

THE NEW SECRETARY OF WAR



Gen. Luke E. Wright as his latest photograph reveals him, taken after his appointment to the cabinet position made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Taft.

CAT AT THE PHONE

WONDERFUL FELINE OWNED BY CHICAGO FAMILY.

Four-Year-Old "Tom" Gifted with Really Remarkable Intelligence—Some Few of the Things He Does Right Along.

Chicago—"Tom" Stevens, four years old, is precocious. Here are some of the things he does:

Refuses to play baseball with the ball used once by himself and his mother, who is now dead.

Answers the telephone or arouses the household when the bell rings, if some adult is not present.

Although not of school age, he knows Saturday as the school holiday and holds special exercises therefor.

Only communicates with those whose acquaintance with him is thoroughly conventional; likes dogs and birds.

Calls the family together at meal time and mourns when any member is late; also, when the head of the house is late, insists upon the telephone being used to bring that person.

This does not sound so wonderful for a four-year-old, but when it is explained that Tom is a cat and not a child, the wonder of it can be imagined.

The telephone rang and Tom ran for a member of the Stevens family, where Tom makes his home.

Tom insisted on listening to the message.

"Hello, Tom," said a voice in the receiver.

Tom shook his head and walked contemptuously away. It was not his mistress.

A minute later the receiver again rang, and no attempt was made to answer. Tom began howling, the receiver was taken down and placed at the cat's ear.

"Hello there," said the voice.

"Me-ow-ur-ur-ur," replied Tom.

Then the cat, rubbing his arched back against the receiver, went into a long conversation of me-ows, purrs, and guttural gasps. At "good-by" the cat walked away.

Every evening when Miss Stevens comes home from her office at Fifty-seventh street and Washington avenue, Tom is in the window waiting that is every day but Saturday.

On Saturday the cat opens the door for his mistress, and for the only time during the week, puts a pan out of doors without permission.

Saturday, you see, a piece of raw liver is brought home for Tom's weekly dinner. Tom is always at the door before his mistress comes, and no other evening will he go near the door.

A few months ago Tom's mother died. Since then Tom, who was formerly a regular Lajoie on the parlor diamond, declines to gambol with the sphere.

Liquor Kills Other Poison. Lebanon, Pa.—Samuel Hummel of South Lebanon township was found in a stupor, and after being revived at the City hospital informed the physicians of his having attempted to take his own life by swallowing a quantity of carbolic acid.

Hummel admitted having nerved himself for the deed by drinking a quart of whisky and this act saved his life. He suffered more from the effects of the liquor than the other poison.

Dog Rescues Dog from Ocean. Highlands, N. J.—Children playing on the beach at Long Branch, threw their pet dog in the surf. The current was strong and the animal was unable to swim against the undertow. The pet was being carried out to sea when Tommy Johnson's white bulldog, Thistle, jumped in the ocean, swam out to the other dog, and brought it ashore.

NOVEL FEAT OF SURGERY.

Broken Arm of New York Boy Mended with a Nail.

New York.—Mending a broken arm with a nail, an extraordinary feat in surgery, has just been performed successfully by Harlem hospital surgeons. There was a plan resorted to after usual methods had failed, and when the case seemed to be hopeless. Now the limb operated upon is as sound as ever. It was.

Charles Nelson, 15 years old, while alighting from a car, suffered such a severe fracture of his right wrist that one bone lapped over another. He was taken to the Harlem hospital and the arm placed in a splint, but the bones did not knit.

Thereupon the surgeons resorted upon a novel method of treatment. The lad was put under the influence of ether and an incision was made in the injured arm above the wrist joint. What is called the shaft of the bone was pried open and the two overlapping bones were set together.

Meanwhile a steel nail about 1 1/2 inches long had been carefully sterilized and medicated. A vise of cotton and other material was made for the arm, and, with an ordinary hammer, the nail was driven into the head, piercing both bones in much the same fashion as two boards would be fastened together. The splints were then replaced.

Nelson returned to the hospital recently, and it was found that his arm was as strong as it had been before the accident. A few minutes later the boy was playing ball in the street.

IS BOTH ACTOR AND PREACHER.

Baltimorean on Stage Week Days, in Pulpit Sundays.

Baltimore.—In the absence of the Rev. William Page Dame, rector of St. Bartholomew's Protestant Episcopal church, his brother, Wilmer Dame, an actor, is serving as lay reader. The appointment, which was quite agreeable to the members of the church, occasioned comment in view of the occupation of the minister's substitute.

Actor Dame, who is now playing in the Auditorium the part of George Duval, father of Armand Duval, in "Camille," sees no impropriety in an actor officiating in the pulpit.

When asked about it he said: "There is nothing in theatrical work which should make a member of that profession less religious than that would be in any other, or to cause him to lose spiritual grace.

"It has been the custom, ever since I can remember, for the clergyman of a parish to appoint as lay reader, when one is necessary, a member of the church in whom he has faith and confidence. On the advice of my father and after some discussion I consented to act.

"I felt sure that my father had the confidence of this community, and that if he approved it would greatly influence public opinion. In advising me to take the position he said that anything that drew the theater closer to the church would be a good thing. There are 42 clergymen in the Dame family and its connections.

Catapulted Child Alive.

Allentown, Pa.—Two horses drawing a double-seated carriage in which were Abraham Badger and Abe Orman and their families, became frightened going down a steep hill at the Lehigh Gap. In their flight the carriage struck a guard rail along side the Lehigh canal with such force that it broke the shaft and liberated the horses.

As the team jumped forward the reins became entangled with the neck of Clara, the six-year-old daughter of Orman, and she was jerked from her mother's grasp and flung high into the air.

The parents picked up the child for dead, but were overjoyed to find she had received only a few bruises on the neck and shoulders.

YEARLY TOBACCO CONSUMPTION.

Commissioner of Internal Revenue Gives Some Interesting Figures.

Washington.—Cigarettes to the number of 55,402,326,113 were consumed in the United States in the last year. Counting the number of men and boys of smoking age as 25,000,000 each consumed 2,216 cigarettes last year.

In this enormous total are not included millions of cigarettes which are listed as cigars.

The preliminary report of the commissioner of internal revenue shows that the receipts of his office from all internal revenue sources during the year ending July 31, 1908, was \$251,646,950, which is a decrease of \$17,998,973 as compared with the fiscal year ended July 31, 1907. The expenses in collecting this sum will amount to about \$4,832,000.

The quantities on which tax was paid during the year are as follows:

Spirits distilled from fruit, gallons, 1,670,081.

Spirits distilled from materials other than fruit, gallons, 119,808,402.

Imitation champagne, etc., 69 bottles.

Fermented liquors, 58,747,680 barrels.

Cigars weighing more than three pounds per 1,000, 6,904,758,783.

Cigars not weighing more than three pounds per 1,000, 106,252,396.

Cigarettes weighing not more than three pounds per 1,000, 55,383,204,630.

Cigarettes weighing more than three pounds per 1,000, 19,131,482.

Snuff, pounds, 22,647,762; tobacco, pounds, 364,109,335; oleomargarine, pounds, 78,107,302; filled cheese, pounds, 127,152.

SAYS LOVE IS A DELUSION.

Chinese Philosopher Tells Why We Have Divorce Courts.

San Francisco.—"The world must look to China for a remedy of the divorce evil." This is the view of Ng Poon Chew, Chinese philosopher and socialist, who declared that only in the Celestial kingdom are divorce courts unnecessary.

"In no country," he says, "marriage is a common job. Everyone has to take part, voluntarily or otherwise. We marry because we must; you marry because you fancy you have found your affinity. We know of no affinities.

"The Chinese regard the breaking of the marriage bond, either by divorce or separation, not only as immoral, but as a fearful crime against society. Here you are bound to follow the whims and fancy of every changing emotion in the selection of life partners, but we regard marriage as a matter of the head. Our young people have absolutely nothing to do with marriage. We do not recognize love and we have never been besuiced by Cupid. To the Chinese mind love is a delusion, hallucination, intoxication and a mirage in the desert of passion.

"We have solved the problems of marriage, you have not. We have no need of divorce courts, you cannot do away with them."

Ng Poon Chew has attracted wide attention on the Pacific coast by a number of essays on various sociological subjects.

WOULD BAR FAIRY TALES.

School Trustees Wants Children to Stick to Dry Facts.

Passaic, N. J.—"Fairy tales and fables have no place in our public schools," declared Harry A. Hettema, school trustee for the Second ward, in discussing a fight he had made at the meeting of the board of education to "have all such books discarded from the reading courses. How many of our children are taken out of school and sent to work the day they are 14 years old? Their time, while they are in school, should be spent in acquiring practical knowledge."

Asked what he would have the children read Hettema said he would suggest books of travel, history, geography, and anything that would improve the mind and be useful to the child in after years.

"The Dutch," he continued, "are particularly opposed to having their children read fairy tales. In Paterson they have opened a private school because the fairy stories were read in the public schools, and there has been talk of doing the same Passaic."

A majority of Hettema's constituents are of Dutch descent, as he is himself.

Lightning Plays Pranks.

Waterbury, Conn.—Lightning played queer pranks here during a storm. One bolt entered the front door of a dwelling owned by H. B. Beardley, tore out a window and hurled the tenant of the house, William Shaw, out onto the back veranda without injuring him in the least.

The family sewing machine was moved from the parlor into the dining room, but Mrs. Shaw says she wanted it there anyway. Killed to its good work the lightning killed thousands of elm tree beetles, which were turning the old town's majestic trees into barren stumps.

Sleepwalker's Long Fall.

Philadelphia.—While walking in his sleep James Carter, aged 42 years, of 424 South Twelfth street, fell to the sidewalk from the third-story window of his home. He was taken to the Pennsylvania hospital, and reached there unconscious, though he was soon revived.

The strange part about the man's case is that, while he was badly bruised, not a bone was broken. He will recover unless he has suffered internal injuries.

CURRENT DOES WORK

FORMER RAILROAD OFFICIAL FARMS WITH ELECTRICITY.

Thomas W. Lee of Idaho Falls, N. Y., Has a Large Tract Strung with Wires to Furnish Power for Machinery.

New York.—Thomas W. Lee, until about two years ago general passenger agent of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, with headquarters in New York, is the first man in the world to farm by electricity. Mr. Lee owns the Bungalow, a tract of more than 2,000 acres in the vicinity of Idaho Falls. All that he has to do now when he wishes to farm is to push a button. Electricity does the rest.

The ground in the Bungalow was broken for cultivation two years ago. The first season it returned a profit on grain. It is fenced, has fine buildings, machinery and stock and is managed by a man to whom system is as necessary as breath.

One year ago Mr. Lee utilized steam, but that proved too slow and too expensive. This year the grain of the Bungalow will be reaped, stacked, threshed, sacked and made ready for market by electricity.

Mr. Lee is now having by electricity. A simple wheeled contrivance containing a heavy coil of wire is taken to the desired position. Motor and machinery are set, and in a few minutes the pleasant, steady hum of machinery is heard. This power is transmitted about 12 miles. The feed wire of the ranch is fitted with plugs and the juice is ready for coil and motor wherever it may be located.

Mr. Lee installed private telephone and electric wires. These wires, erected at his own expense, are stretched two miles from the main line of the power company. These poles carry three wires, which are used for both power and lighting purposes.

Water is pumped, grindstones are turned, saws, corn shellers, root cutters, hay forks, hay cutters, cider mills, grist mills, sawage cutters, cement mixers, churns and separators are all run by electricity. A 15-horsepower electric motor accomplishes all these things.

The Bungalow is wired from corner to corner. Miles of poles and cables, motors, revolving drums and the most up-to-date farming machinery that money can buy constitute the equipment.

This season the entire crop of the Bungalow, aggregating 2,000 tons of hay, alfalfa and clover, 40,000 bushels of grain and potatoes and other products will be placed on tracks and with cable reels be handled with greater facility than it could ever be handled with human hands.

The cost of steam, with the coal and labor, was much greater than that of electricity. During the threshing season labor alone costs \$50 a day for 25 days. Mr. Lee figures that the installation of electricity means a saving for the first year of \$2,200 on first cost, and thereafter the cost of operating will be about one-fourth the former figures. During the threshing season the cost with the electric current will be only \$400, as against \$1,600 with steam.

Aside from the saving, Mr. Lee says the power is reliable, constant and doesn't go on strike; the danger of fire is eliminated and the satisfaction constitutes not the smallest feature.

Gave Life to Win Game.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Rather than drop the ball, which, unless he held it, would mean the loss of a hard-fought twilight game for his team, Willie Rainey, 12 years old, took great chances, and though he held the game safe, he may lose his life in consequence. He fell into an abandoned coal mine which lay under the out field on Cazzan's hill, where the game was being played.

The batsman hit a fearful drive that looked as if it would get over Rainey's head, but he ran backward far and fast. Finally, by a remarkable jump, Rainey got the ball in one hand, and as he reached the earth again he stumbled and lurched into the yawning mouth of the abandoned coal mine. It was half an hour before the youngster was fished out of the coal mine, and it was found that one of his legs was broken and that he had sustained fearful internal injuries.

In the grimy little right hand he held the ball.

Hung Out \$200 on Line to Dry.

Ansonia, Conn.—William Wilhelmy a baker of this city, drove to Woodbury to visit his brother. He was caught in a rainstorm, and when he reached his brother's his trousers were wringing wet and bespattered with mud. He borrowed another pair of pants and wore them while the hired girl washed the other pair.

Wilhelmy went calling on friends and when he returned he found a crowd looking at \$200 in wet money hanging on a clothes line.

The girl had been in this country only a few days and did not know that what she found in the pants was money.

Prize Corn of Iowa.

Rockwell, Ia.—Rockwell claims the possession of the most thrifty stalk of corn in all Iowa. On exhibition in one of her stores is a cornstalk containing 18 ears of corn of normal size and stalk ready for maturity. The stalk was grown on a piece of leased land near the town, and it is said nothing like it has been seen in corn-growing

LEAVES \$200,000 TO FIGHT TAX.

Woman's Bequest to County is to Prove Illegal \$3,000 Assessment.

Bridgeport, Conn.—Mrs. Cornelia H. B. Rogers leaves \$200,000 to Fairfield county, Connecticut, on condition that the income shall be used to prove litigation against the borough of Brooklyn, N. Y., for the purpose of proving that the tax arrears act, passed on March 18, 1883, as a result of which she lost less than \$3,000, is illegal.

In the will Mrs. Rogers wrote that she regarded herself bound by a sacred duty to prosecute the case to a legitimate conclusion, and in an accompanying letter she said:

"My great desire is to provide for and procure the prosecution of this litigation, for I regard the Brooklyn arrears act and the legislation growing out of and connected therewith as most unfortunate and a great and abiding wrong to the citizens of Brooklyn, and as the tax state certificates which I have held and those which are now in my possession have been and are affected by this action, I consider it a high public duty and necessary to make all possible use of them in righting this wrong, if it may be done."

Originally the \$200,000 bequest was left to Yale university and Vassar college, with similar instructions, and a proviso that \$1,000 annually should be paid from the income to Monroe and New Fairfield, small towns in the vicinity of this city, but the change to Fairfield county is contained in a codicil, which says:

"I earnestly urge the citizens of Fairfield county carefully to examine and consider a situation which, I am fully persuaded, threatens the safety of the citizens and the life of the government founded by our fathers. God save the republic."

BIG PIKE LIKES VEAL.

Fish Invades Flooded Field and Captures a Calf.

Worthing, S. D.—During the last high water, large pike and carp made their way up a drainage canal in Grand township, this county, with the result that Henry Hanson, a farmer, lost a young calf, carried off by a giant pike.

Melvin E. Sundvold tells the story as reported by Hanson.

The farmer heard a noise among his cattle one night, and rushed out toward the trouble, which he found was near the canal. He found several calves standing belly deep in water, and noticed one little calf making a desperate effort to pull its tail free from something.

The farmer, with his bare legs, was afraid of barbed wire, but he waded cautiously toward the calf, and, just as he caught it, a monster pike leaped the water all over him, and for a moment he was blinded. Wiping the water from his eyes, he found the calf was being dragged toward deep water. Hanson made a desperate effort to reach the animal before it was dragged into the canal, but he failed, and the calf struggled until it finally drowned.

Deer Hunt in New York City.

New York.—A deer chase in the downtown district gave the business center a novel entertainment. The animal was caged in a crate tagged for the game preserves of W. Seward Webb, vice-president of the New York Central railroad, in the Adirondacks.

The crate had been placed in an express wagon, which started uptown. The deer forced the top bars of its temporary prison and leaped into the street. While the driver shouted to pedestrians to head off the game the deer fled in other directions.

A policeman and a citizen who attempted to catch the frightened animal were easily bowled over, and the deer fled for several blocks until he reached the Hudson river, plunged in, and was heading for Governor's island when the crew of a tugboat lassoed him and returned him to his crate.

Lost Teeth While Bathing.

Atlantic City, N. J.—A mammoth wave that banged Mrs. D. H. Murer of Reading, Pa., against other bathers and filled her mouth with salt water also knocked out her false teeth while she was enjoying a surf bath. The woman screamed and life guards, who supposed she was drowning, rushed to her assistance only to discover that she merely wished for the return of the missing molars. Gallant guards dived for several minutes, but failed to find the teeth, and the unfortunate woman has cut her vacation short to return home after a new set.

Singer Dies in Poverty.

San Francisco.—In extreme poverty Helen Dington, a former comic opera singer, died here. Twenty years ago she was a star at the old Tivoli opera house in such operas as "The Masked Ball" and "The Little Duke." Afterward she went east and repeated her success. She sang here until about 15 years ago, when she married a man named Steiglitz and retired from the stage.

She lost her husband and her fortune, and her father, the founder of old Nelson Doree restaurant, lost his fortune. In her old age she had to support an invalid mother.

Smallest Woman is Dead.

Kenia, O.—Miss Sadie Roland, aged 35, 35 inches tall, and weighing only 30 pounds, perhaps the smallest woman in Ohio, died at the home of her father, Henry Roland, near here, of brain fever. She had never been exhibited, her parents refusing many flattering offers. She was bright mentally, did exquisite needlework, and almost anything that an ordinary woman could accomplish.

CAKE PROVED HIS UNDOING.

"Bill Wisdom" Failed Entirely to Live Up to His Name.

New York.—If "Bill" Wisdom, rear admiral of a brick barge harbored in Brooklyn waters, had lived up to his name he would not have made the mistake of taking home to 544 Clinton street, Brooklyn, a piece of his second wife's wedding cake for his wife to dream on.

Mrs. Wisdom No. 1 dreamed with remarkable accuracy and as a result Bill was held by Magistrate Dooley in the Adams street court on a charge of vagrancy.

This may be changed to bigamy, because Mrs. Wisdom No. 1 claims to have proof that she has the exclusive right to use that name and that Mrs. Wisdom No. 2 can only be regarded as an outsider in the Wisdom matrimonial race.

On the other hand the second Mrs. Wisdom alleges that Bill told her that he was an orphan when he loaded his name on her on June 3 last.

Mrs. Wisdom No. 1 says that on June 5 she learned that Bill had helped himself to another wife. The night before he had brought her home a generous portion of cake. She dreamed she saw Bill waiting at the church and then she dreamed that she saw another woman join him and enter the edifice.

That settled it. Next night when Bill had kissed her and the children good evening and informed her that he heard the call of the brick barge, she put on her hood and shawl and followed him. The trail led, she says, to the home of the girl he had married two days before. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Monahan.

She is a member of St. Agnes' Church and is an estimable young woman. The two women claimed Bill and nearly pulled him apart in their efforts to have him recognize each of them as his lawful spouse.

"Kicker" and "Biter" Wed.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Giuseppe Mule and Mrs. Annetta Gorillo were odd names among the applicants for marriage licenses at the city hall, though they were not seeking to marry each other.

Both Mr. Mule and Mrs. Gorillo were given a hearty welcome to the marriage license bureau by Application Clerk Smith and Chief Clerk Goebel, and were granted the permits to wed, though the officials were amused when the names of the applicant's were made known.

Mr. Mule is 19 years old, and he will wed Giuseppe Tamborello, who is two years his junior. The prospective bride is quite pretty and has some wealth.

Mrs. Gorillo is 21 years old, has been a widow for six months. Mrs. Gorillo will wed Felice De Sibbio, one year her senior.

Find Way to Prevent Rust.

Washington.—Scotland seems rapidly to be coming to the front with useful inventions. The department of state has been informed that an old Roman secret which prevents iron rust and wall dampness has been rediscovered.

When applied to the bottom plates of ships, it is said to prevent oxidation, animal or vegetable marine parasites or growths, and, besides preserving the life of the iron plates, will also add to the speed of liners and war ships. When the inside of a ship is coated with this liquid it stops the "weeping" of the inner skins of the iron plates which so often damages cargoes.

Freshly plastered rooms when painted with the same preparation admit of immediate occupancy or decoration.

Legacy of \$10,000 Fatal.

Phoenixville, Pa.—Joseph G. Erb, 27 years old, died in the Phoenixville hospital as a result of a \$10,000 legacy left him by an aunt in Switzerland three months ago.

Erb was a silk weaver employed in a local mill, and received word of the death of his aunt, Mrs. Jane Pfanner of Bern, Switzerland, who had made him her heir.

Immediately on receipt of the money he proceeded to "have a good time," and succeeded so well that he paid the penalty in death.

Enough money remains of the small fortune to pay his funeral expenses.

Rats Turn White and Die.

Greensburg, Pa.—Rats in Cook township, this county, are being killed off by a strange disease, commonly termed the white plague. A few days ago Joseph Harvin, a farmer of near Weavers Mills, found several rodents dead in his barn. Their hair had turned white and had fallen off.

C. E. Cortis, another farmer of the same vicinity, said that rats on his farm had been killed probably by the same disease.

Men Wearing Gold Bangles.

London, England.—The newest vogue for men is the wearing of gold bangles above the elbow. Among engaged couples it is given by the girl and looked on. The summer sports of golf, tennis and rowing revealed just how many athletic youths wear the gold bracelets. Their precedent is the king, who, since his marriage, always has worn a heavy gold bangle on his wrist.

Steel 5,000 Salmon.

Bellingham, Wash.—Two armed men rowed up to a fish trap of the Alaska Packers' association, just south of Point Roberts, disarmed the watchman, bound and gagged him, and leaving him at the trap, made off with 5,000 salmon worth \$2,000. Besides the fish they stole the pirates left the trap open and allowed 35,000 more fish to escape.