled and filled with meat. One such nut, indeed, will hold four times as much meat as an everyday pecan; hence the usefulness of a successful effort recently made by the department of agriculture to procure several bushes of these notable nuts, which were sown and in due time produced seedlings. At the present the young trees are being distributed all over the south and the middle west.

THEORY OF DR. KOCH TESTED.

Royal Agricultural Society of London Tries Human Tubercle Bacilli on Cattle.

As a result of Dr. Koch's startling statement respecting consumption at the international congress on tuberculosis in July last, the Royal Agricultural Society of London appointed a special committee to supervise some important experiments conducted at the Royal Veterinary college as to the possibility of infecting bovine animals with tuberculous material from human subjects.

In the case of the cow tuberculosis was injected in the udder; in the calves it was given by the mouth and in the yearlings it was injected into the veins.

In a strict sense of the word it cannot be said that the experiments proved the impossibility of infecting cattle with human tubercle bacilli, for in the case of the cow the human bacilli had multiplied in her body and had indicated a manifestly diseased condition. In the other cases also reactions to the tuberculin after the attempt to infect with human bacilli would appear to indicate that the infection has actually taken place.

The Royal society, however, does not feel justified in drawing from the results of the experiments again any conclusions as to the risk of infection in the opposite direction—namely, from cattle to man.

OVER A MILLION BIBLES. Issued by the American Bible Society During the Last Year—Report of Its Work.

The annual meeting of the American Bible society was held at the Bible house at New York the other day. The eighty-sixth annual report stated that the threatened evils arising from a permanent shrinkage in the support given to the society have been arrested.

Fifteen life directors were constituted during the year by the payment of \$150 each, and 261 life members were constituted by the payment of \$30 each. The receipts were \$433,173, and the cash balance at the close of the fiscal year was \$29,329. Appropriations have been authorized for the foreign work during the current year to an amount not exceeding \$200,000. The total amount of invested funds is \$186,402. The income from these permanent funds for the year was \$19,395.

The total issues of Bibles for the year, at home and abroad, amount to 1,724,791. The total issues in 56 years amount to 79,677,225. The most notable of the leader publications of the year is the address of President Roosevelt on the Bible, of which 50,000 copies have been printed in English and 10,000 in Spanish.

The society has established a special agency among the colored people of the southern states, in charge of Rev. Dr. J. P. Wragg.

PLANS NEW MOTIVE POWER. Cornelius Vanderbilt Discusses Electricity for Use on the New York Central System.

Cornelius Vanderbilt, as the representative of the Vanderbilt interests in the New York Central railroad, has been in consultation with the officials of the General Electric company at Schenectady with a view to substituting electricity for steam on the entire system. It is understood he has concluded to advise the change.

The General Electric people were asked by Mr. Vanderbilt what the maximum expense would be to change the motive power on the New York Central system and the low figures given, although kept secret, are said to have surprised him.

It was suggested at the conference that sufficient electric power to propel all trains on the New York Central system could be generated and supplied at Niagara falls. The fact that it will cost millions of dollars alone to change the motive power in the tunnel near New York has been given as the reason for planning the change in the entire system, thus solving the tunnel problem more easily and economically than could otherwise be done.

A Limit Reached. It is a fact worthy of note that all the recent railway wrecks of any consequence have been due to the spreading of the tracks on curves while trains were moving at high speed. The circumstance seems to indicate that with the tremendously heavy locomotives now in use the speed limit has been reached and perhaps exceeded, says the Chicago Chronicle, unless some device shall be produced which will replace the present system of wooden ties and iron spikes. There is obviously a limit to the strain which the combination will bear.

Trials of Mr. Morgan. After three weeks of hard work in forming the shipping combination Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan is put off with a beggarly \$12,500,000 as a recompense, says the Chicago Chronicle. Mr. Morgan had hoped to take a trip to the mountains or the seashore this summer, but under the circumstances probably the best he will be able to do will be to take a larger flat and perhaps keep a dog.

DEADLY WHITE RICE.

Chinese Article of Diet Blamed the Plague Beriberi.

Capt. Littlefield, an American Surgeon, Reports the Results of His Observations in Military Prison at Pangasinan.

Capt. Harry Littlefield, an army surgeon, on duty in one of the military prisons in Pangasinan, has discovered that beriberi, the most fatal of the orient, is caused by this white rice. His report on this subject, received by Surgeon General Sternberg, is as follows: "Since the establishment of this prison until February 1 of this year the native prisoners have been supplied with Chinese white rice. During this time beriberi has been markedly epidemic in prison."

"The records of this office show the deaths have averaged five monthly, while the number of new cases about 12. When prisoners were reported sick with beriberi they were removed from the prison to a building about half a mile away. The story of the building was as a hospital, the difference in conditions existing at the hospital and the prison being on a higher elevation of the former."

"The diet supplied was the same both places. Many of the cases in the beriberi hospital continued to be serious and died. The majority of those who did recover did so at long illness, and many of them suffered from numerous relapses. During the month of January there were 33 cases in the beriberi hospital, as many as in the prison were slightly affected. The sanitary conditions were excellent."

In the civil prison, not more than one-fourth of a mile distant, the prisoners were confined a large number of times, and the sanitary conditions were not as satisfactory as that in the military prison. The inmates were crowded in poorer buildings, and in the open air more than the natives confined in the military prison. In this prison there were no beriberi cases, the only difference existing in favor of the civil prison being that of the ration, which was purchased in the open market."

"At the beginning of February of this year, upon the recommendation of the prison surgeon, the use of the Chinese white rice, which is supplied to the commissary, was discontinued, and native rice from the open market purchased in its place. Since that time no new cases of beriberi have developed and no deaths have occurred. The military cases which were in the prison have all recovered."

"This marked change occurred in the space of one month, and the only apparent difference existing during this period and previous times was that of the rice supply. From these facts would seem that the cause of beriberi in this prison has been the use of the Chinese rice of the white variety."

AN ARMY OF IMMIGRANTS.

Nearly Thirty Thousand from Various Parts of Europe Pass Through New York in One Week.

The rush of immigrants to the port of New York which has signaled the first four months of the year, reached a climax last week during which 29,519 immigrants have been brought to the city from the various European ports. The total number of immigrants arriving at New York for the two months ending April 30 was 178,604, or 30,000 more than ever arrived during the same period. The record this year is: January, 14,243; February, 20,517; March, 57,175; April 73,667.

The total number landing at New York last year was 438,368. No less than 12,340 immigrants were landed at Ellis island in one day recently.

In all the history of handling immigrants through the barge office landings the police never had so much trouble to restrain the crowds which flocked to the battery to see the people come over from Ellis island.

SABBATH DISPUTE STIRS JEW.

Question Discussed at Conference of American Rabbis But No Action Is Taken.

The conference of American rabbis at its session in New Orleans took the question of the transference of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, a topic of intense interest to every Jew in the United States. There was much nervous tension exhibited by the members of the conference while the subject was under discussion.

A strong tendency developed in favor of such a transfer, but the opponents of the idea were many, the adherents of the old Moslem Sabbath holding that such a movement would be a blow to the fundamental principles of the Hebrew faith, a recognition of the retraction.

Strong pleas were made for the revival of the Sabbath's significance, the keynote of the speeches being either to revive the Sabbath or transfer it to Sunday.

France and the Castellanes. There are three members of the Castellane family, including Count Boni, in the present French chamber of deputies, says the Chicago Independent. Mr. Morgan had hoped to take a trip to the mountains or the seashore this summer, but under the circumstances probably the best he will be able to do will be to take a larger flat and perhaps keep a dog.

Where Water Cure Is Needed. When the captain of the city of Chicago gets his scamen again he should put out as far as possible, says the Chicago Record-Herald, and perhaps a little cure on the side would be beneficial.