

Federal Labor Commissioner



Dr. Charles P. Neill has been a close student of labor problems for many years and has taken a conspicuous part in the settlement of many a conflict between employers and employees.

HOME FOR SIGHTLESS

QUEEN ELIZABETH OF ROUMANIA FOUNDS BLIND COLONY.

Carmen Sylva invites Samuel Bowman, the Blind Pianist of Eldora, Ia., to Institution Established in Roumania.

Eldora, Ia.—Queen Elizabeth, who reigns over 5,000,000 loyal subjects in far away Roumania, and who does much literary work under the nom de plume of "Carmen Sylva," has recently established a cosmopolitan blind colony known as the City of Light in Bucharest, Roumania.

Horace G. Kaowies, the American minister of Bucharest, the capital, has taken a deep interest in the work of her majesty, and writes to the Eldora banker with the queen's letter.

Queen Elizabeth in her own writing says the City of Light is called Vatra Luminoasa, at Bucharest. Already there are 80 members of the colony, with ten languages, seven confessions of faith and 13 trades.

Queen Elizabeth in part says in her letter to her Eldora banker friend: "I know your friend will be happy. They all laugh and sing, so that persons in the street stop to listen to the songs and sounds of real joy."

"The other day a Macedonian arrived after a six-days' journey, and he was so happy. He had undertaken the journey alone. The American minister takes a deep interest in the City of Light."

White Huckleberries Now. Shuylkill Haven, Pa.—White huckleberries, in sharp contrast to the usual deep blue color of the berries, are being found on the mountains in this vicinity.

Where Living is High. The meat bill of a wealthy Newport summer colonist averages, roughly \$1,000 a month, and has been known to exceed \$2,000.

OLD CONTROVERSY SETTLED.

Letter of Cotton Mather Ordering Kidnapping of Penn Found.

Hartford, Conn.—The controversy over the question whether Cotton Mather, of Boston, entered into a plot to capture William Penn and the first colony of Quakers and sell them as slaves in the Barbadoes has been settled.

The document in the possession of George A. Reynolds, clerk of the fire board of this city, shows that the letter of Cotton Mather was as follows: "Boston, Sept. 15th, 1682.—To ye aged and beloved John Higginson: There be at sea a shippe called 'Ye Welcome'."

"Ye General court has accordingly given secret orders to Master Malachi Huxett, of ye Brig Proposee to way-lay and 'Welcome' as near ye coast of Codde as may be and make captive ye said Penn and his ungodly crewe so that ye Lord may be glorified and not mocked on ye soil of this new countre with ye heathen worshipps of these people."

IT'S HARD TO BE PLEASANT.

Especially When You Are Called "Kiddo," Phone Girls Say.

New York.—She who presides over the telephone switchboard at Central will be more circumspect in her behavior in future if she conducts herself according to the book of rules promulgated by the sons of the telephone company and distributed throughout all the branch offices in Brooklyn.

The action of the company is declared by the girls to be tyranny and persecution. Some of the don'ts follow:

"Operators are hereby directed when answering subscribers to speak in a pleasant tone of voice. No deviation from this rule will be tolerated. Operators, when requesting patrons to put money in the slot, must positively employ the expression 'please.'"

"How would you like to have a fresh young person call you up with 'Good morning, kiddo?' Would you hand him a 'pleasant' tone of voice? Why, just last week a party gets on my wire and says, 'Hello, Central, you have been eating onions, haven't you?' and when I says, 'How do you know?' the party says, 'I can smell them, and rang off. Would that make you feel pleasant?'"

Thirteen Is His Hoodoo.

McKeesport, Pa.—The "13" hoodoo man Mike Vorkinwith of this city, the other day and struck him. At 13 minutes to one o'clock he was struck by a street car in front of 1313 Fifth avenue, and at 13 minutes after one o'clock he was placed in bed 13 in the McKeesport hospital.

REVIVAL OF PIG STICKING.

"Pine Toppers" in Training for Sport at a North Carolina Fair.

Greensboro, N. C.—A new industry has been brought into this section, one that promises to produce a very lively degree of interest and which may succeed in revolutionizing a time honored sport that is yet dear to those who frequent the fair grounds when the open season is on.

These quadrupeds of the genus porcine are locally known as "pine toppers," but even Mr. Jordan's acquaintance with verbiage because he was formerly sheriff of this county does not enable him to tell how these frisky, long tusked boars have acquired their name.

Mr. Jordan has two of these racers in training. Each one is to be let loose on the fair grounds on a certain day, and the negro that captures his particular pig will be allowed to take it home for family consideration and indignation.

QUEER MISDIRECTED LETTER.

Postoffice Workers Found a Firm Long Merged in Another.

New York.—The tracers employed by the New York postoffice have become so expert in deciphering poorly addressed letters and forwarding them to their proper destination that it is seldom nowadays that anything disconcerts them.

A letter received the other day by a well known downtown firm is a good example of the proficiency of New York tracers. The envelope bore the following address:

"To Dealer in Old Masonic Books, Near Old Astor Hotel, (I think on Ilsecker St.) New York City, N. Y."

The addressee's name was not given and the name of the street was wrong. However, the tracers set to work and obtained the following information: The dealer referred to occupied at one time a store in Barclay street near the Astor House.

In the course of 30 years the original firm had moved to several different parts of the city, the head of the concern had died and the business had changed its name four times.

MEAN TO OLD MAIDS.

Missouri Judge Makes Them Tell Real Age Before Marrying.

Kansas City, Mo.—The following notice was posted in the Wyandotte county court:

Hereafter all persons securing marriage licenses will be required to give their correct ages.

The notice means that timid men and women can no longer dodge under the "over 21" or "over 18" statement. If a man is 70 years old and a woman 60 they must so state in the affidavit to the license.

"I have examined the law very carefully," said Judge Van B. Frather. "It plainly states that each licensee must contain the correct age of both parties. 'Over 18' is not the correct age of a woman 30 years old. The statement may be true, but it is not what the law requires, and these records must be made so people 50 years from now can tell what they were intended to state. Records are kept for the benefit of future generations, not to those of to-day."

Spaniel Swallows Evidence.

Butte, Mont.—While a \$10 Confederate bill was being inspected in the sheriff's office the other day the paper was accidentally dropped on the floor and before it could be recovered the bill was snapped up and swallowed by Jack, a black water spaniel belonging to Deputy Sheriff Jack Wynnan.

FAVORS GRADED FEES

GEORGIA SENATOR'S SCHEME TO INDUCE EARLY MARRIAGES.

Plan Provides for Free Wedding License Under 21—Over 50 Coat \$50—Flood of Praise and Protest Brought On.

Atlanta, Ga.—Senator J. W. Taylor, 85 years of age, and a widower, has brought upon himself a flood of commingled protestations and commendations through his advocacy of a graduated scale of marriage licenses.

Senator Taylor is a southerner of the old school. He is the highest Mason in the state, is wealthy, has been in politics for years, and is immensely popular with the ladies. He is a man of striking appearance, a magnificent figure, and as vigorous as a man of 40 years.

His prominence in the news columns of every leading paper in the country was really the result of a humorous interview. The senate was considering a bill making uniform the marriage license fees of the state. It was not Senator Taylor's bill, but the legislative body was having a lot of fun out of it.

Following the senate debate, Senator Taylor gave an interview in which he proposed a graded scale of marriage license fees. If a man marries at 21 or before, he is to pay no fee; between 21 and 25, a fee of \$1.50; between 25 and 40, a fee of \$2.50; from 40 to 50 a fee of \$10; from 50 to 60, a fee of \$50. When a man gets past 60 he is barred from marital joys.

"I said that 'in fun,' declared Senator Taylor, "but I don't know but that I will really advocate a law of that kind. Why shouldn't there be an act to compel a man to early enter marital relations? I am inclined to be a Roosevelt man in one particular way. I am dead against race suicide. There is a strong modern tendency among young men to dodge the married relationship. It is an unfortunate tendency, and I do not know but that I would be performing posterity a great service in offering inducements to early marriages."

"In my boyhood it was a badge of honor for a man to marry as soon as he reached his majority, and many married before that time. Young men did not fear to face the responsibility of a family as these anemic young fellows do these days. Marriage and the parentage of progeny is a sacred duty of humanity, and any man who does his best to further that cause is right."

"But I want to propose an amendment to any such a bill," said Senator Taylor half whimsically. "I want to exempt widowers from any provisions of my law. Widowers are different. They have braved the plunge once, and if a man is daring enough to try it a second, third or fourth time, he ought to have a clear track. Why, look at this letter from a Philadelphia widower. He says he is bereft of a better half through no desire or connivance of his own. He was left with a backyard full of small children, and thought he ought to have a good woman to look after them. I believe that any man who can persuade a woman to accept a large and lusty ready-made family ought to have the undisputed right, and have a license handed him on a gold platter. If I could, I would vote the woman a Carnegie medal."

"My highest object, however, is to force a few benighted bachelors in the Georgia senate to bow to the marital yoke. It is shocking to my mind how openly and shamelessly some flaunt their untrammelled freedom here in the highest legislative body of the Empire State of the south. I am rather inclined to the idea that I will introduce a kinder bill, making it a felony for a bachelor to offer for public office in this state."

Senator Taylor has been mentioned as possible gubernatorial timber when the term of Gov. Hoke Smith expires.

DEER FLEE FROM HER MOP.

Mrs. Murphy Protects Her Cabbages from Buck and Does.

Port Jervis, N. Y.—"Take that, and that, and that!" cried Mrs. Murphy, wielding a mop with vigor over a big buck deer which, with two does, had entered her garden and was making a meal on her cabbages.

"You will eat my cabbages, will you?" and she chased the deer to the fence, which it leaped at a bound and stood outside contemplating the woman with the mop.

"Get out of here!" she shouted, running out of the gate toward the deer. The animal ran to the woods, followed by the does, and disappeared.

Mrs. John Murphy lives near Rio, Sullivan county, and recently discovered the deer in her garden.

"These deer are getting to be too fresh," said Mrs. Murphy. "The law may protect them, but I'm going to protect my cabbage."

Oyster Famine a Base Rumor.

Washington.—There is no occasion for those of the delicate palate to grow apprehensive over reports now in circulation of an oyster famine. At the bureau of fisheries the officials do not credit the rumors. While they have at present no means to measure definitely the oyster crop that will be harvested during the next six months, they do not look for a famine or a greater shortage than has marked recent years. The commission is working hard to prevent the extinction of the oyster.

LARGEST GAME PRESERVE.

Graduate of Yale Is Conducting It on Scientific Principles.

Chicago.—Blue Mountain park, which lies in the western part of New Hampshire, a few miles from the Connecticut river, in Newport, Crawford, Grantham, Plainfield, Cornish and Claremont townships, is the largest and most complete game preserve in the world. It was founded by the late Austin Corbin, the New York banker and railroad president, who was a native of this place.

He purchased 66 farms, with a total of about 25,000 acres, about 20 years ago; inclosed the entire territory with 2 1/2 miles of nine-foot wire fence, and stocked it with wild boar (imported from Germany), American elk, moose, deer and buffalo and let them run wild and breed. All of the animals have to take care of themselves the year round except the buffalo, which number 150. They are taken up in the winter, kept in corrals and fed on hay. It is claimed to be the largest pure blooded herd of buffalo, except the Pueblo herd in Montana, which was recently sold to the Canadian government and numbered about 300.

The preserve is in charge of Blaine S. Viles, a graduate of the Yale forestry school, who is cutting out the old timber and planting new and conducting affairs on scientific principles, thus furnishing an object lesson for the benefit of other timber owners in New Hampshire. He has built 30 miles of road, and the public are admitted upon passes furnished to those who apply at the office. Range riders visit every part of the park daily, looking after the animals and fences, and sees that everything is right. No fires are allowed, and rules have been adopted for the government of visitors. The park is intended for the perpetual pleasure of the public and for breeding large game. It is intended to be the most extensive and complete game preserve in the world.

FAMOUS EAGLE IN A HOSPITAL.

Grand Island Bird Was Severely Injured in Fight with a Cat.

Buffalo, N. Y.—Old Bob, the famed bald eagle which has been one of the most prominent residents of Grand Island for the last 25 years, will probably never soar again. William C. Hodge, fish and game protector, rescued Bob after the eagle had attacked a calf and was badly hurt. Bob has been a patient in Dr. Horatio Weade's veterinary hospital, under a special dispensation from the forest, fish and game commission.

Mr. Hodge and Dr. Weade took Bob out to try his wings, but the old bird fell to the ground each time and had to be taken back to the hospital. One of his wings is badly injured. Mr. Hodge has asked the game commission to allow Dr. Weade to keep Bob for treatment. That will save the doctor a penalty of \$85 for "having in his possession an eagle, contrary to the statutes of the state of New York." If Bob gets well he will be set free, otherwise he will probably go to the zoo.

Bob couldn't fly, but he was mighty lively. One of Mr. Hodge's assistants tried to hold the old bird and had an arm badly slashed by its talons.

BEES SWARM ON A CAR.

Honey-Makers Take a Long Ride With a Load of Watermelons.

Cincinnati.—Frank Bowers, conductor on the St. Louis division of the big Four, brought into the Brightwood yards a cargo on No. 90 for which there was no bill of lading.

On top of a H. & O. box car, picked up somewhere in the southwest, and loaded with watermelons, was a whole swarm of bees, about the largest swarm anybody in Brightwood yards had ever seen.

For two hours W. B. Screens, 2422 School street, and Douglas Hills, tried to coax those bees from the box car, but they failed. The trouble lay in their inability to attract the queen bee. This "lady" retreated farther and farther as they pursued her, the shyest little lady ever seen. Finally the top of the car was taken off. Then the queen crawled into the crack between the lining and the outer wall of the car. The industrious workmen had to give up the hunt and allow the car to carry the bees on to Gallon, O., whither the melons are consigned.

Spring Oils Up the Autos.

Noahamly, Pa.—A spring on the farm of John McCarthy, at Lahaska, flows so freely with oil that when a party of tourists stopped to get a lubricant for their automobile he said to them:

"Just go down to the spring and dip up all you want."

The tourists complied and found it a good lubricator. The spring has been running that way for several years, and whenever Mr. McCarthy has run short of oil he has dipped up all he wanted from the surface of the water. He has never undertaken to drill into the main source of supply, however.

Drop "Please" to Save Time.

Philadelphia.—Hereafter 450 telephone operators of the Keystone Telephone company will not say "please" to the subscribers, who have been requested not to say "please" to the operators. A. J. Ulrich, traffic manager, says the girls in answering calls and the patrons in making them use the word 900,000 times every 24 hours. Estimating that it requires half a second to say the word, 7,500 minutes are consumed every 24 hours, making an aggregate of 125 hours lost.

ANCIENT CITY BARED

EXCAVATION WORK AT GEZER REVEALS PRE-ISRAELITE TOWN.

Philistines Found by Explorers to Have Been More Artistic Than the Jews—Ruins of Ancient Jericho Being Dug Up.

Cambridge, Mass.—After an unusually long suspension of work by the Palestine exploration fund, because affairs at Constantinople delayed the issue of a firman, the excavation of Gezer has been resumed under Stewart Macalister, and it is expected that the whole place will be excavated within two years for which the firman continues.

The plan is to have Gezer remain uncovered, like Pompeii, so that visitors can see a pre-Israelite town with its altars, idols, burial places, walls and gates. Corresponding to the museum at Naples is that at Jerusalem, to which all "finds" must be brought for the sultan claims as his property all objects found on the soil of his empire. It is considered much better that such objects should remain at Jerusalem than that they should be taken by tourists, who, in spite of the law, do carry off many things for which they secretly pay large prices, thus stimulating the natives to dig for themselves.

Mr. Macalister seems to have found a clue to the history of that mysterious people, the Philistines. He has opened the tomb of a young woman with strongly marked features, different from any tombs hitherto found. In this tomb he found a large jar of interesting pattern, a silver ladle with lions' heads on the handle, a silver bowl, mirror originally in a cloth case, a gold bracelet, several ornamental beads and a silver signet ring, and especially valuable is a bar of polished Jasper with three gold beads upon it, and on each belt a loop on which hangs a disk of gold. There is reason to believe that the Philistines were more artistic than the Israelites and that the term "Philistine" used by people of our day is without foundation.

In addition to this work at Gezer, the Austrians have begun important excavation at the site of ancient Jericho, and have found a city wall. It is reported that Prof. Reissner is about to begin work at Samaria with funds furnished by the Harvard Semitic museum.

Rev. Prof. Francis Brown of Union Theological seminary, New York, has become a member of the general committee, which now has ten American members. He will be in charge next year of the American school at Jerusalem, and will promote the cooperation of England and America in the great work of verifying and illustrating the Bible.

BEALAM IN CHINATOWN.

Idol of Ben Kee Was "Swiped" by Some "Foreign Devil."

Chicago.—Chinatown is in mourning and will not be comforted, for the treasured idol of the house of Ben Kee, 329 Clark street, was lifted from its resting place and carried away by thieves. No clue to the whereabouts of the ancient idol, that for more than 1,000 years has been cared for by the Kee family, was obtained by the police.

For centuries, according to Ben Kee, cigar manufacturer and well known character in Chinatown, the idol had directed the destinies of his family fame. It was presented to him by his aged father twenty years ago, and Ben Kee became wealthy.

Although the idol had directed Kee in all his transactions and had been prayed to by his forefathers for centuries, it made no outcry when carried off by the thieves, who also stole several boxes of cigars, and an optimum pipe, some opium and \$35.

When news of the robbery became known all Chinatown was on the lookout for the thief. Cymbals were beaten and a meeting was held in one of the Chinese halls to consider just what steps should be taken to arrest the robber.

IS A GRAND OLD BUSH.

Furnishes Berries for Wedding Pies for over Fifty Years.

Quincy, Ill.—When George W. Wetzel, of Bardsolph, and his bride sat down to their wedding dinner, 50 years ago, a gooseberry pie was on the bill of fare. They celebrated their golden anniversary last week with a big dinner, to which were invited their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and another gooseberry pie was on the table, made of berries from the same bush that furnished the filling for the wedding pie half a century before. Through the years the old bush has kept its post steadfastly, unwithered by age, and stands to-day as strong and rugged as in the days of its youth.

The vigor of robust life seems to belong to the home place. Wetzel is 75, his wife is 70, and of their six children all are living.

Linon Collar Saves a Life.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—A linon collar saved the life of Edward R. Connerly at Glen Summit. He was doing some work along the railroad track and was run down by a Lehigh Valley locomotive, but a projecting bolt caught his collar and held his head a few inches above the rail while the locomotive dragged him 300 feet. He was half choked and faint when released by the train crew, but speedily recovered.