

FAVORS THREE OAKS

Admiral Dewey Says Michigan Town Must Keep the Cannon.

Wright of the Hero of Manila May Give the Gun Away Called in Question by Some People.

Senator McMillin, in a communication just received at Three Oaks, Mich., says that he is certain that the title of Three Oaks to the Dewey cannon is without question.

In an interview, Admiral Dewey said: "When Capt. Hooper, of the revenue cutter McCulloch, brought off the Spanish guns from Corregidor island he thought it would be a nice thing to give to the society in the United States that was building a monument to the martyrs of the Maine."

"I consented and the gun was delivered at San Francisco by the McCulloch, and the committee decided to award it to the city of Three Oaks, giving the largest sum of money for the monument in proportion to the population. Three Oaks won it and I am entitled to it, and now some one questions my right to give the cannon away. It was mine, wasn't it? I did violate the rules every day. I was obliged to give the gun away, but I was violating the rules every day. I was obliged to give the gun away from Three Oaks I shall go to the president about it."

"Are you coming to Three Oaks to attend the celebration?" was asked. "I will, if I can. I am going to Chicago in May and will perhaps go to Three Oaks then."

NEBRASKA BEET SUGAR CROP.

Good Outlook for the Industry in That State—Farmers Get Four Dollars a Ton for Beets.

The officials of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad have been collecting some information concerning the sugar beet industry in Nebraska.

Some difficulty was encountered early in the season in securing a sufficient acreage for the two large factories there. But the final result was an acreage sufficient to meet all requirements.

The weather conditions early in the season were favorable for planting and cultivating the beet, so that a good stand was secured. The crop matured in an excellent condition and is making a very large yield.

The factories at Grand Island and Norfolk began operations about October 1 and are making a successful run, with a prospect of a larger sugar output than in any preceding year.

The price paid to the farmer usually is four dollars a ton, but the very good quality of this season's crop will probably secure five dollars a ton. The output of the factories in the state this season is estimated to be about 23,000,000 pounds.

GOOSE PLANT BLOOMS AGAIN.

Strange Flower in Blossom at Washington Park, Chicago, for the First Time Since 1895.

The "goose plant" is in bloom in the Washington park tropical house at Chicago for the first time since the initial experiments with the flower in 1895. A score of blossoms have reached maturity on the vines, which are rapidly covering both sides of the hot-house.

It is eight inches in length and consists of a single green leaf so shaped that it has the appearance of a goose with head and neck drawn back upon its body. A long filament-like tail extends from the end of the blossom.

The plant is a native of Guatemala and its scientific name is so long that Head Gardener Fred Kanst, after impressing it on several hundred visitors, decided in 1895 that some shorter designation must be invented. Accordingly he advertised for suggestions, and all visitors agreed that it should be called the "goose plant."

MAIL BAG ON BRAKEBEAM.

Such Containing Valuable Matter Discovered by Officials at Terre Haute, Ind.

A mail bag, torn and badly used up, was removed from a brakebeam beneath a postal storage car in a Van-dulla east-bound train the other day at Terre Haute, Ind. The bag, which contained some valuable mail matter, was wrapped closely around the brakebeam and had evidently been picked up at Milford, O., carried through on the fast train to St. Louis and then brought back east as far as Terre Haute before its presence on the brakebeam of the car was discovered.

Railroad men cannot understand just how the bag managed to become wrapped around the beam so tightly nor how the railroad inspectors overlooked it. A report will be forwarded to Washington.

Appreciated the Play.

The following is from an essay written by a schoolboy, aged ten, on a play he had been to see: "The villain curled his mustache and seeing the pure virgins shriek he ha ha mine or deaths blud in on my head this dagger stabs thee do thy utermost sole ha ha vengeance. But the good hero comes and says O heavens stir won step and thy ded body lies at my door. Lay won parm on the virgins corpse and it was better if you was drowned with a millstone. Avart awart from the sweet korpses presenz."

ONE WOMAN'S WORK.

Displays Inventive Genius in Perfecting a Steering Apparatus for a Dangerous Torpedo.

A torpedo which promises great things has been perfected by a New York woman, Dr. M. J. Alsbau, of 31 East Twenty-second street. The torpedo, in its crude or undeveloped state, was invented by Capt. T. Wemyss Jupp, of Tasmania. A company with a capital of \$1,000,000 has been incorporated to manufacture the new projectile. The company will expend \$50,000 in experiments with the new torpedo, one-fifth of which the government will be asked to contribute.

The original patents were applied for by Capt. T. W. Jupp, but the invention was found wanting in the solution of the steering devices; that is to say, the means by which the torpedo could be absolutely controlled when once out of range with the projector.

Dr. Alsbau solved the problem of keeping the instrument of warfare within limited bounds and controlling it during its flight of over four miles through the air and water without wires or connections of any kind. Dr. Alsbau recently patented several scientific devices.

The Just-Alsbau torpedo is a dual invention, consisting of the ordinary shell as used by warships and the submarine torpedo, both of which are ejected by the same projector at the same time.

When fired the head or shell of the Just-Alsbau torpedo strikes the enemy's ships above the water-line, creating havoc above, while the torpedo, or main part of the projectile strikes below the water-line. One or both of the projectiles, it is claimed, will surely reach home. The torpedo proper is propelled by liberating liquefied air through the discharge orifices to the ejectors.

BEATS WAY TO CHICAGO.

Pretty Girl Rides on the "Blind Baggage" from Eau Claire, Wis.

A girl of 18 years, pretty, witty and modestly attired in a woolen dress, caused a sensation at the Northwestern depot in Chicago the other morning by stepping from a "blind baggage" platform of the St. Paul train and greeting astonished officials with a cheery "Howdy do?"

The girl had ridden from Eau Claire, Wis., on the front end of the first car in the train. "Cold? Well, yes a little," she said in answer to a dozen queries, "but I had to come. I had no money and knew I would be put off if I entered a car, so I just staid outside, and here I am."

The girl boarded the train in the night and clung to the rattling platform until Madison was reached. Here she was discovered by one of the brakemen, who ordered her off and accompanied her back to the conductor to explain her action. To the latter she said she could not pay her way and was anxious to reach this city, where she had relatives. The trainmen escorted her from the train and then quickly pulled out of the station without the girl, presumably. She proved too clever for them, however, and when the train pulled into the Wells street depot she was with it. She refused to give her name and, bidding a curious throng "By-by," started out to find her friends.

"I have been in the railroad business a good many years, but this is the first time I ever heard of a girl riding the 'blind baggage,'" said a veteran conductor.

TO SAVE A BIG SUM.

Plan by Which \$300,000 May Be Saved in the Purchase of Typewriters for Government.

A plan which may result in the saving of \$300,000 to the government was presented to the cabinet the other day by Secretary Long. This sum represents an amount expended annually for typewriters, which it has been represented may be wholly saved. It is estimated 15,000 typewriting machines are purchased each year by the government for use in the Washington departments and in other cities. These machines have cost \$100 each.

All the better class of machines are used and no uniformity is maintained in buying them. Recently a board was detailed at the navy department to look into the typewriting business, and representatives of the various companies appeared before the officers.

The board has completed its report, giving what its members regard as the necessary qualities in a typewriter. It was disclosed that such a machine as was described, of which at least three concerns produced samples, could be bought for \$50, with a liberal profit to the maker.

The report says the \$100 price for the machine represents the cost of agencies and the item of commissions. It is believed the governmental order can be bulked so as to have the 15,000 typewriters delivered at one of the departments for \$50 each. This on an order for that number of machines would mean a saving of \$300,000.

Infection from Rag Heaps.

The board of health of Newton, Mass., has issued a new regulation prohibiting throwing rags in heaps in the cellars of houses. The board claims that much disease is bred by rags left about the cellars of houses. In several houses where there has been sickness of a contagious nature rags have been found in various parts of the house, and especially in the cellar. Where found they have been burned.

Called for What He Didn't Want.

A New Jersey burglar who was caught and thrashed by his intended victim yelled "Police!" He probably wouldn't have done it, comments the Chicago Times-Herald. If he had thought there was any danger of bringing an officer upon the scene.

WOMAN WINS RACE.

Drives Horse to Victory After Failure with Man in Sulky.

Mrs. Jessie Prindle's Splendid Feat on Eastern Track—Pine Knot Responded Gamely to Feminine Hands on Lines.

There is a new racing genius on the Highland Park track, a new toast for New Brunswick (N. J.) men, and all because of the way Pine Knot won the race.

"It was all through the love of a woman, Driver Jessie, they say. Pine Knot could tell you all about it if he would. His eloquent eyes and soft nose that rubbed Driver Jessie's cheek at the end of the final heat, when the whole field was in a tumult of enthusiasm, told its appreciation of her aid.

Pine Knot is a horse. He was entered in one of the trotting races. He had been beaten in the first heat because his driver did not know how to handle him and ill-treated him. The second heat was about to begin, when Mrs. Jessie Prindle, who had driven over with her husband, saw the distress of the horse, and declared she could drive him to victory. The owner of the horse overheard her remark and told her to go ahead and win. Mrs. Prindle threw aside her hat, had her skirts pinned up around her, and took her seat on the sulky. The horse seemed to feel the kind touch of the woman on the lines and responded gamely. He won the next two heats handily, and Mrs. Prindle was a heroine.

QUEER REQUESTS.

Many Applications Received by President McKinley for Position of Army Chaplain.

There are many applications for the position of chaplain in the army, mostly suggested by the prospect of legislation providing for chaplains for the volunteer regiments and for increasing the pay of those already in the service. Some of the letters from the candidates are curiously worded epistles, and many of them show the applicants are unaccustomed to the use of the pen.

One man sends his papers to the president and says that if Mr. McKinley does not have the time to read them it would oblige the candidate to have the documents handed to Mrs. McKinley for her perusal and report.

Another candidate, a negro, says his right shoulder has been in the medical museum at Washington for 30 years, and he asks if the war department can employ "the other and better part of me."

A Philadelphia clergyman sends his application for the place of chaplain on the regular form used for that purpose, and in the blank devoted to "previous military service" announces he once "took part in a Decoration day parade and was the orator on that solemn occasion."

NEW USE FOR MEGAPHONES.

Found of Practical Value in the Erection of Tall Buildings in the Larger Cities.

Megaphones, which have generally been looked upon as a sort of semi-useful phylaxer for yachtsmen or by announcers at bicycle races and field sports, are now being put to a thorough practical use by builders. Two of them are in constant use by the contractors for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, now being erected on Morningside heights, New York city. With them a man at the top of the arches, about 150 feet above the street level, converses with the stonecutters and handlers of other materials below. So useful have these exaggerated speaking trumpets become that their general use by builders is certain to follow this innovation. Megaphones for such purposes have been found better than the telephone, as they are inexpensive and there is no danger of their getting out of repair.

WOMAN KILLS A BUCK.

Wounds the Animal and Then with a Knife Dispatches Him in Hand-to-Hand Conflict.

A special to the Baltimore Morning Herald from Mount Union, Pa., says Huntingdon county has a heroine in the person of Mrs. Ezra Shoupe, who resides near Salfillo. A few days ago she had a thrilling encounter with a big buck which she first wounded with a rifle, and then dispatched with a knife, after being attacked several times by the infuriated animal. Mrs. Shoupe was knocked down by the deer, and her clothes torn almost off. She finally succeeded in cutting the animal's throat. The deer was a five-prong buck whose head is now a trophy in the Shoupe home.

A Cat as a Fire-Alarm.

Had it not been for the mewling of a pet cat for two or more hours early the other morning the Kisthardt home would probably have been burned to the ground while members of the family were asleep, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger. Several pieces of hot coal fell from the kitchen stove on the floor and ignited the carpet. The flames spread slowly, but harassed the cat to the extent that it made itself heard. Members of the family were awakened, and coming downstairs they found the kitchen in smoke. Had the fire spread to the pantry, where some dynamite was stored, the house must have been blown up.

What's in a Name?

Phanor Brezeales is the name of a new congressman from Louisiana. But that's nothing, says the Chicago Times-Herald. Nicholas Saturday got a marriage license in Chicago last Monday.

COAST DEFENSE PROBLEMS.

Failure to Secure Sites at Reasonable Prices for Placing of Guns Presents Serious Difficulties.

Army engineers are seriously blocked in their work of providing places for the coast fortifications on account of the difficulty in getting sites for the emplacements. There has been an inclination among the property owners to retain possession of the land desired by the government and hold it at prices which are deemed excessive. Such a proceeding always leads to the reference of the question of value to a board of arbitration. This takes time, and the property-owners are never satisfied with the findings of the adjudicators.

Special difficulty is encountered in the vicinity of the large cities, where the sites usually deemed useful for coast defenses are also valuable as a seaside resort.

One solution of the matter is being considered by the engineer-officers, who have a project for utilizing shoals as sites for big forts. This can be accomplished by jetties work and filling in so as to make a good foundation for the guns.

One site proposed is that on Roamer Shoals, which commands the approach to New York, and there are a number of small shoals along the coast of Long Island which are also available for this purpose.

It is proposed to place 12-inch guns on these shoals, where also will be located the ammunition chambers and possibly the quarters of those in charge, although there may be no attempt to provide accommodations for a large force. There was some talk of using 16-inch guns in those forts, but that caliber is still under test.

Gen. Wilson, chief of engineers of the army, has asked congress for an appropriation of \$200,000 for the purchase of sites, and it is not expected that this amount will suffice. The sum for the conversion of the shoals off Long Island will form a subsequent estimate.

HAS AN AUTOMOBILE.

Haytian Minister Appears on Pennsylvania Avenue with One of the New Vehicles.

An automobile has invaded the diplomatic corps, and to Mr. Leger, the Haytian minister, belongs the distinction of owning one of these new vehicles. He has just purchased it, however, and has not become accustomed to its use, as he rode down Pennsylvania avenue in the colored republic was delighted with the experience of riding in a carriage propelled by electricity, as was evidenced by the smiles which wreathed his face. He was so interested in the mechanism that he almost fell out of his seat to see how it worked. He came dangerously near wrecking the automobile by running into a heavy express wagon, and had it not been for the assistance of a policeman who sat beside him in the act of instructing the minister how to control the automobile, he would probably now be in a hospital. He was so enjoying his new mode of transportation that he was not conscious of his danger until his companion placed his hand on the steering apparatus and guided the machine to a place of safety.

EACH GETS WRONG BABY.

Messrs. Jones and Smith Have an Exciting Time at a Railway Station.

The Jones and Smith families swapped babies the other morning by mistake, thereby causing great excitement at the Union station, St. Louis, and driving two mothers nearly frantic. Henry Jones' family of eight arrived from Springfield, Ill., and on the same train came Alfred Smith's nine children. The families became friendly en route, and at the Union station a baby belonging to each was left in care of the other children. Smith was going out on a Frisco train and Jones on an Iron Mountain train. Each picked up the other's child and boarded his respective train.

When the discovery was made there was a wild scramble to exchange the youngsters. Each father seized the alien child and rushed on a hunt for his own. Jones and Smith met midway, threw the babies at one another and madly rushed back to their trains, which were on the point of pulling out. The mothers were in a faint when the babies were restored.

His Terms Were Accepted.

Gen. Joubert, when he was in New York city a few years ago as the guest of Henry George, told with modesty of his negotiations with the British at Majuba hill and his eyes sparkled as he recited his reply to the British commander in chief. "It does not comport with these," said the British general, pointing to the decorations on his breast, "to accede to your terms." To which said Joubert, pointing to his rifleman, "and it does not comport with those to offer any others."

Was the Play So Bad?

There is no excuse for such people as the Chicago man who went to the theater a few nights ago and began to shout, says the Chicago Times-Herald. It may be claimed that any other kind of criticism would be too mild for some of the plays, but it must be remembered that attendance at these places of amusement is not compulsory.

Justice Waking Up.

A St. Louis woman stole a loaf of bread and goes free, while a New York man who swindled hundreds of people with a "syndicate" scheme goes to jail. Thus, says the Chicago Record, we have two cases in which well-established precedents are violated.

A TUNNEL TO AFRICA

Gigantic Undertaking Talked Of by French Civil Engineer.

Maintains That It Is Perfectly Feasible to Bore Under Straits of Gibraltar—Would Make Tunnel 25 Miles Long.

A dispatch to the New York Herald from Paris says: A gigantic undertaking for tunneling the straits of Gibraltar is receiving attention now. M. Jean Berlier, the famous civil engineer, who is the author of the project, has just published in book form the result of his studies in connection with it.

He considers that an intercontinental tunnel, uniting Spain and Morocco, prolonged by a railway from Tangiers to Lalla Maghnia, would prove invaluable for the successful development of France's African colonies.

From soundings taken by him, M. Berlier has proved the existence of a compact rock formation across the straits, which guarantees solidity and impermeability. The undertaking, he says, would be no more difficult than the piercing of Mount Cenis, Saint Gothard, the Arlberg or the Simplon. He adds that if the diplomatic obstacles are not greater than the natural, success is certain.

He estimates that a tunnel of 41 kilometers (25 1/2 miles) would cost \$24,000,000, and that the work would require seven years. He calculates that the connection of the lines of the Algerian railway system and the extension from Tangiers to Lalla Maghnia would cost another 15,000,000 francs or 19,000,000 francs, so that the whole enterprise would necessitate \$28,400,000.

To offset this expense, M. Berlier shows that the approximate yearly revenue would be \$2,050,000.

He already has received the consent of the Spanish government to the scheme, and is working to obtain the authorization of the Moorish government to create a tunnel terminus in its territory.

MAN TRAPS.

One Inhuman Method of Warfare Encountered in the Philippines by American Army.

Troops in the Philippines have encountered a new device of war. The casualty reports received from Manila the other day contain a novel item, which show the dangers to which the American troops are subjected. The official reports have made some reference to the man traps and pitfalls placed in the paths of our troops, and some damage has resulted from these peculiar methods of crippling an army. The casualty reports which reached Washington record the serious injury of a soldier in a man trap which had been equipped with sharpened bamboo. The possibility of impairment adds to the menace of a trap which hitherto has offered no great obstacle to the progress of a body of soldiers.

The casualty occurred in the Sudlon mountains, in Cebu, and the victim was Private Peter Carl, of company L, Nineteenth infantry. Forty-five men under the commanding officers of companies K, H and I, Nineteenth infantry, and company M, Twenty-third infantry, left their camp on the Mananga river at eight a. m. to make a reconnaissance in front of the insurgent position of Sudlon mountains, and came into a position above the insurgents. The party passed down the stream, examined trails leading up the mountains, and were attacked, mostly at long range. The soldiers ran across man traps filled with the sharpened bamboo, and Private Carl was caught in the barbarous contrivance.

STOLE CHICKENS FOR PUPPY.

Intelligent Dog Keeps Her Offspring Alive While It Chained in the Woods.

William Wilderman, of Mont Vail, N. J., has a dog of which he is extremely fond, although he has had it only since Saturday. He and a friend were wandering through the woods between Mont Vail and Pearl River on Saturday afternoon when he discovered tracks which he thought were those of a fox.

"These explain why a chicken or two disappeared from Mont Vail every day for the last fortnight," said he to his friend.

"Let's see where these fox tracks lead to," was the response. The trail led to a sapling, to which a young dog was found tied by a stout rope. Lying at the feet of the pup was its mother, and all about it were scattered the feathers of at least 30 chickens. An examination of the rope showed that the mother had made futile attempts to free her offspring by cutting the rope with her teeth. The feathers indicated that, falling in this, she had stolen chickens for its food.

Mr. Wilderman led the pup home by means of the rope. The mother followed joyfully.

BORN IN DEWEY ARCH.

Kittens That Have the Distinction of Arriving in This World in Shadow of Greatness.

"Dewey," "George," "Manila," and "Cavite," four kittens, were found in the base of the western column of the second pair of columns south of the Dewey arch on Madison square, New York city. The mother and kittens were adopted and christened by the cabmen who have a stand in front of the Fifth Avenue hotel. The mother is called "Olympia," and she appeared upon the sidewalk to-day bearing in her teeth one of her offspring.

Patricians of the Senate.

Four of the oldest men in the senate sit side by side on the front row. They are Pettus, of Alabama, who is 75 years old; Cockrell, of Missouri, who is 63; Vest, of Missouri, who is verging on 70; and Morgan, of Alabama, who will be 70 next June.

Weighty Problems.

A few newspaper problems are still trying to find out when the twentieth century begins. Having settled that point, the Chicago Record suggests that they should tackle the problem whether two and two make four or whether they don't.

TRADE OF COLONIES.

Constantly Growing Demands for Products from Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii and Philippines.

Attention is again attracted to the capacity of Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines to meet the constantly growing requirements for tropical products and the markets they supply for American farm products and manufactures. The annual importations of tropical products average \$250,000,000, and are composed of raw materials for manufacture or foodstuff. Last year the most important items were: Sugar, \$85,000,000; coffee, \$25,000,000; rubber, \$22,800,000; fibers, \$18,000,000; tropical fruits and nuts, \$18,000,000; tropical gums, drugs, and dye woods, \$20,000,000; tobacco and manufactures, \$12,000,000; cocoa and chocolate, \$5,000,000. Most of these articles are produced in the islands in question and form a share in our importations from them.

The demand of these islands for the agricultural products and manufactures of the United States is great. In the past they drew their supplies from Spain, whose last year being Cuba, \$20,000,000; Porto Rico, \$7,000,000; and the Philippines, \$8,000,000. The importations into this country from each of these possessors were almost identical, consisting of sugar, tobacco, fruits, nuts, hides, textile grasses, chemicals, and dyes. In 1893 the importations from Cuba amounted to \$78,700,000; in 1894, \$40,017,720; and in 1895, \$15,232,477. Those from Porto Rico were in 1893 \$4,085,925; in 1894, \$2,226,622; and in 1895, \$2,414,256. The large falling off in importations was due to the war, which paralyzed business.

MEXICAN PROGRESS.

Evidence of It Is Found in Increased Importation of Labor-Saving Machinery.

According to reports to the state department evidence of Mexican progress of late are largely found in the constantly increasing importation of labor saving machinery. The total importation of machinery during the year ended June 30, 1897, amounted to \$3,754,025, while during the next fiscal year it was \$5,439,233, an increase of 41.6-46.1, or nearly 50 per cent. New manufacturing plants of almost every description are being built all over the republic. In no country in the world are cotton mills paid for such large dividends on the capital invested. The magnificent water power facilities, unused for centuries, are now being utilized. Immense mills were constructed only last year at the falls of Inmanacatlan, near Guadaluajara. Besides all kinds of cotton goods, Mexico today manufactures a good quality of cassimeres and woollen goods, blankets, stockings, knit underwear, shoes and all kinds of leather goods, and parts of wigs, fur and straw, blocked in the modern and prevailing style of the country. It is also beginning to make lines and silk fabrics, a determined and somewhat successful effort being made to raise the silkworm in the state of Guanajuato. Sugar and alcohol are also manufactured. The establishment of these new enterprises, fostered by the protective policy of the government, is giving an impetus to every industry, and offers to the American manufacturer of machinery a most inviting field.

ELOPES WITH MOTHER-IN-LAW.

Queer Couple Which Has Arrived at New York City—Wife of Fourteen Descended.

John Hille has come over seas to kill a tradition. He eloped with his mother-in-law. They are detained at the barge office at New York city. Hille, a strapping fellow of 25 years, is a baker and comes from Tarnowitz, Posen. He married a girl of 14, her mother, Mrs. Sophia Brassyg, who made the match, lived with the young folks. She is nearly 35 years old and has the air of one born to command. Hille fired his child wife and with the mother-in-law set out for America. They arrived here on the St. Louis, and the difference in their ages attracted the attention of the immigration officials. The two were detained for examination and then Hille told all he knew. He said he loved his mother-in-law and could not live without her. They will be sent back to Posen.

A SYNDICATE BABY.

How Motherly-Hearted Women of New Brunswick, N. J., Provided for a Heir to an Infant.

At New Brunswick, N. J., a syndicate of foster mothers may adopt Gertrude Davison, of Carman street, and bring her up on the cooperative plan. The syndicate baby is 11 months old. Her mother, Mrs. John Davison, died recently, leaving five children, four of whom have been placed with relatives. Not knowing who would take Gertrude, several charitable women said that it was the first time in the century that a child had been so advertised in New Brunswick, and they began to organize the syndicate.