

BROOKLYN BRIDGE UNSAFE

Experts Declare That the Immense Structure is in Great Danger of Collapse.

The dangerous condition of the Brooklyn bridge has not been half told in the few words which District Attorney Philbin gave out concerning the report of the two experts employed by him to examine into the strength and safety of the structure.

Only a few more tons of weight moved together on the bridge would make it unsafe, according to the convincing figures which District Attorney Philbin now has in his hands.

From other sources it is learned that the report declares that the bridge is now loaded to its extreme capacity, and that it should be greatly strengthened to enable it to carry its present burden.

Edward Duryea, Jr., the chief expert employed by Mr. Philbin, found the bridge full of defects, some serious. Mr. Duryea's report calls for material changes in the construction of the present bridge structure.

District Attorney Philbin, when asked about the matter, said: "The Brooklyn bridge is safe. At least until next August, by which time a protracted hot spell and the resulting expansion may have gotten in their work in the weakening of the great structure. It is as safe as it was the day it was opened to the public."

OXYGEN NULLIFIES POISONS.

The Pure Gas Found to Be Antidote for Morphine, Strichnine and Arsenic.

The discovery that pure oxygen is an antidote for many poisons is the startling result of experiments now in progress in the Berks Institute of Physical Diagnosis, under the direction of Dr. Rogovin, a Russian medical scientist, in conjunction with Dr. William Cowl, of New York.

The health authorities of Berlin are keenly interested in the experiments on account of the possibility of saving the lives of suicides by this means. It is pointed out that 90 per cent. of suicides by poison are the result of morphine dyspnea, against which medical antidotes are powerless.

FINDS GENUINE CORREGGIO.

A Resident of Rochester, N. Y., Buys a Supposedly Priceless Gem from Greece.

Under the accumulation of dirt gathered during hundreds of years Rochester (N. Y.) artists and connoisseurs have discovered in a painting purchased from a wandering band of gypsies years ago a genuine Correggio, a production of priceless value.

The general conference of the German Evangelical synod of North America, in session at St. Louis recently, adopted a resolution which seeks to give the ministers of the Evangelical church and other Protestant denominations the right to enter public schools for certain periods each week to instruct the children in Christian doctrines and principles.

Will Teach Lord's Prayer.

Hereafter children in the Cleveland (O.) public schools must study the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Twenty-third Psalm. The school board has voted to add these to the course of studies now taught.

"We ought to be improving the moral as well as the mental capacities of the children," said Mr. Hobart, a member of the board, "and I know of no more fitting way in which to do this than to add the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the beautiful Twenty-third Psalm to the studies."

Newspapers in United Kingdom.

The daily circulation of newspapers in the United Kingdom rose from 90,000 copies in 1801 to 700,000 in 1850, and now reaches 4,500,000.

WAR ON THE SPIDERS

Effort Made to Clear Out the Insects at the White House.

Infect the Portico Fronting the Executive Mansion and Are Hard to Dislodge—Fire Men Used Upon Them.

One of the curious preparations made for the advent of Mrs. Roosevelt at the white house was the cleaning out of the spiders which infest the portico. Those who are familiar with the executive mansion are aware that the great portico, which is such a pronounced architectural feature of the building, is extremely high, running up to the roof, the cornice of the portico being on a line with that of the roof itself.

During the absence of the President and Mrs. McKinley this summer the ceilings of the portico and the tops of the columns were fairly taken possession of by spiders. The white house attendants, knowing that the historic mansion was to have at its head, for the first time in many years, a young and energetic housekeeper, determined to get rid of the spiders before she came. Therefore, they rigged up a section of fire hose and made an extraordinary effort to wash down the spiders and their webs.

Hence the old officials predict that before Mrs. Roosevelt has become fairly accustomed to her surroundings she will be out on the portico and demand that "Old Jerry," the ancient African who looks after such things, shall "drive out those horrid spiders." Almost every mistress of the white house for a quarter of a century, they say, has issued the same command, but the spiders know as well as anyone else it takes a scaffolding to get Old Jerry or anyone else up to the roof of the portico.

OLD KNOB AND HINGES.

Taken from Doors of the White House They Are Prized as Valuable Relics by Old Servants.

The iron hinges on the door of the cabinet room, which have turned to admit into the presence of the president scores of cabinet ministers and many thousands of official visitors during half a century, have been removed. Brass hinges of the latest pattern have replaced them. The old hinges are now in the possession of the venerable Capt. Charles Loeffler, who has been the president's doorkeeper for eight or nine administrations, and since through his faithful service in opening and closing the door during all these years the hinges were worn out, no one will deny his right to possess them. He will keep the discarded hinges as valuable relics and hand them down to his children.

PROVING A SUCCESS.

Scheme Inaugurated a Year Ago to Make College Entrance Examinations Uniform.

The report of the college entrance examination board of the middle states and Maryland has been issued by the secretary, Prof. Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia university. The report is the first bearing on the scheme, perfected a year ago, to make college entrance requirements uniform. Up to the present time the board has met with much success. The institutions that were notified of the plan, with two exceptions, signified their approval and their willingness to accept the examinations conducted by the board as alternatives of their own separate tests, when the topics covered were the same grounds.

Bowdoin college and Harvard university (including Radcliffe college) were the exceptions. The examinations were held at 69 points, two of which were in Europe, and the remainder in the United States. Candidates for the test numbered 500. Seventy-three of them did not state their preference of a college. 153 sought entrance into Columbia; 32 into Barnard; 33 into Princeton, 25 to Vassar, 21 to Wellesley, and 17 to Yale.

TORTOISES EAT MUSKMELONS.

Farmer in Indian Territory Discovers His Fruit and Makes a Most Remarkable Discovery.

G. Carson, a farmer near Enfield, Ind. T., was on the streets the other day and said: "I wish there was a market for tortoise. If there was I would be in good shape financially in a little while. I have a large patch of muskmelons and the vines have been loaded with the fruit, but as they got about ready for harvesting, something began eating them at night. Several nights were spent in laying for the intruders, and late one night there was a rattling of dry bones, or sounds that somewhat resembled that, and before taking a run for the house I took a farwell look, and beheld a herd of tortoises all over the cantaloupe patch. I made a dash among them and bursted the hells of some dozen, captured two, and have them captive."

An Old Sattler.

Capt. R. G. F. Candage, one of the most prominent men in maritime circles in England, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday at his home in Brookline, Mass., recently. In his seafaring days Capt. Candage sailed over 500,000 miles of salt water, doubling Cape Horn 13 times both ways.

Foreigners in Japan.

At the end of the year 1891 there were 9,349 foreigners in Japan. At the same period of 1899 the number had increased to 10,019. Most of these are Chinese, namely, 5,297. Next in number come the British, with 1,761.

TO HELP OUR TRADE

American Chamber of Commerce to Be Established in London.

Trade Relations of the United States Demand the Advantages of a Commercial Association—Need of the Iron Business.

It seems possible now that an American chamber of commerce will be established before long in London. The rapidly-growing colony of American business men here has been wanting something of the sort for a good while, and at last definite steps are being taken to that end. Perhaps the movement for the establishment here of a Canadian chamber of commerce, and of another for Australasia, may have something to do with hastening the organization of the American institution, says the London correspondent of the New York Press.

According to S. G. Hobson, the London representative of the Iron Age, there is no branch of American trade in England to which the advantages of a commercial association of the kind proposed appeal more strongly than to the iron and steel manufacturers.

"There is no doubt about the benefits that would accrue from an organization of the kind we hope to establish," said Mr. Hobson in an interview. "In the beginning, in order to popularize American trade over here, it is essential that our traders should know each other. If American trade is to be a real factor here, American traders must help each other. Every American representative in London constantly is in receipt of inquiries as to who are the makers of certain American specialties. If he knew he could refer the inquirers to the manufacturer immediately and put the latter men in the way of business.

"In such a chamber would facilitate trade relations between American houses and British companies who want to trade their goods. Dealers over here are wide awake to the possibilities of American products and are anxious to obtain the English agencies, but the replies they receive to their proposals often are surcharged with suspicion, and more often than not the negotiations end in nothing.

"An American trade association could accomplish a great deal in the direction of getting lower freight rates; in other words, toward solving the American traders' greatest problem. If the members of various trades knew each other better different ones who had comparatively small shipments of freight coming over could combine them and save a substantial sum every time that this was done. An increase in volume of trade always tends to decrease rates, and lower rates, of course, would mean the possibility of lower prices. Then there exists at present in England a lot of annoying little dock charges, which, if American dealers were organized, could be got rid of quickly."

THE ROLLER BOAT.

Queer Craft That Canada Has Contributed to the Collection of Marine Freaks.

Canada's contribution to the world's collection of queer boats is a metal cylinder over 100 feet in length and 22 feet in diameter. As it rests in the water it looks for all the world like the towering smokestack of a manufacturing plant toppled over on its side. The reconstruction which this oddity of the shipping world has undergone during the past year or two has not affected its external appearance, but within its circular body a new heart has been installed, which diffuses new life blood in a radically new way, says Waldon Fawcett, in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

Shorn of technicalities, the substitution, simply amounts to this: Under the old plan there were, so to speak, two locomotives on circular tracks, and they rolled the ship forward by climbing up inside just as a squirrel spins the wheel of his cage by mad attempts to ascend the bars of the circular prison. Now, the machinery is suspended in the center of the big tube. It will thus be seen that under the old plan gravity helped to do the work; now power alone must accomplish the task.

The large cylinder, made up of airtight compartments, which comprises the boat, is open at either end, in order to give admission to the interior. Under the old plan the steel tracks were placed at either end of the vessel and extended entirely around the interior of the cylinder or shell, being securely bolted, of course, to the inner face of the big tube. Upon the tracks at either end was a platform mounted on wheels, somewhat on the order of a flat car, which kept rolling gently backward when the boat was in motion, and was thus enabled to maintain a perfectly level position. Each platform carried a separate boiler and engine. When the engines started the platforms commenced to climb the inside of the cylinder, and constantly continued the attempt with the result that the effort of gravity to bring the weight to the lowest possible level had the effect of rolling the cylinder forward.

Russian Female Hermits.

Among the villagers of the Volga in the province of Samara a curious sect of women has made its appearance. It was originated by an elderly peasant woman in Sosnowa, called the "Blessed Mother." These women have fled from the villages around into a remote district, where they live singly in holes dug out of the face of the hill. They lead a life of fasting and prayer, and believe themselves called from the world, which they think it shortly about to perish in a general conflagration. The "Blessed Mother" has "ten wise virgins" as a sort of bodyguard, and the sect believe that these eleven women are possessed of miraculous powers.—London Globe.

The Main Objection.

Many a young girl who objects to being the wife of a wealthy old man wouldn't object to being his widow.—Chicago Daily News.

THE LARGEST FIRE COMPANY.

Several Hundred Men Serving Without Pay in the Forests of the Black Hills.

Capt. Seth Bullock, of Deadwood, S. D., the new forest supervisor of the Black Hills, has organized the largest fire company in the world. Every member is giving his services without pay yet is expected to be on duty constantly, says the St. Paul Dispatch.

Some time ago the secretary of the interior department made an order permitting people to graze cattle on the forest reserve to the full limit of 7,000 head for the million or more acres. A man can have four or less head without asking for a permit, but beyond that number to a limit of 150 he must ask permission of the supervisor, showing that he has the proper range and that he intends to comply with the law.

A proviso was inserted in this order by the secretary, which makes it compulsory for every man raising cattle to assist in putting out the forest fires. Until recently this part of the order has not been put into effect. Forest Supervisor Bullock has now obtained the name of every man who availed himself of this cattle order, and 25 brigades have been organized. There are 20 divisions on the reserve, each one being in charge of rangers, whose duty it is to see that the laws governing the reserve are complied with.

When a fire breaks out on the reserve the cattle raisers are expected to go immediately and put it out. The first man at the fire is to have full charge of the operations until the ranger arrives. In case the fire gets beyond control of one division of cattlemen and ranger, word is to be sent immediately to an adjoining district, and all of the people there are expected to come to their rescue.

After the fire is out the ranger of that one particular district is required to take the names of all the cattlemen who did not participate in putting out the fire, and a list of such persons is sent to the general office of the supervisor, in Deadwood. Unless the persons who did not attend the fire can give a good reason for their absence their permits to graze cattle on the Black Hills forest reserve are taken away from them.

The cattle grazers all over the hills are taking an interest in this original plan of Capt. Bullock and as a consequence several hundred men stand on guard constantly to put out forest fires. There are fully 7,000 head of cattle on the reserve. No sheep are allowed. It is considered a fine thing for the forest to have the grass kept down by the stock.

PHOTOGRAPHING BIRDS.

The More Common and Unsuspecting Are Most Difficult to Take.

Strangely enough, it is not always the more rare and shy birds which are most difficult to photograph, but, on the contrary, very common and usually unsuspecting species, when approached with photographic intent, are exceedingly wary. This is the case with the familiar robin, and also with the kingbird or her-martin, says A. H. Verrill, in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly. Time and again have I spent an entire afternoon endeavoring to photograph this saucy flycatcher, but without avail, and it is only very recently that I succeeded in including one to sit for his portrait, and even he descended to do so only when his fatherly solicitude was aroused and I disturbed the peace of his young family. On the other hand, blue jays, which are notoriously wild, I have had no difficulty with, provided the time chosen was late summer or early autumn. I find that at this season they readily approach within range of my lens if their cries are imitated while in hiding. Many birds have habits which greatly facilitate matters once they are learned.

GIRLS AS BANK TELLERS.

Do Better Work and Are More Trustworthy Than Men, Says a Bank Cashier.

Behind each of the 13 windows in the savings department of the Royal Trust bank, 199 Jackson boulevard, sits a young woman taking in and paying out the money of several thousand depositors, reports the Chicago Chronicle.

The young women have been employed there for some time, though it is the only bank in Chicago where they do that kind of work. They have proven faithful and accurate in their work and the manager of the bank says that men will never displace them. "They are always at work on time," said Cashier Edwin E. Mack, "and when closing time comes they do not rush to get out for fear of working a minute too long. Then they do not spend the bank's time in telling each other of their experiences the night before.

"We are not hiring girls to save money. We pay them just as much as we once did men in the same places. We simply made the change because we found them more reliable and efficient."

Race Troubles in Argentine Republic.

Considerable race hatred has been aroused in the Argentine republic because the industrious German immigrants are making so much headway, while the indolent natives lag behind.

Disappointing of Him.

"He said he would kill himself if I wouldn't marry him."

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ENVIRONMENT OF AUTHORS.

People Prominent in Literature Who Have Sought Congenial Surroundings.

The workshops of American authors have much to do with the quality of what they produce. Differing temperaments require different conditions in which to accomplish the best results. This is peculiarly shown in the case of the great American writers of the day. For example, Harriet Prescott Spofford does her best work sitting under the trees writing on a pad resting on her lap.

Margaret Deland has a perpetual bit of summer introduced into her Boston home. A small glass conservatory, filled to overflowing with gay jonquils, is where this brilliant writer does her best work.

Winston Churchill, author of "Richard Carvel," lives in St. Louis in the winter and in Vermont in the summer. He does his work in a very business-like way in an office at the top of one of the city's skyscrapers. Here, surrounded by the roar and din of the city's traffic, he wrote the charming story of long ago, when cable cars and typewriters were an unknown quantity.

Bret Harte generally writes out of doors, but always while smoking. He said the first lines always took a cigar and sometimes two cigars.

In the city of Atlanta, in a homelike little cottage embowered in rosebushes and apple trees, Joel Chandler Harris writes his inimitable tales of "Uncle Remus and Brer Rabbit."

FIRE AMONG THE REDWOODS.

Impressive Sight Presented by the Tall Young Trees When Aflame.

Perhaps the most startling phenomenon of the fire was the quick death of childlike sequoias only a century or two of age, says John Muir, in Atlantic. In the midst of the other comparatively slow and steady workings, one of these tall beautiful saplings, leafy and branchy, would be seen blazing up suddenly all in one heaving, booming, passionate flame reaching from the ground to the top of the tree, and 50 to 100 feet or more above it, with a smoke-column billowing forward and streaming away on the upper free-flowing wind. To burn these green trees a strong fire of dry wood beneath it is required to send up a current of air hot enough to distill inflammable gases from the leaves and sprays; then, instead of the lower limbs gradually catching fire and lighting the next and next in succession, the whole tree seems to explode almost simultaneously, and with awful roaring and throbbing a round tapering flame shoots up 200 or 300 feet, and in a second or two is quenched, leaving the green spire a black dead mast bristled and roughened with down-curling boughs.

UP TO DATE GRINDSTONES.

Are Now Made with Ball Bearings and Other Modern Improvements.

"If," said a dealer in such things, reports the New York Sun, "anybody had told our grandfathers that the time would come when we should have ball-bearing grindstones I suppose they would have thought he was crazy; but we have them now and they are not very costly either.

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