

HE PULLED THE LION'S LEG

Joker With Fake Bill for Fairbairn's Air-Jet Rips Movers' Trouble—Hard to Get Money.

London.—Some one has been playing a joke on Aviator Germano White, who is now in the United States.

A group of members of Parliament calling themselves the Parliament Committee of aerial defense, organized a big demonstration of flying at Germano White's aerodrome at Hendon. Arthur Duxon, M. P., and Graham White arranged that First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. McKenna, should take a passenger flight with Germano White. Arthur James Fairbairn also took a trip.

Some weeks later a practical joker got some business note paper printed, with the heading "Graham-White Aviation Company" and on it sent a bill to the government for \$100,000 for McKenna's trip and \$25 for Fairbairn's.

As the war office is the only department connected with airships, the bill was handed over to them. There it was duly initiated by about 20 different clerks, and after some weeks was passed on to the "Army Aircraft Factory." The aircraft factory considered the bill with due solemnity and returned it to the war office, saying they knew nothing about passenger flights by politicians. The bill then wandered for a while through the various departments of the war office till it got back to an official who was sufficiently alert to return it to the Graham-White firm and ask what it meant.

Apparently the war office had no great objection to paying for McKenna's joy ride at the Nation's expense, but stuck at paying for the leader of the opposition as well.

Graham-White's manager immediately wrote that it was not one of their bills. Now the war office is endeavoring to find out who has been trying to pull its leg, and the Graham-White people are trying to explain that they are not in the habit of charging guests for their entertainment.

It would have been funnier still if the war office had paid up and the Graham-White representatives had returned the money, for though it is hard to get money out of the war office, it is harder still to get it to take back money paid in error, since the government department never admits making mistakes.

CRINOLINE IS BIG FAILURE

Idea Is Scorned by London Leaders of Fashion—Narrow Skirts Form Keynote for Season.

London.—The attempt by a Bond street modiste to introduce a modified form of crinoline skirt among the fashions for the fall has been a failure. The idea has been even more laughed at than was the model who ventured out on the West end streets to test public opinion on such a skirt. Designers of women's modes now admit that crinoline or any form of unacceptably expanded skirt is dead.

As a matter of fact, narrow skirts will form the keynote of fashions here for the fall and winter. The designers say they are only just beginning to recognize the possibilities of displaying the beauties of the female figure by tight dresses, and they now will depend on the beauty of form rather than as hitherto on the charm of artistic drapery.

London is also learning at last something from New York, and much brighter colors will be worn. No one color will hold predominant sway the coming season. Royal purple is disappearing, and its place is the marked feature of women's dress will be taken by vivid colors.

The leading materials to be used will be rich velvet, with costly embroidery embellishments and fur trimmings. Fashionable dresses will be in every way the most expensive ever yet devised.

Complete banishment has been declared against the vogue of black, but black and white will hold its own, especially later in the season. Some modistes are producing exquisite models of this style.

HUNTING SHARKS NEAR MAINE

Three Large Denizens of the Deep Were Captured by Several Philadelphia Fishermen—Used Wire Cable.

Philadelphia.—Details of a thrilling shark hunt off the coast of Maine, in which several Philadelphia fishermen took part, are being discussed in various resorts along the east coast from Bar Harbor to Newport.

In the party were A. J. Drexel Paul, Dr. Alexander Riddle, A. J. Drexel Biddle, Doctor O'Neil of this city and Livingston Biddle, whose summer home is Phippsburg, North Isleboro, Maine. Three monster sharks were captured aboard the Drexels' steam yacht, the Alcedo, which recently returned from a cruise along the coast of Africa. The party started out early in the morning and were well out to sea before dawn.

Hooks were baited with large chunks of meat and thrown over the side of the yacht, being kept afloat with cork. The sharks attacked the bait and broke the line. Wire cable was then substituted and three big sharks were quickly captured.

Short Fall Kills Him.

San Francisco, Cal.—John Hays, a fireman, an expert in scaling ladder work, who had dropped from high buildings into a life net scores of times, fell off a fence three feet high and fractured his skull. He probably will die.

KING AFTER TIGERS

500 Elephants to Be Used When George V. Visits India.

No Other Jungles in Asia Are as Extensive as Those of Southern Foothills and Marshy Taral of Himalaya Mountains.

Dacca, British India.—Already the announcement is made that the maharajah of Nepal is to use 500 elephants for the King of England's tiger hunt in his highness' dominions next December.

While King George is in Nepal Queen Mary will be sightseeing in Rajpootana. When the king and queen visited India six years ago as Prince and Princess of Wales the maharajah invited his royal highness to Nepal and made vast preparation to provide a royal hunt in his jungle preserves, but the plan was upset by a virulent outbreak of cholera in the region where the hunt was to be. The disappointment was keen to the English prince, but not less so to the maharajah.

Next December the same royal personage will come to India in the exalted rank of king-emperor and his entertainment will be on a corresponding scale of grandeur.

No other jungles in Asia are as extensive as those of the southern foothills and marshy taral of the central and eastern Himalaya mountains. They swarm with wild beasts, which seldom are disturbed, because foreign sportsmen are excluded, except when they come at his highness' invitation. The shooting done by the maharajah and his nobles is not enough to make an impression on the game, which includes wild elephants and rhinoceroses, with many species of tigers, bears, leopards, deer and pigs.

In preparation for the king's visit a tract of this jungle, perhaps fifteen miles long and half as broad, will be selected, and all the beasts in a much wider area will be slowly and patiently driven into it by men mounted on elephants, making just noise enough to induce the game to move on without alarm.

By this means, in the course of weeks, twenty or thirty tigers, with other beasts in proportion, will be gathered into the selected area, which then will be surrounded by a ring of watchmen, with the addition of fires by night. The space being so large and well supplied with the tigers' natural prey, the beasts will not seek to escape, nor even to approach the circle of watchmen's huts and fires. This state of things will be kept up until the time for the great hunt arrives.

WED TWICE IN ELEVEN DAYS

California Couple Find First Ceremony Is Not Legal and Hurry to Have Another Performed.

Santa Ana, Cal.—It took a clergyman and a justice of the peace to tie the knot for Bert Theodore Wilkie, aged twenty-seven, of Los Angeles, and Sadie Wheeler, aged twenty-two, of Long Beach. The two ceremonies were performed eleven days apart.

The license was issued by the county clerk of this county July 19. Wilkie did not know that a marriage license can be used only in the county in which it is issued. On that point the Rev. Robert Renison, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal church of Los Angeles, was as ignorant as Wilkie. Mr. Renison performed the ceremony in Los Angeles county.

Wilkie and his bride had no doubt that they were as thoroughly married as any couple could be and they knew no different until they learned that the recorder of Los Angeles county had refused to record the certificate. Hearing that, Wilkie seized the document and with Miss Wheeler took the first car for Santa Ana, and on their arrival were married by A. D. Cox, justice of the peace, who wrote out a new certificate, glued it to the marriage license and straightway recorded it.

Dear in a China Shop.

Springfield, Mass.—Running through Main street with a crowd of several hundred following, a frightened buck deer burst through a plate-glass window into a department store, where he caused havoc before he escaped by jumping out the window and scattering the crowd with his hoofs and antlers. A doe which had accompanied the buck across the Connecticut river sought refuge in a stable, but was kicked by a horse so severely that a game warden was compelled to shoot it.

Eggs Laid for 1,900 Miles.

Middletown, Conn., Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Kirkham, Jr., and their four children have just arrived here by wagon, completing a trip of 1,900 miles from Staples, Minn., which they left on June 28. Seventeen Minnesota chickens, carried in a small coop under the wagon, were hale and hearty, having laid their usual average of eggs all the way.

ELOPERS GET BIG SURPRISE

Parents of St. Louis Couple Attend Marriage Ceremony and Give Them Wedding Party.

St. Louis, Mo.—Marion and Joseph born twenty years ago, a sculptor, and Miss Edith P. Plochman, seven years old, were sweethearts for the last year and a half, with the full knowledge and consent of their parents, who had been neighbors and friends for several years, and with nothing had been said on the subject. It was well understood they would some day be married.

But stirred by a bit of romance, and anxious to avoid their friends who have married recently, the couple slipped off to Clayton, where they hoped to procure a marriage license and get married in the quiet justice and give their parents and friends a great surprise.

However, the stern clerk in the recorder's office at Clayton decided they were too young. A somewhat cross-examination brought out the would-be bridegroom had only six months and the girl one month of being of legal age to marry. The clerk advised them to wait until spring.

The couple returned home, but instead of surprising their parents, as they expected to, were themselves surprised. Their parents had been tipped off by the marriage license clerk, and without writing for explanations the others accompanied the elopers to the city hall, where they formally gave their consent to the union and the coveted license was issued.

Frederick Esselborn, father of the bridegroom, and Eugene Plochman, father of the girl, hurried them to Justice Chauncey Krueger's office, where the young couple were given another surprise, by finding their kindred assembled for the marriage ceremony.

Justice Krueger halted in the midst of a suit, left the bench and performed the ceremony, after which the bridal party went to the Esselborn home, where a wedding dinner, which had been prepared in haste by the bride's mother, awaited them.

Wedding presents hastily bought were brought in by neighbors and friends who had been notified by telephone of the wedding, and the would-be elopers, who had planned to surprise everybody, were kept busy being surprised by everybody else up to midnight, when they departed for the home of the bride's parents, where they will reside until they can mature plans for a home of their own.

31 HOURS ON A PRISON ROOF

English "Covie." Trying to Escape. Amuses Pedestrians With Songs and Other Antics.

London.—After 31 hours of "liberty" on the jail roof, a prisoner who eluded the vigilance of his warders while at exercise and clambered up a fall-pipe, recently surrendered, hungry, tired, and much subdued in spirit. The only food he had during his long outing consisted of a few apples which people in the crowd whom he entertained threw to him.

Armley jail, Leeds, was the scene of the strange escapade. The man, said to have had some naval training, climbed up the water pipe to the roof with the agility of a monkey.

Thence he stationed himself on the top of a turreted air shaft standing 15 feet above the roof. Warders who essayed his capture he kept at bay with slates he had stripped from the roof.

By the time the officials had decided on starving him out a considerable crowd had collected in the street. The man at intervals amused his audience with songs, hornpipes, spiritedly danced on the narrow ledge of the turret, imitations of cutlass drill, semaphore signaling, swimming, etc. Occasionally he addressed the crowd, declaring he was "on strike."

It was not until late in the afternoon that he broke his fast. Then he managed to catch two or three apples thrown to him. He held out for a few hours longer, but would not face another hungry night on the air-shaft ledge.

"DEAD" MAN SOUGHT AS HEIR

Two Alexander Gammes, Both Masons, Formerly of Denver, Cause Mix-up—Came From Scotland.

Denver, Colo.—Alexander Gamme, a Mason, a resident of Denver for many years, died here four years ago. Another Alexander Gamme, also a Mason, a resident of Denver for a few months, is supposed to have been drowned in or near Denver four years ago. Both were natives of Scotland.

Relations of the second Alexander Gamme—the one supposed to have been drowned—are searching for him or for positive evidence of his death. In order to settle an estate. When they discovered, through Masons, that Alexander Gamme, a Mason, died here four years ago, they thought their quest had ended, but now they have found that the man of whose death there is a record was not the one they sought, and they are still making inquiry.

The Alexander Gamme whom they seek was born about thirty-seven years ago. He was an architect. He was employed for some time at Barre, Vt., leaving that place for the west. Friends in Barre heard he had been drowned in or near Denver in 1907. There is no record of such a drowning.

He and his sister are heirs to an estate in Scotland. She has come to this country to locate her brother and is now in Pennsylvania.

CHICAGO FEET SMALL

Shoe Buyers Deny Charge of Retail Dealers' President.

Femininity of Windy City Has Smallest, Best Shaped Feet in Universe—South Presents the Near-Est Rivals.

Chicago.—Chicago women's feet unduly large? It's a libel! Chicago femininity has the smallest, best shaped feet in the universe.

Shoe buyers for the big State street department stores the other day made indignantly reply to the aspersions of A. E. Pitts, president of the Ohio Retail Shoe Dealers' Association, to the effect that Chicago women have admitted that they are obliged to order larger sizes to accommodate their feet than are called for in any other city. The charge was made at the association's convention in Cincinnati.

"The assertion is ridiculous and without foundation," declared Seymour Bamberger, shoe buyer for Mandels, when asked about the women's sizes used in Chicago. "I have been in the shoe business in New York, Washington, Baltimore and Columbus, and I can say that more narrow women's shoes are sold in Chicago in proportion to its size, than in any of the other cities where I have been in the shoe business."

"I was a shoe buyer for several years on Broadway in New York, and know that the women's sizes used there are practically the same, or a trifle larger than are used in Chicago. The only part of this country where women's feet average smaller is in the south, where the women are smaller. Below the Mason and Dixon line women's shoes are, as a rule, shorter, but broader than those sold in the north."

"In regard to Mr. Pitts' assertion that Chicago shoe dealers admitted that our women's feet were larger, I don't think he could have talked to the shoe dealers who sell to the American women of Chicago."

Mr. E. L. Blackburn, assistant manager of the ladies' shoe department of Marshall Field's, was equally emphatic in denying the charge.

"There's nothing to it," said Mr. Blackburn. "It's all a joke. We have some of the smallest feet in Chicago of any in the world. In our department here we carry sizes 1 to 9 and sell few of either extreme. Southern women have shorter feet, but they are broader."

"They are no bigger here than anywhere," snorted Mr. Nelson, manager of the ladies' department of the Royal shoe store.

Mr. Nelson, assistant manager of Carson, Pirie, Scott's ladies' shoe department, was included to defend Chicago women from the slanderous attack at any cost.

"I can't see any reason why they should be larger," he said "and I wouldn't admit it if they were."

SAILS MADE OF POST CARDS

Passengers Arriving at New York From Bermuda Tell of Tiny Craft Wearing Unique Dress.

New York.—Unique even for Bermuda was a tale which was told by the passengers of the Royal Mail steamer Tagus when that vessel arrived here. It was of a tiny craft whose sails had been made of Montevideoan postcards, and which had drifted into the seaweed of St. George's harbor the day before the Tagus sailed.

One of the postcards was dated Montevideo, July 12, 1911, and was addressed to Miss E. A. Kive, Port Stanley, Falkland Islands. It bore a request to write to Captain Hansen, bark Romanoff, Matane, New Brunswick.

The Maritime Register recounts that the Romanoff, with Captain Hansen in command, sailed from Montevideo on the same day that the postcard was dated, and that the bark is bound to Matane, N. B. But while some of the passengers who had become inured to Bermuda fish tales would like to believe that the tiny boat, which measured only two feet in length, had sailed a match race with the bark, the chances are that it had been launched from the bark as that vessel was sailing close to the islands on its northward journey.

FISH, TOE AND RING UNITE

Wedding Circle, Lost in Peculiar Way, Is Recovered by 14-Year-Old Barefooted Girl.

Pottstown, Pa.—A fish that was too small to take home and a girl with a Cinderella foot figured very oddly in the loss and recovery of a wedding ring that Mrs. Harvey Wilson, wife of a Pottstown undertaker, dropped in Saylor's mill dam over in Chester county several days ago.

The ring slipped from Mrs. Wilson's finger when she tossed a diminutive bass back into the dam. The water was partly drawn off in a vain effort to find it, and then the offering of a reward for the missing jewelry made the juveniles of the neighborhood get busy.

While a party of them were wading the dam today a 14-year-old girl felt something slip over one of her toes. She imagined that it was a snake and gave a scream, but an examination showed that it was Mrs. Wilson's lost wedding ring, and she hurried to town with it to receive the reward.

FRENCH CIGARS ARE COSTLY

Traveler Is Unable to Take Along Supply Because Duty Is High—Customs Officers Alert.

New York.—"The cigars you buy in France are notorious," said a smoker recently who has lately come back from Europe, and it is really impossible to get a decent cigar at retail at anything like a fair price. I know of three places in Paris where you can get good cigars by the box, one, which for many years was under the Grand hotel and is now across the boulevard from it; another in the Rue Ste. Honore, near the bottom of the Avenue de l'Opera, and the other in the Champs Elysees, a little below the Elvisee Palace hotel.

"When I started for Paris from London I had forty cigars in a box which had cost me just \$2. I had bought them in London, thinking that as in the past I would be allowed to take forty cigars in at a 50-cent free of duty. An American who lives in London told me on the channel boat that a new law prohibited the admission of more than ten free of duty. 'But,' he added, 'the duty is so small that you need not be alarmed.'"

"Now, long experience has taught me that the moment you declare anything to a French customs officer you lay yourself open to trouble. If you tell him you have anything dutiable he is very apt to make a thorough search. I remember that once I bought a box of twenty-five cigars at Baden Baden and declared them, when I reached French Agincourt, with the result that not only did the customs man go minutely through all my hand luggage, but actually searched my pockets."

"However, at Calais I declared my forty cigars and handed them to the 'doubler' at the same time reminding him that ten cigars were exempt. He immediately demanded to see the cigars and carried them off in triumph to the head official. Then he came back and probed my values."

"Well, they soaked me \$2.37 duty on the thirty cigars, which was actually more than they had cost me. When I reached Paris and the officers asked me if there was anything dutiable in my trunk I said, 'No,' and it was not opened."

"The next day I was passing the cigar shop opposite the Grand hotel and was surprised by the cheapness of cigars that were exposed in the show windows. I went in, filled with remorse that I had even condemned the French method of selling cigars, and found that the cigars in the windows were in a sense a hoax. The retail price was quoted, but you could not buy at that price unless you took a box."

DOCTOR LOSES HIS IDENTITY

California Physician Returns to Hotel Sans Mustache and Almost Loses Ticket and Train.

Los Angeles, Cal.—"Shave it off," said Dr. W. C. Smith of Redlands, Cal., to a barber when asked whether he wanted his mustache left on. Only a short time previously the physician had purchased his ticket for home, and, on returning to the hotel, left it, with papers, with the cashier. After leaving the shop he called for his ticket, intending to go to the depot. He was now shorn of his mustache, and also was wearing a dark suit.

"I'm sorry, but I can't deliver these to anyone except Dr. Smith," said the cashier.

"But I'm Dr. Smith, I left them here not more than two hours ago," replied the anxious physician.

"Dr. Smith has a mustache and wears a light suit," said the cashier. "I know, but I had my mustache shaved off and I have more than one suit," he replied.

A bell boy near by, who had received a generous tip from the physician, came to his rescue about this time and identified the "gentleman at the window" only when the doctor had just time enough to catch his train.

EATS RECORD FOR ONE MEAL

George Murdock, Oiler of the U. S. S. Chester, Stores Away Unheard-of Quantity of Food.

Boston.—"Four hogs wouldn't have done it," said the waiter.

"Eat what?" was asked.

"Eat what George Murdock, oiler of the U. S. S. S. Chester, ate for lunch today."

"What did he eat?"

"This is all:

"Five dozen scrambled eggs.

"Four pigs' feet.

"Two large orders of sauerkraut, aggregating one pound.

"One order of steak smothered in onions, weighing very nearly half a pound.

"One double extra sirloin steak, weighing over three-quarters of a pound.

"Two wedges of squash pie, with incidental cheese.

"Four cups of coffee.

"Five steins of beer during the meal (no record of those taken before and after).

"One jigger of brandy.

"Three tablets of strychnine.

"Bread and butter."

"Well, I am glad he did it," said the stranger.

Mule Scalps Boy.

Louisville, Ky.—Eleven-year-old Charles Polk, playing in the garden of his father's home at Jefferson, got too close to the steel-shod family mule. Today his scalp was sawed on. Fifteen stitches were necessary to hold the skull in place.

ANXIOUS TO LEARN

Demand for Good Teachers Greater Than Ever Before.

Reopening of Schools Shows That Demand for Knowledge Has Kept Better Than Abreast of Growth in Population.

New York.—"The schools of the country are opening this month and with an increased attendance which shows that the American thirst for education has kept ahead of the growth in population." This was said by a manager of the largest teachers' agency in the country, who from the nature of his work is in touch with the educational situation all over the country. Incidentally, he added that good time was ahead for the members of the teaching profession.

The last school census showed that 29,000,000 were enrolled in the various institutions of the country. While no figures for the present year are obtainable, it is estimated that common schools alone have at least 18,000,000 pupils.

Most of the public schools in the north and east open soon after Labor day. The exceptions are one or two schools in northern New England, where, owing to the hard winters and the difficulty of transportation, sessions are held only in the spring and autumn.

In the far south the heat delays school openings, and in some districts pupils do not return until November. The latest institutions to begin the year's work are some of the southern mission schools, which depend mainly upon teachers from the north. Sessions there are postponed until late in the fall, so that the northern teachers may not be subjected to the unaccustomed climate.

Most of the colleges and universities will have begun work by the first of October. As a rule the state universities and normal schools start earlier than the universities, privately endowed and have longer terms.

At the teachers' agencies here it is said that the demand for better teachers is accompanied by a corresponding increase in the cost of tuition, especially true of the schools, especially the boarding schools.

Two of three years ago, teachers' agency managers could be sent to a very good school for \$200 or \$300 a year, the average charge at such institutions is \$200 or \$300.

"The colleges that charge tuition do not depend upon these for support; nevertheless, many of them have raised their tuition charges on an average of \$25 a year. The private boarding school business must be profitable, for the number of establishments is increasing."

"This, of course, is good for our business, for it quickens the demand for teachers and raises salaries. The only educational institutions that are declining are the old-fashioned day seminaries. The free state schools are fast driving them out."

FAVORITE MASCOT IS DEAD

Billy, the Comedian of the Battleship Louisiana, Passes Away—Known to Crowded Heads.

Norfolk, Va.—Billy, the mascot of the battleship Louisiana, the comedian of the fleet, is dead. Billy made President Taft laugh heartily when he made a trip to Panama some time ago. The sailors loved Billy, and to his memory they have dedicated a space on their lockers and chests, on which appears this epitaph:

"Gone, but not forgotten, born at Norfolk, Va., April 10, 1898; died at sea September 6, 1911. Billy was recruited and enlisted at Norfolk on April 28, 1909, and served his country faithfully for more than two years. He was one of the most renowned mascots in the history of the navy. He was well known to the rulers and crowned heads of Europe, had been admired by the president of the United States, the czar of Russia, the emperor of Germany, king of Denmark and king of Sweden.

"His shaggy coat had been encased by the fairest hands of the United States and Europe. Billy was a good shipmate and a sailor of the old school. He died after a short illness after an overindulgence of Portland cement and insulation tape. He was buried at sea September 6, 1911. Requiescat in peace."

Billy was a goat.

Remarkable Nest of Wasps.

Liverpool.—A remarkable nest of wasps has been discovered on the Bedfordshire estate of Lord Ampthill, where a man, using three wire wasp traps has caught over 4,000 wasps. The nest consisted of six tiers, which stood six and a half inches high, and measured eight and a half inches across.

The cells contained grubs and young wasps in different stages of growth. An elm tree near by was covered with wasps in clusters varying in size from that of walnut to that of a tennis ball.

Woman Builds House Unassisted.

Wakefield, Mass.—Although she never drove a nail until three months ago, Miss Henrietta Boyes has just completed the building of a bungalow unassisted. The building has five rooms and bath, hardwood floors throughout and all modern improvements. While engaged in the heavy carpenter work Miss Boyes donned overalls and jumper.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS