

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ENGINEER



Portrait of Maj. William V. Judson, Washington.

Maj. William V. Judson is the engineer commissioner of the District of Columbia, and is recognized as a leader in the engineering profession. He is devoting much of his time at present to a careful study of the subject of the safety of public buildings.

FEARS A REACTION

Government's Financial Situation Interests Washington Experts.

Too Quick Return to Prosperity Regarded as Adverse Factor to Financiers—Over \$30,000,000 Gold Exported Since Jan. 1.

Washington.—In analyzing the financial situation of the government, which involves the question of whether or not an issue of three per cent. one-year certificates shall be used to replenish the working balance in the treasury, students of finance in Washington regard a too quick return of prosperity as an adverse factor. The export of gold, which shows no sign of diminution at the present time, is also being carefully watched with a view to ascertaining its real meaning and probable effect on business later.

Generally speaking, anything which will serve to reduce greatly the working balance in the treasury from \$37,240,000, its present stage, would be viewed with concern. It is now understood that the treasury department has high hopes that the increase in customs duties, supplemented by a demand among the small merchants for subsidiary silver coin will keep this balance about where it now is during the summer.

Taking the gold reserve as an indication of the trend of financial conditions, it is not generally known that over \$30,000,000 gold has been exported from the United States since January 1 last. This outgo can be partially accounted for in that approximately \$30,000,000 went to South America for coffee loans, while, within the last two months, Japan has bought more than \$10,000,000 in gold at San Francisco instead of buying in London, as formerly. Should Japanese continue these purchases at the same rate this act would, of course, have a significance apart from mere financial considerations.

The balance of the exports, amounting to nearly \$400,000,000, remains unaccounted for and financial students here believe that it indicates a redundant currency.

Acting on this belief they have reached the conclusion that if prosperity, following the passage of the tariff law, starts too rapidly it may be followed by a sharp reactionary movement in the fall. A tendency to speculation is especially feared on the theory that any undue frenzy of speculation, with paper money so abundant, may create a disturbance which would react on business.

FAMOUS AS MODEL SERVANT

Distinction Given to New York Woman with One Family for Fifty-Seven Straight Years.

New York.—With a record of 57 consecutive years' service in one family, Yetta Steinberger is considered the model servant by the several generations of the Isaac Kurtz family, who are now celebrating the anniversary.

Isaac Kurtz was walking through Battery park 57 years ago when he stopped to inquire of a young girl why she wept. She told him that she was hungry and had no home, and was unable to obtain employment.

He took her to his own home, and there she has remained ever since, ministering faithfully to the succeeding generations of the Kurtz family.

"Rat" Saves Woman's Life.

Roanoke, Va.—A "rat" in her hair saved the life of Bertha Delina, a young woman, who shot herself in the head in an attempt at suicide. When the physicians at the hospital pulled the hair from the wound the bullet came out with the mass of false hair.

BERLIN LIKES YANKEE GOLD

Money Spent by Army of 5,000 Sight-Seeers Saves Some of the Big Hotel Proprietors.

Berlin.—That the annual influx of American tourists is destined to become an economic and commercial factor of considerable importance in Berlin, as it has long been recognized to be the case in Paris and London, is indicated in statements given out in regard to business conditions in some of the leading Berlin hotels.

Most of these caravansaries report themselves in a state of flourishing prosperity and frankly attribute their fortunate condition to the fact that this has been a banner American year.

Some of them, in fact, are now practically dependent upon Americans for a majority of their custom.

In a few cases this season's incursion from the United States has meant rescue from a condition of dreaded uncertainty in regard to prospects of continuing a profitable business.

What a considerable contribution Americans must have made to the general business welfare of Berlin during the season is indicated by records of the police, which show that within the last 30 days nearly 5,000 visitors from the United States have taken up a transient residence in this city. This is more than the entire number of visitors from England, France, Italy, Belgium and Holland combined.

One Berlin newspaper, in citing these facts, again gives voice to a complaint of local trades people that Americans, though coming in great numbers, leave comparatively little money here and do most of their shopping in Paris. That their purchases here must sum up a handsome total, however, cannot be doubted.

A number of the fashionable Berlin shops are taking advantage of what they evidently consider an important opportunity by dressing their show windows in American style and carrying goods evidently intended to appeal to American tastes.

DECIDES "PIGS IS PIGS"

Health Board of Delaware City Declares That Educated Porkers Are Plain "Hogs."

Wilmington, Del.—The Wilmington board of health gave a true application to a well-known story that "pigs is pigs."

For several weeks John Andrews, an animal trainer, has been putting two young porkers through all kinds of stunts, with a view to placing them in vaudeville as trained pigs or selling them to some showman. The pigs were getting along famously when a neighbor, who was evidently envious of the trainer's progress, notified the health officials that hogs were being kept within the city limits, contrary to law.

Health Officer Ulrich began an investigation, and at the meeting of the board he made known the facts. The board decided that it could not discriminate between trained and untrained porkers, and issued an order for Andrews to dispense with them or leave the premises.

Short Sentence for Burglar.

Cheyenne, Wyo.—Sam Smith, facing a score of burglary charges, who was shot twice in a desperate attempt to escape arrest, was sentenced to five hours in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$500.

Smith has passed the last year in hospital and jail, awaiting trial. His sentence is the shortest ever imposed in Wyoming.

Brings Taft Masonic Jewel.

New York.—Frederick C. Van Duser, one of the oldest American residents of London, has arrived here as the bearer of a jewel from the American lodge of Masons in England to President Taft, in celebration of the fact that he has been elected an honorary member of that lodge.

BOUND TO KEEP THEIR WORD

Amazing Obstacity of Cornishmen, for Which They Are Noted, Well Illustrated.

The Cornish people are credited by H. Hudson in "The Land's End," with a spirit of stubbornness which at times becomes amusing. The author gives a characteristic incident.

The late royal academician, Hook, was on the sands at Whitesand bay, working at a marine picture, when two natives came up and planted themselves just behind him. There was nothing the artist bated more than to be watched by strangers over his shoulders in this way, and pretty soon he wheeled round on them and angrily asked them how long they were going to stand there.

His manner served to arouse their spirit, and they replied, brusquely, that they were going to stay as long as they thought proper.

He insisted on knowing just how long they were going to stay there to his annoyance, and by and by, after some more loud and angry discussion, one of them incautiously declared they would stand at the very spot for an hour.

"Do you mean that?" shouted Hook, pulling out his watch. Yes, they returned, they would not stir an inch from that spot for an hour.

"Very well," he said, and pulled up his easel; then marching on to a distance of 30 yards, he set up again and resumed his painting. And there, within 30 yards of his back, the two men stood for an hour and a quarter, for, as they did not have a watch, they were afraid of going away before the hour had expired. Then they marched off.

REPARTEE IN SENATE HALLS

Legislator from Nevada Rather Got the Worst of Conversational Exchange.

Senator Newlands of Nevada, was making a tariff speech, and in its course referred to labor conditions in Pittsburg, where, he said, men were compelled to work seven days a week, 12 or 14 hours a day, Sunday and every other day. He drew a parallel between these conditions and the statement that protection helps the American workman and that Pittsburg is supposed to be the greatest beneficiary of the protective tariff system.

Senator Oliver, newly from Pittsburg, was restless during that recital, according to the Saturday Evening Post. Finally he jumped up and denied that any Pittsburg workmen were compelled to work on Sunday except the blast furnace men. Then he said he had been in Nevada and that it was customary to work seven days a week there, there being no such thing as Sunday observance.

"It is a state," shouted Oliver, "where the faro table and the roulette table are a part of the furniture of every hotel in the state—not of the barroom, but of the office part of the establishment—and the guests cannot get away from it. I spent one day—and it was the sorriest day I ever spent—in the city which is the senator's home. The only place where I could get away from the rattle of dice and the clink, clink of faro chips was by going to the Carnegie library, given to the city of Reno by one of Pittsburg's millionaires."

That detained Newlands for an indefinite period.

Barracks for Spanish Soldiers.

The lot of the Spanish soldier, even in times of peace, is far from enviable, for his food, lodging and clothing are of the poorest. As regards barracks the Spanish army is certainly the worst equipped in Europe, and this fact was practically admitted by Senor Sagasta when he was premier. A deputation waited on him to protest against the unfair manner in which the law as to obligatory army service was enforced, so that any one with £50 to spare can evade this duty. The premier admitted that the principle of redemption from military service was illegal and that all healthy male adults should be required to serve; but he added, "the majority of our barracks are in such bad condition that we cannot expect the sons of respectable parents to live in them."

Ready for More Business.

Dean Ramsey has a story of that border hostility between English and Scots which used to go to halter lengths. A Scottish drover was returning from the south in particularly bad humor with the English, having done poor business, when he saw in Carlisle a notice offering a reward of £50 to any one who would volunteer for the unpopular task of hanging a condemned criminal. Seeing his chance to make up for his bad market, and comforting himself with the thought that he was unknown there, he did the job and got his fee. As he was leaving he was taunted as a beggarly Scot, doing for money what no Englishman would. But he answered with a cheerful grin: "I'll hang ye at the price."

Charley and His Hands.

"You say your husband occasionally consults a palmist?" "Yes," answered young Mrs. Torkina. "You see Charley plays cards a great deal." "But he isn't so superstitious as to think he can foretell his luck?" "No. He takes it for granted that his luck will be bad. But he says it's worth the money to have somebody tell him he has a hand worth looking at."

TESTING STRENGTH OF BRAIN

Simple Means by Which One May Determine on Which Side of Boundary He Is.

If the theory of a New York magazine is correct it is easy to ascertain one's state of mind without hiring an expensive alienist and submitting one's self to an embarrassing volley of questions. Any one who has a lurking suspicion that perhaps the strain of life is too great and who wants to know the truth without evasion or polite subterfuge, has but to close the eyes and try to put the tip of the index finger of the right hand on the end of the nose. According to the metropolitan judge this is an unerring test of sanity. Whoever is able to do this at the first trial is presumably sane. If the finger and the nose do not touch there is a screw loose somewhere.

It would perhaps be well for every one who has a conscientious regard for the welfare of others and who wants to maintain an even mental balance to apply this test every day, say, the first thing in the morning on arising. If the finger and the nose come into conjunction promptly all is well. If there is a failure to occur it is time to take advice. So simple a test can be conducted secretly. It is unnecessary to ask, "Is my nose on straight?" No mirrors are required. No one need be called in to help. Just touch the nose with the eyes shut and the day begins sanely. That will be a great comfort to many a man who now rises without perfect assurance that he is on the right side of the faint line that marks the boundary.

TAKING A MEAN ADVANTAGE

Negro Pugilist's Amusing Reason for Refusing to Continue Fistic Combat.

A negro waiter in a Paducah hotel had an idea he was a prizefighter, being stirred to deeds within the squared circle by hearing of the prowess of Peter Jackson and John Johnson. They matched him with a Swede from Chicago, and the fight came off in a barn. Early in the first round the Swede landed a hard one on the negro's nose, fattening that organ about six degrees more than nature did. The crack bothered the negro, and the Swede was quick to take notice of it. The Swede kept pounding at the negro's nose, pounding it steadily. After he had the negro's nose spread away round by his ears, in the third round, the negro rushed to his corner and began tearing madly at the gloves.

"Here," shouted his second, "ain't you going to fight no more?" "No, sah," replied the negro, with great dignity, "I ain't goin' to fight no more 'w' no gentleman what don't scatter his blows."—Saturday Evening Post.

One-Armed Pianist.

Count Geza Zichy, president of the National Conservatory of Music at Budapest celebrated his sixtieth birthday on July 23. Referring to the event a Vienna paper speaks of him as a unique figure in the musical world. "If we are justified in saying that Raphael would have been a great painter, even if he had no arms," says the writer, "we may certainly say that Zichy was a great pianist, although he had but one arm. He was 14 years old when he lost his right arm on a hunting tour, but notwithstanding this handicap he continued his early study of music, and became so proficient as a performer that he played with great skill the works of Chopin and other composers. In 1866 he made his first appearance before the public as a pianist, and has since that time played at hundreds of concerts, always for the benefit of some charitable institution. He composed several operas, and in 1891 became the director of the Hungarian opera at Budapest."

Helen Frick's Good Work.

Miss Helen Frick, daughter of the Pittsburg millionaire, is said to be taking the greatest pleasure in her philanthropic work, transporting city waifs down to the farm which her father has given her for the purpose. She also has a boat where the half-sick children may lie and dream themselves back to health. Miss Frick is most enthusiastic, and, together with her mother, has most sensible ideas as to how the money of her father should be spent, and he leaves it all to them. Miss Frick is a petite type of girl, with Auburn hair, and has most charming manners and a merry disposition that counts for much in the sort of work that she desires to do.

Her Dearest Friend.

"Jack sent me a handsome mirror for my birthday." "O, that accounts for it." "Accounts for what?" "Yesterday he asked me if a woman ever got too old to be pleased with a looking glass."

He Knew.

Great novelist (dictating).—The storm increased in fury, rain fell in torrents and the gale shrieked all night like—like—what shall I say? Secretary (father of three)—Like a baby cutting its teeth.—Pearson's Weekly.

A Black Record.

"There goes a man of low life and dark deeds." "Mercy on us! What does he do?" "Cleans cellars and shovels in coal."—Baltimore American.

ASTRAL VOYAGE TO TEHERAN

Detroit Theosophist Insists That He Was Projected Across the World While Asleep.

That in his sleeping hours recently he became an actor in an episode of the period of stirring and bloodshed, which has been taking place in Teheran, the capital of Persia, is the belief of A. E. Madgwick, 2875 East Grand boulevard, says the Detroit Free Press. Mr. Madgwick is one of the most thoroughly erudite theosophists in the country.

Like all theosophists who accept the ancient Vedantist philosophy, Mr. Madgwick holds that during profound sleep, the "self" or "ego" leaves its earthly body and wanders at will through the universe.

"Of course, all dreams are not of one class," said he cautiously, after he had with some reluctance consented to talk of his personal experience.

"However, for this dream of mine: I seemed to be in a big city with queer oriental houses and narrow streets. As I walked here and there I heard the sound of guns, and the yells and shrieks and horrible sounds that naturally accompany fighting and massacre in the streets. Suddenly I came upon a body of soldiers who, as I knew from their uniforms, were Russians.

"These soldiers were killing, and to get away I ran up a side street or alley with a high wall at the end. There I met another man who was also trying to escape.

"We ran for the door of a house and my comrade, who seemed determined to take care of me, pushed me inside. As he did so, I saw the gleam of a bayonet and knew that he was gone, though I was safe in the house. The shock awoke me.

"Persia is a long way from Detroit, nevertheless I am firmly convinced that it was to Teheran that I went in my astral body that night."

TRAGIC STORY OF DIAMOND

Famous Gem, for Which Original Finder Was Murdered, Had Many Vicissitudes.

Men have never collected great crystals just for personal adornment. Even that "fribble in lace and sangles," the rival of Beau Brummel, and afterward George IV. of England—even he sought them simply for some Perditia he was pursuing Louis XIV. Le Grand Monarque, purchased 25 large diamonds, mostly for his mistresses—La Valliere, whose name still endures in a form of trinket, Montezpan, Fontanges, Maintenon. Among them was the wondrous "Pitt," says Franklin (Clark in Everybody's).

A slave in India had found it. Having found it his heart shouted for liberty. Cutting the calf of his leg in order to hide the diamond within the slit, he limped to the coast. To an English ship captain he offered it for passage to any country where men were free. The captain quite casually, and with humor, took the gem and threw the slave into the sea.

The guardian of such jesting release from servitude was sold to a dealer for \$5,000 and through him reached Sir Robert Pitt, governor of Fort St. George, for \$102,000, who shipped it home to England to be faceted. A Scotch financier, John Law, then doing business in France, negotiated, for a fee of \$25,000, the sale of the diamond to the regent (afterward Louis XVI.), at \$75,000. It is pleasant to remember that thereby the fortunes of the house of Pitt were restored and that the seller's son, William Pitt, and his grandson, the earl of Chatham, were assisted to high place and service by the opportunities made possible through the profit on the diamond, for which a poor slave, seeking freedom, was thrown into the sea.

Bernhardt's Latest Feat.

One had thought that it was impossible for Mme. Sarah Bernhardt herself to beat her own feats of energy, but she has just surpassed even her own records. She has come back from a tour of 21 days in the provinces, during which she actually played "Dame aux Camellias" on the 21 successive evenings. How many times she has by now died of consumption toward midnight as Marguerite Gautier, even she probably can no longer count. During her latest tour she traveled by motor car throughout, and never set foot in a railway carriage. When next she starts on a circuit of Europe and of the globe she thinks of journeying by the same means wherever possible. For the present she is off to her castle of Helle Isle, on the Brittany coast, for a few weeks' rest, if she ever does rest.

Horrors!

New Jersey inventors, abetted by local capitalists, have devised a fire-cracker made entirely by machinery at the rate of 36 a minute, at a cost of production less than the import duty on Chinese firecrackers. "No human hand," we are told "touches the cracker from the beginning of its manufacture to the end." It is perhaps too much to hope that no human hand shall touch it afterward. Doubtless many will, and we shall begin to hear the result on the day after July 4.—Boston Transcript.

The One Exception.

"Isn't your climate rather changeable?" "Yes," answered Farmer Corntossel, "I reckon we have about every kind of weather there is, except good weather."—Washington Star.

WAS LOOKING FOR TROUBLE

Writer's Somewhat Remarkable Reason for Insisting on Taking a Vacation.

"I am determined to go on a vacation." "Whither looked almost bored as he spoke," Clouston regarded him with a quizzical look.

"You have a comfortable home?" he asked.

"Splendid! nothing could be better."

"And a loving wife?"

"None more so. Studies to please all the time. Never outrages herself, and is silent when desirable."

"You are in good physical condition?"

"Very; never felt better."

"No trouble of any sort, no hidden worry that you want to get away from?"

"None, whatever. Everything is serene."

"What then, is the reason for your going?"

"Whittier smiled.

"My dear boy," he replied, "don't you know that when everything is running smoothly, when there is absolutely no cause for complaint, when you simply couldn't improve on the present condition if you tried—don't you understand that then the pure and unadulterated cussedness of human nature absolutely demands that something be done to upset the harmony of things? That's why I am going on a vacation. I'm looking for trouble!"—Thomas L. Masson in Lippincott's.

READS LIKE A NATURE FAKE

If This Story Is True New Jersey Grocery Man Certainly Has a Remarkable Dog.

For years Henry Williamson, a Trenton N. J. grocer, had great difficulty in dealing with I. O. U. customers. A year ago a tramp offered to sell him a dog which could be trained to do anything. Williamson thought if the animal could be learned the trick of keeping away customers with no money, his grocery business would prosper, and with the idea of giving the canine such a course of instruction, he purchased him.

Trust was the name assigned to the dog, and every customer was acquainted with the canine, as by the actions of the grocer. Trust soon learned whether to be friendly or to growl when certain patrons called.

Mr. Williamson assumed the attitude of harshness when he was told to "put it on the book" and his demeanor was overwhelmingly friendly when a cash customer made a visit. Trust quickly became "wise" to these changes in his master and took kindly to his course of training.

A few months later the dog growled and made vicious attacks on I. O. U. customers and would lick the hands of those who paid cash. The result is that Mr. Williamson has no more book accounts, his business being entirely on a cash basis.

Curiosity.

Not only does every woman who enters an elevator containing a mirror turn round immediately, touch up her frizzes and remove flakes of soot from her face, but men adjust their neckties, take a deliberate survey of themselves, and pose and imitate their chests like Col. Sellers of lamented memory. A little stenographer in her building over near the city hall, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, had been observing this peculiarity in the lords of creation. One day, having surprised a man making a more deliberate and careful scrutiny than usual, she expressed her opinion to "James," the elevator man: "You needn't talk about the vanity of women after that," she exclaimed, scornfully; "men look at themselves twice as long and twice as intently as the vainest woman that ever breathed." "You didn't hear what he said to me, did you?" asked James. "No." "He said: 'I've been drunk for four days, and I just wanted to see how I looked.'"

Mangled by California Lion.

While on an afternoon's outing the other day with two boys, Miss Inola Kennedy, a young girl who is widely known as a temperance worker, was attacked and mangled by a California lion near Glen Willis, 15 miles from San Jose, Cal. The lion first sprang on one of the boys and then attacked Miss Kennedy, who fought him as best she could with a long hatpin. The boys ran to the camp of a water company near by and gave the alarm, and John Conlon and A. Fletcher hastened to the girl's aid. The former fired four times at the animal with a shotgun, and Fletcher fired three shots with a rifle into the animal before the beast died. The girl's left arm was terribly mangled and her entire body lacerated, and her condition is serious. One boy's neck was clawed and one of his ears split open.

The Greeting Table.

A fad of the moment that is a pretty one in the way of household decoration is the greeting table that stands just within the door, and is the first thing that the guest sees. It may be a plain affair, but it must contain a vase or pot of flowers. In summer it is easy enough to have fresh flowers each day, but in winter the plant on the greeting table must be something that blooms and will not be hurt by the draught from the open door. Pink oxalis is suggested as a hardy plant for this purpose or the florist may be able to suggest something even better.