## HARRIMAN RAIL KING

ACQUISITION OF READING ROAD AMAZES WALL STREET.

Latest Enterprise Makes Financier First Billion-Dollar Magnate ---Touches All Leading Cities with System.

New York -E. H. Harriman's recent acquisition of the Reading railroad, accepted as a fact, by leading Ananciers, gave Wall street the greatest surprise that it has experienced since the recent financial trouble began. The move was executed with the utmost secrecy, and men of money who take pride in the statement that they know everything that is going on were more than bewildered by the dewelopment.

"Harriman will own us all, next." said one banker. But he hasu't really got the Reading, has he?"

The road is really Harriman's however, according to the belief of all the street. This master stroke means that the rail wizard has increased the Mength of his vast system to 31,400



E. H. Harriman.

miles, traversing 34 states and worth .\$1.171.382.898

"The first billion-dollar railroad magnate!" gasped the financiers, as they hurried into the stock market, which was affected by the coup.

In discussing the effect of the move. Tailroad men and bankers were agreed that the Baltimore & Ohio would gain more than any other Harriman road.

The Baltimore & Ohio will, get as -good a line between Chicago, St. Louis and New York as any other company. This achievement makes Harriman's grasp on the eastern railroad situation as complete as it is on the western. and gives him practically an impregnable position in the railroad world.

The vastness of the Harriman sysitem with its new acquisition added is

	Capital	Mile-
Company.	stock.	age.
Bouthern Pacific	\$ 237,419.098	9,451
Union Pacific	205,048,400	5.694
Illinois Central	106,040,00	5.691
Baltimore & Ohio	212,604,100	
Erie	176, 271, 300	2.15
Central of Georgia Philadelphia & Readin	5,000,000	
Philadelphia & Pandia	Ar. 140,000,000	2,120

The system with the Reading added has an unassailable strategic position. touching the cities of Spokane Port. land, Ore.; Sacramento, Cal.; Salt Lake City, Cheyenne, El Paso, Dallas, Galveston, New Orleans, Lincoln, St. Louis, St. Paul, Chicago, Nashville, "Vickburg, Jackson, Atlanta, Augusta, Ga.; Cincinnati, Pittsburg, Rochester, Philadelphia, Washington, Harrisburg, Butte, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Ogden, Utah; Denver, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Houston, Omaha, Kansas City. Minneapolis, Memphis, Louisville, Birmingham, Natchez, Chattanooga, Macon, Savannah, Cleveland, Buffalo, New York, Baltimore, Wemington

The first announcement of the move was made by the Wall Street Journal. In its preliminary report, the Jour-

"A New York syndicate has recently made an offer to buy out the entire holdings of the Lake Shore and the Lehigh Vailey railroad, which hold ... amount to 114,000 shares. It is definitely learned that the New York Censtrai people are in favor of making a sale to the parties in question, and there is every reason to believe that the present offer for the Lake Shore's holdings of Lehigh Valley will be accepted in the near future.

"Rumors were thrown thick and fast recently that the Lake Shore and the Baltimere & Ohio as well have been liquidating their holdings of Reading in the open market.

"It is pointed out that the present situation of control of Reading is temporary and not permanent; that the New York Central lines would be glad to be relieved of the Reading stock and devote their energies more to the fluancing and upbuilding of the New York Central lines; and that, therefore, the \$60,000,000 par value of Reading stocks held by the Lake Shore are practically on the market.

"Or, to be more plain, unless obstacles now not in sight turn up the Baltimore & Ohio raitroad will acquire entire control of the Reading company and secure a direct outlet in New York, and that the entire project will be engiaeered by E. H. Harriman and his friends. This is believed in wellposted financial circles to be the next big development in the railroad map and the solution of the so-called Reading mystery."

WEALTH IN SANDS OF OCEAN.

Cheap Mining the Problem That Has to Be Faced.

From Shasta to San Diego, all the way along the shores of the Pacific ocean there is gold in the black sand which, for the greater part of the length of the state, underlies the gray and yellow sand of the beach. This ias been known to mining men for a score of years or more, but ever since hey found it out they have been com-

pletely baffled in all efforts to get it. The values in the sand are low, not more than 25 cents per ton, and the sea washes heavily over all manner of structures which are set up on the beach to separate the sand from its gold. These were the two principal obstacles to be overcome: To find a machine which would withstand the storms of winter and the tides of summer and at the same time be delicate enough to draw the gold from the black mass of the beach.

At last, however, the riddle has been solved, despite the wrecking of one of the plants with which the work was commenced, and a recent clean-up of one day's run of 1,000 tons of black sand paid \$200 over and above all expenses. The full value of the gold in the sand, could it have been entirely removed, would have been \$250, the actual amount taken out was about \$235 worth, making the cost of handling that 1,000 tons of sand a triffe more than three cents a ton, the cheapest mining yet known to man.-Technical World Magazine.

SOME LARGE FRENCH FAMILIES.

Official Statistics Give Figures That Are Rather Surprising.

Small families are the rufe in France, but there are some striking exceptions. The following data were taken by Consul Chapman Coleman of Roubaix from the latest official statistics of the population of France. According to these statistics the total population of France is 38,352,788. The female sex exceeds the masculine in numbers, the figures being, respectively, 19,533,899 and 18,816,889. On the other hand, an excess in the number of unmarried is shown on the masculine side, the respective figures be 9.917.178 and 9.114.356. There are 2.-384.897 widows and divorced women. as against 1,005,884 widowers and divorced men.

The number of French families is 9.781,117, of which 1.314,773 are without children: 2,249,337 have but one child; 2.018,665 have two; 1,246,264 have three; 748,841 have four; 429,799 have five: 248,159 have six: 138,769 have seven; 71,841 have eight, and 33,917 have nine children. These figures represent, in a rapidly decreasing proportion, the number of families having a large number of children.

For about two-thirds of the families of France the average number of children does not exceed three; while for about 1% per cent, of them the average number is seven, and for less than one per cent of the families, eight children. Twenty-four families are recorded, however, as possessing 17 and 34 as possessing 18 children.

How Fast Wind Travels. Most people at some time or other have used the expression "went like the wind," wishing to convey the idea.

of extraordinary velocity. Coming down to actual figures, however, the wind is not such a speedy traveler after all, says the Boston Transcript. The month of March more than any other in the year has a windy record, so the figures supplied by the local weather bureau station for the month will do to illustrate the fallacy of the expression.

From the first to the thirty-first the wind movement as registered at the top of the federal building was 8,336 miles, or an average of 278 miles a day for 30 days. Here is an overage of only 111/2 miles an hour, a speed which even a slow moving freight

Education and Matrimony. A teacher in one of the local grades was speaking to the mother of one of her girl pupils not long ago about misie's frequent absences from school. "You know she won't be promoted." pointed out the teacher, "unless she is more regular in her attendance."

"Yes," put in the other, "and I don't want her to be promoted. I want her to stop school and then when she gets older she'll get married, as every girl ought to. My two daughters that stayed in school aren't married yet and the one that didn't finish up at school could have been married about four times, and when she did marry she was only 19. I'm going to take this one out of school and bring her up right."-Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Baby's Quilt.

A most attractive baby's quilt is made by putting two thicknesses of lamb's wool between surah silk. The quilting, instead of being made with stitches, is caught in place by large roses made of ribbon. Ribbon is also used in the style of art nouveau to decorate the border of the quilt. Usually it is made in long green stems, terminating each petal of the flower being a loop of the ribbon caught at the point by a single stitch. Quilts of such an elaborate design are used as coach covers for the baby indoors does not wear anything quite so exquisite.

A Noble Laver. "Darling," said the American heireas, "it is not true, is it, that you want

to marry me for my money?" "No. dearest." answered the duke de Ragges et Patchez, "but i don't bold it against you."-Baltimore AmerHAPPY DESPITE THEIR POVERTY.

Residents of Sunny Naples Seem Never to Repine.

It is estimated that a quarter of a million people in Naples live from hand to mouth, and there are hundreds of children who subsist out of the garbage boxes, and who sleep in churches and on doorsteps.

The taxes in Italy to provide warships and to keep the nation on a war footing with the other powers are really stupendous. There is a tax on everything, says the Delineator-grain in the field, fruit on the vine, old botties. Eucl and foodstuffs are very dear-only labor is cheap. For the very poor, meat is a luxury unheard of and even macaroni is too dear to be indulged in often. There are any number of perambulating street kitchens, where various kinds of soup, cakes and fruits are sold in portions costing one cent. And yet these people seem very happy. Bands of musicians are always playing in the streets; the guitar and the mandolin are to be heard everywhere-on the boats, in the hotels-and the stranger is lulled to sleep by a soft serenade under his balcony.

The story teller thrives in Naples,. as there are so many idlers there. He collects a little crowd around him and proceeds in the most dramatic way, gesticulating wildly and working his face into the most excruciating expressions, to relate stories of adventure or other events, much to the edification of his hearers, who, to show their appreciation, are often betrayed into giving a sou which might have been better spent for bread or polenta.

The public letter writer is another street dignitary of importance, and in great demand, especially with timid and buxom maids of all work, who have themselves neglected to learn the art of writing. Of such the public letter writer holds all the sperets of their loves and is often their adviser as well as amanuensis.

RISING IN BOY'S ESTIMATION.

Drummer's Gifts Caused Rapid Advancement in Titles.

Titles have their value in the south. "Here, boy!" said the drummer as he handed a dollar bill to the bellboy at the hotel in Atlanta, "take a dime out of this for bringing up that ice water." Yes, cap'n," answered the boy as he saluted.

the drummer, "if you will go down and get me more letter paper you may keep a quarter out of that dollar." "Right away, majah; right away! I'll shuah bring you that ah stash'nery," replied the boy, as he bowed

"And, by the way, boy," continued

"And, while I think of it, boy," remarked the knight of the grip, "if you can bring out my trousers and have them pressed and back here inside of an hour you can keep a half dollar of

that dollar." "Ah suttinly can do dat ah same, colonel-deed ah kin!" quickly replied the youth as he turned to go toward the door.

"Wait a minute now, boy," Mr. Samples said as he walked over to his trunk, "if you can take out this suit and have it pressed and back here in time for me to go to the Bijou tonight I'll let you keep every cent of that dollar."

"General," said the boy, his eyes bulging out of their sockets, "I'll do dat shuah, general, or give you all dat money back."-N. Y. Times.

Fewer Women Than Men Color Blind, "Where one in thirty women is slightly color blind one in five men is

The physician continued his experi-

ments with the testing machine. "You," he said, "can't tell green from blue and are therefore defective. sir. But you are not absolutely color blind. Absolutely color blind persons are very, very rare. I have met but one. He couldn't tell red from yellow or yellow from blue.

"Why are men's eyes less reliable than women's as regards colors? Some say it is the tobacco smoke that dulls and weakens them. I have noticed that non-smokers have a somewhat sharper vision."

Look Under Fcot.

The lesson which life repeats and constantly enforces is "look under foot." You are always nearer the divine and the true sources of power than you think. The lure of the distant and the difficult is deceptive. The great opportunity is where you are. Do not despise your own place and hour. Every place is under the stars, every place is the center of th world.-John Burroughs in the Atlan

Authoress Who Hated Water. Mme. d'Arblay, better known as Miss Fauny Burney, who took such an important place in the literature of the eighteenth century, had an extraordinary and most undesirable peculiarity—she had the greatest aversion to washing and water. Sir Henry Holland was the physician who attended the gifted authoress during the last year of her life and she coufided to him that she had not washed for 15 years.

An Objection. "Why don't you explain to your constituents that you are making a sacri-See of personal income to remain in office?"

"I haven't any faith in that argument," answered Senator Sorghum. "People never appreciate what they think they are getting cheap."

EAT 42 EGGS AT ONE TIME.

Missourian Will Bet \$50 He Can Perform Feat.

Montgomery, Mo -- Louis Gill, the champion egg eater and butcher of this city, says he can smash to smithercens the record of Frank Ryan of Whiteside, Mo., who is reported as having eaten as high as 35 eggs at one sitting.

To prove his assertion, Egg-eater Gill has offered to put up \$50 that he can consume '42 eggs in a contest for the championship and \$50.

Gill's highest record is 36 eggs, but he is inspired by the contest that is now on in the country to greater things; therefore he challenges the world that he can swallow 42 Missouri eggs and digest them or forfeit his \$50. Gill formerly conducted a restaurant at Iola, Kan., where he began his career as a champion egg eater; also a possum consumer. He and his partner, J. E. O'Donnell, got bold of a fine possum and cooked it in a very delicious and appetizing style. O'Donnell was called away from the restaurant on business. During his absence Gill forgot he had a partner in the feast and consumed the whole possum. But Gill does not aspire to become the champion possum eater of the country, leaving that to the Ethiopian race, but he does dare to bet that he has a capacity to digest hen fruit by the dozen. He likes 'em soft boiled with a little coffee on the side. having been known to drink as high as six cup sat one sitting.

RIVER COVERS RICHES.

Capitalists Change Its Course to Win Stores of Iron Ore.

Iron Mountain, Mich.-Because of the mild winter and the unusually light fall of snow remarkably good headway has been made with the work of excavating the new channel which is to carry the Sturgeon river away from the Loretto mine, on the eastern Menominee range. The contract calls for the completion of the big ditch by the first of August, but it is evident now that the task will be finished zome weeks before that time. Machinery is employed very largely. Both night and day crews are being worked.

The new channel will be nearly a mile in length. It will have an average depth of over ten feet and will be 45 feet wide at the bottom and almost 200 feet in width at the surface or wash of the stream. The overburden runs from eight to 55 feet. The removal of upward of 450,000 cubic yards of earth will be required, as well as much rock.

When the work is completed the Loretto company will undoubtedly adopt the caving system of mining. The changing of the channel of the Sturgeon river will release a large body of excellent ore. This deposit has already been proven up and the company will open the territory for extensive operations. A new shaft will go down east of the present one.

PUT PEPPER IN BIBLE

Girl Students at Beaver Falls, "Pa., Spoil Chapel Services.

Beaver. Pa - Young women students of Beaver Falls seminary didnot attend chapel the other day be cause there was none.

The girls decided it was up to them to have fun, and so purchased a quantity of pepper and snuff. They scattered it all around the pulpit, opened the pages of the Bible and hypin books, and filled them with the mixture. They also placed a quantity in the pitcher of ice water.

Dean Plownian entered the chape; all smiles. When he got into the pulpit and opened the Bible trouble started in earnest. He sneezed and sneezed until the giggling girls thought he would sneeze his head off. Then he discovered the cause of the trouble and boited for the open air. He failed to see the joke, nor has he been able to realize it yet. He is making an investigation and threatens to expel the

MAKES SHOTS NOISELESS.

Worcester Man Invents a Firearm Attachment Different from Maxim's,

Worcester, Mass.-Oliver A. Smith of 2 Sumner street has invented an apparatus for making noiseless the discharge of all kinds of firearms. It is wholly different from that invented recently by Hiram Percy Maxim. Smith's invention can be carried about in a vest pocket and attached at 🕳 moment's notice.

Smith regards it as a remarkable coincidence that at the time his invention was being perfected the same idea was being worked out secretly br Maxim hundreds of miles away.

Smith does not allow close scrutiny of his attachment, but from a demonstration it seems to be a kind of cap. with a narrow bar across the top, that fastens on to the end of the barrel or muzzle, adding an inch or more to its length. The outlet is the exact bore of the shot, but projecting inward the bore increases slightly.

Gets Free Fertilizer. Woodbury, N. J.-John Wohlmantizer, who moved on the Joseph Taggart farm, on the outskirts of this city, got a cheap lot of fertilizer re-

The other day the occupants of the Oibbs farm, adjoining, put several hundred dollars' worth of fertilizer on his land. The high winds of the next day and night blow all of this to the Taggart farm, where the soil is more moist, and where it stuck, better distributed than any improved machinery LONE DAMSELS GLAD

NEW CHAPERON BUREAU ESTAB-LISHED IN NEW YORK.

"Grandmothers" or "Aunts" Will Be Supplied as Needs May Require.... -Men Provided for Any

Occasion.

New York.-If you need a grandmother, an aunt or a male escort, they can all be supplied while you walt. That's the very newest bureau to be established in New York.

An enterprising young woman, Miss Anna Schneider, has opened such an office on Broadway, entitled the New York Accommodation Bureau. She says that oftimes one is in need of a grandmotherly chaperon, one whom a girl can call "Granny" and who will answer to it; or she may want an "aunt" to chaperon her to a college dance which might hold until entirely too late for "grandma." If that girl lives in Greater New York and her family supply of aunts and grandmothers has run out, she can send a hurry call to the Accommodation burean and get one of any age and complexion she may require.

Then, too-here is where leap year fades into insignificance—if there is a lone woman in town who longs for a cool soda at a roof garden or wants to go to any of the after-theater restaurants and has no beau of her own, she can ring up and get an escort.

And he will bear the hallmark of good breeding and "four or five languages thrown in," so Miss Schneider said, with enthusiasm.

- Associated with the young woman in the new venture is Pearson W. Jackson-a perfect gentleman, Miss Schneider described him, who occasionally escorts for the bureau if the demand is great for escorts.

Asked if women affinities were provided, Miss Schneider rolled her brown eyes disapprovingly and said:

"Oh, no; we don't do that. We will provide gentlemen escorts with the very best of references, and speaking amany languages to any lady in need of an escort. But, of course, the other thing would be 'horrid bad form,' " she added as she looked at the book from which she had been reading, entitled, "The Complete Manual of Behavior for All Occasions."

"You see, this is a very properly conducted business. We require the very highest references from the men who apply for the positions of escorts and from ladies who would like to be-

come chaperons. "Why, we have one young gentleman, an Englishman of very fine famfly, who can speak four languages and who has been used to the very best of society. I could recommend him to any lady as an escort to most aristocratic places.

to dance take a hand at bridge, and he has traveled all over the world and is an interesting conversationalist. He's just lovely," added Miss Schneider, en-

thusiastically. "Then Mr. Pearson W. Jackson, the business manager of our bureau, is elegant, too. He went to Yale college, Of course, a lady doesn't have to call her escort by his real name. Some would like to have people think their escort an old friend, for that would look much more proper, and so she could call him Frank or Dick or any sort of net name, you know," added

Miss Schneider, encouragingly. Besides the escort end of the new bureau chaperons of every age and for every occasion can be obtained. If a young girl would like to go to a summer resort, say, and wanted an "aunt" or a "grandmother" to accompany her, and she was out of either, she might write to the accommoda-

tion bureau. A very quietly and properly attired lady would "auntie up."

Girls who are in boarding school and who come to New York for "week ends." with parents too busy to take them to the matinee, will find a "parent" to do duty for the afternoon at a dollar an hour.

"Of course," Miss Schneider added. "if chaperons are required for out-oftown trips, they will be charged for by the day instead of by the hour.

"You understand, also," she continued, "that our gentlemen escorts are all dressed for the occasion. If a man is required for a dinner and theater, he calls for the lady dressed in evening clothes, gloves and hateverything perfectly 'good form,' you know, and if the occasion is an afternoon one, he wears a tail hat and a frock suit. We aim at elegance in all our appointments." Miss Schneider as sured me.

"It only takes a little courage and good books on manners," is the recipe she gives to become a good, up-to-date chaperon in New York.

Aided by Old Army Foe,

Altoona, Pa.-Down and out, after many years' successful training of horses, Louis Rogers, aged 74, once a rich member of the famous Black Horse cavalry, the Sixth Virginia, in Lee's army, recruited from the southern aristocracy, was compelled to seek

By a strange coincidence be received aid from Poor Director Pensyl. The two met 45 years ago on the field of battle at Gettysburg, Pensyl being a soldier in Meade's army.

Mound People Relice Found, Boone, Ia.-The state historical department has unearthed in a mound near Boone human bones and teeth. historical documents from sucient urns and other curios. The find is believed to be the work of the ancient mound builders.

HOUSE CALLED CRAZY QUILT.

Built of Odd Sizes of Boards and People Are Kicking.

Chicopee, Mass .- The "crazy quilt" house has caused numerous protests that it is too unsightly to be registered, but Mayor Beauchamp claims he can do nothing to remedy the mat-

The building is on Perkins street and has been built by Lawrence Ma locks. As Majocks owns the land and has not evaded the building laws the structure will be allowed to stand. It is built of odd sizes of boards and resembles a crazy quilt. Although

Majocka admits he is no carpenter, yet he has done all the work himself. He built the house to live in and also with an eye to renting rooms, but has not as yet completed the sec ond story. There is a roof, but no window sashes or glass. In the basement he has built a pen for pigs, but the board of health has called a halt

on the piggery. In addition to the "crazy quiit" house Majocka has built a one-story brick structure in the back yard to be used as a store. This is of brick and Majocka laid them all himself. They are all sizes, colors and conditions, and there are great holes in

the walls where they fail to match. The buildings are across the street from the St. Joseph Temperance society's hall, and the members of the society are among those who have entered protests.

FOOLS SOFT HEARTED DEPUTY. Prisoner's Promise to Meet Him at the Train Is Not Kept.

Duluth, Minn.-In search of a man who was wanted on a larceny charge a deputy sheriff of St. Louis county came to town and on a description furnished to the police detectives Schulte and irvine picked up the fugitive on the Bowery and brought him to the central station.

When he was brought to the cell door he threw himself on his knees and pleaded pitifully, saying that he would be diskraced forever if he was put behind the bars; that he was innocent, and if the officers would allow him to go to a hotel for the night he would appear at the train the next

morning and accompany the sheriff. The deputy was deeply touched by the man's entreaties, but the detectives said: "It's the old gag." The deputy was sure his prisoner could be allowed to go on his honor, and as the local authorities could not be held responsible for the prisoner he was turned over to the deputy and the two walked out of the station drying

their tears. In the morning the soft-hearted deputy was at the train, but he decided to prolong his visit in Duluth in an effort to locate the man who had evidently changed his mind about going back with the sheriff. "If I don't get that fellow," said the deputy at the station, "it's me for the farm."

SORTS HIS SEED BY HAND.

Colorado Man Trying to Develop a Hardy Wheat for Spring.

Greeley, Colo.-E. P. House, who is seeking to develop a wheat which shall partake of the firm characteristics of the durum and have the qualities of the Egyptian wheat, especially as to yield, is carefully sorting by hand the result of the cross of these two varieties in order to secure the finest seed for planting in the spring. Mr. House shelled his wheat by hand, and with a microscope selects only the largest grains. So careful is he that not more than one sheaf a day is handled.

Another combination which Mr. House will try this spring is to plant winter and ordinary spring rye in February, hoping that both may flower at the same time, the cross resulting in a hardy variety of spring rye.

The rye will also be crossed with popcorn, and House says he believes he can in this way produce a fine breakfast food. He has a seven acretract one mile west of Greeley, where his experiments are made.

PUSSIES" PELTS AS FINE FUR.

Easterner's Offer Nearly Depopulates Western Town of Cats.

Shawnee, Okla.-A representative of a Phriadelphia fur house arrived at Shawnee recently and advertised that he would pay ten cents each for good cat pelts, and would buy at that price all that were offered him. The result has been disastrous to the tribe of mousers at Shawnee, as there are not 100 cats left in the city.

Boys, as soon as it became known that cash would be paid for cat skins. went on a hunt for cats in all parts of the city. Nothing escaped them, petied and pampered Maltese of royal strain being killed wherever found, as well as the aleep-wrecking gray-molken of serub stock.

The slaughter continued several days before housekeepers were apprised of the cat war, and then there was a rush to save the survivors. It was almost too late to be of any good, for by that time Shawnee had been depopulated of cats. Over 500 pelts were bought by the fur man.

Girl is Marvelous Speller. Waterloo, Ia.-Lucy Robinson, ten years old, carried off championship honors in the intercounty spelling contest at Manchester. Teams of ten each represented Black Hawk and Delaware counties, Delaware winning both team and individual honors. Lucy Robinson is a three times champion. having won her first medal when seven

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L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

Annual en l'Emiziane de l'Anna tone, les Etats de Etats de Etats de Etats de Etats de Capitalisme Etats en Capitalisme Etats de l'Anna ten de l'Anna de Capitalisme Etats de Capitalisme de Capitalisme etats de Capitalism