

WHERE TAFT ATTENDS CHURCH



Interior view of the Unitarian church at Washington, of which the Republican presidential candidate is a member, and which he regularly attends when official duties do not interfere.

SEA OF OIL ABLAZE

MEXICAN GUSHER HAS BEEN BURNING MANY DAYS.

Estimated Daily Loss is \$28,000—Only Hope is That Fire Will Automatically Smother Itself—Heat Prevents Approach.

Mexico City, Mex.—At Dos Bocas a member of the Pemex Oil Company has been burning now for many days at an estimated daily loss to the company of \$28,000.

The flames leap hundreds of feet into the air, illuminating a large expanse of territory at night and veiling the landscape with dense volumes of smoke by day.

When a well catches because of an uncontrolled overflow of oil into some of the boiler, usually the very furnace of the boiler which has been used in boring the well, there are but two alternatives left for the owners.

One is to smother the fire by means of a heavily weighted draw, which is pulled across the mouth of the well, shutting off both the air from the outside and the flow of oil from within.

In this way the fire dies of its own accord from lack of fuel and the well is then easily controlled.

Falling in this expedient the only expedient to allow the well to burn, relying upon it to clog itself after a time. Usually on low pressure gushers the accumulation of soot and lampblack from the burning oil will so clog the aperture of the well in two or three weeks that the flow of oil is cut off and the fire is automatically smothered.

Oil well fires are never of long duration. The product going to waste is so valuable that expensive measures are justifiable to stop the flame—and money can accomplish most things.

Preparations are now on foot to smother the fire of the Pennsylvania oil well at Dos Bocas. Heavy draws are being constructed which will be drawn across the mouth of the well by special machinery and the well will again become the property of man. At present it runs riot and acknowledges its master no one.

So intense is the heat generated by the thousands of barrels of oil that go up in smoke every hour that no one can approach within less than 200 meters of the fire and remain for more than a few minutes at a time. Added to this are the fearful fumes and gases generated by the burning oil.

The new oil well caught fire July 4 from the furnace of the boiler used in boring the well. The oil in the well had been struck some time before, and while preparations were being made to break the cap rock and cap the well the pressure of oil and gas from below blew out its capping and became unmanageable.

The oil was shot to a distance of 300 feet into the air, carrying the derrick and other machinery with it.

The primary loss of the company boring the well is estimated at \$200,000.

The oil has overflowed the entire surrounding plain, and is now practically a burning lake of oil, flooding the country with flame.

The shaft of oil, which shoots up from the interior of the well, only to become immediately ignited, transforming itself into a fountain of fire, acts as a huge torch for the entire surrounding country. The flame is plainly visible for 50 miles and one steamer captain has reported having seen the fire at sea a distance of 80 miles from the well.

So brilliant is the light that at a distance of ten miles it furnishes light sufficient to admit of reading.

The well has been burning 30 days, making the loss more than \$1,000,000.

House Built in Silence. Bloomsburg, Pa.—Like Solomon's temple, the residence of Samuel Andrews of this place was built in silence. Andrews is a deaf mute and every stroke of work on the house, from laying the foundation to installing the plumbing, has been done by mutes, friends of Andrews, who live elsewhere in the state.

Lake Too Hot; Fish Jump Out. Lake Village, Ark.—Thousands of perch, lake trout, yellow and shovell-billed catfish, pike and bass climbed on to the banks of Grand lake and were beaten to death by the natives. It is said the fish took to dry land to escape the heat of the lake, which suddenly rose to a high temperature from an unknown cause.

SIXTH WIFE SEEKS DIVORCE.

Utah Man, Aged 66, Has Varied Matrimonial Experiences.

Salt Lake City, Utah.—Six wives, five of whom divorced him, and the last one now suing him, is the record of Charles Smith, whose age is 66. The one who is suing him is Margaret Mattie Smith, who is 37 years of age. They were married in the summer of 1907. Smith was before the court recently to show cause why he should not pay his wife temporary alimony pending the trial of the case.

During his examination by his wife's attorney it was explained to the court that he had had other matrimonial experiments.

"Well, I won't consider those now," replied Judge Morse, with a smile, "as I hardly believe that they are assets which can be considered in awarding temporary alimony."

The wife's attorney endeavored to elicit from the aged man whether he owned the house in which he lived at East Ninth and Garfield streets.

Smith declared that he really didn't know who owned it, and that the matter concerned him very little.

He said that he was a bookkeeper and earns \$40 a month at odd jobs. He and his 13-year-old son cook their own meals.

"I live on very plain foods," he said, "and I cannot eat meat, because it would mean that I would get into the grave, and I don't want to die."

"Everything I own is what I have on my person," he continued, "and if I knew where I had \$100 in this world I would gladly give the lady half of it."

After some more sparring with the attorney he was ordered to pay \$15 temporary alimony and \$30 attorney's fees.

FIVE-TIME WIDOW IS BLOCKED.

Court Grants Fifth Divorce, But Woman Cannot Wed Again.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Because it is to the interest of the public that she should no longer have the right to remarry, Mrs. Hannah Begin, five times married and five times divorced, champion grass widow of Minnesota, has reached the end of her matrimonial rope.

In an order Judge F. C. Brooks of the Hennepin county district court grants Mrs. Begin a divorce from her fifth husband, but the divorce is limited and the right to remarry is denied the woman. Judge Brooks holds that a decree of limited divorce will grant Mrs. Begin every right that she should acquire from an absolute separation, "except only the right to marry, the further exercise of which," says Judge Brooks, "would not be likely to prove beneficial either to her or the public."

Mrs. Begin is 42 years old, and she did not begin her matrimonial career until she was 26. In 16 years she has been led to the altar five times, and in 14 years she has been divorced four times.

Loat Ball, Took Baby.

Freeland, Pa.—Annoyed by having a baseball driven against the side of her home, Mrs. Andrew Solenski picked up the sphere and hid it in her home. The ball had come from a near-by field, where two local teams were playing a match game. When the fielder arrived looking for the ball he was ordered off the premises. All efforts to conciliate proved futile, when one of the boys conceived the idea of kidnaping the Solenski baby.

The scheme was approved and quickly executed. When Mrs. Solenski discovered her child was gone she became frantic and hastened to the office of Justice Buckley and Burgess Hartman. Patrolman Walsh, who was sent to the place, soon solved the trouble, and by diplomatic means secured the return of the child in exchange for the ball.

VIRGINIA ALWAYS GREAT STATE.

Her History Interwoven with That of the Country.

By the census of 1790 Virginia contained a population approximating 750,000, or more than one-fifth of all the people then in the United States, about one-third of this number being negroes, of whom 12,000 were free. Comparing the returns with the present population of the commonwealth (2,100,000), the hasty conclusion is drawn that the increase has been exceptionally slow; but this view loses sight of the fact that in 1790 the figures embraced all the persons living in the territory now covered by West Virginia and Kentucky; and it should be taken into account that the Old Dominion contributed largely to the settlement of Illinois and Missouri, and Alabama, Tennessee and Florida, as well. Even among the pioneers of Iowa, California and Minnesota many names can be found whose bearers were first Americanized in the settlements on the banks of the James and Potomac rivers. Had Virginia retained her original geographical proportions she would rank easily as first in the family of states. Generously prolific of offshoots from the parent stem, there still remains a goodly crop of sons and daughters under the ancient roof tree, amid the diminished acres of her original domain. In 1860 largely more than one-half of the senators and representatives in congress were of Virginia birth, or were the sons or grandsons of men to her manor born.

READY WITH ANOTHER SCHEME.

Thrifty New Englander Was Bound Not to Lose Money.

Nobody had ever had reason to accuse Abel Pond of being dishonest, but he was as sharp a man in a bargain as could be found in the country. When the building committee applied to him for a site for the new library, he was ready to sell them a desirable lot—but not at their price.

"I couldn't feel to let it go under \$600," he said, with the mild obstinacy that characterized all his dealings with his fellow men. "It wouldn't be right."

"You ought to be willing to contribute something for such an object," said the chairman of the committee. "If it's worth \$600, why not let us have it for \$500, and call it you've given the other \$100?"

"M'm, no, I couldn't do that," said Mr. Pond, stroking his chin. "But I tell you what I will do. You give me \$700 for it, and I'll make out a check for \$100 and hand it over to you, so's you can head the list of subscriptions with a good round sum, and kind of wake folks up to their duty."—Youth's Companion.

Women of Ideal Form.

There is no longer a perfect type of woman, such as the Greeks admired. There is the ideal short woman and the ideal tall woman, but they are very different. Artists say that the short woman should measure as follows: Height, 5 feet 4 inches; neck 12 1/2 inches; bust, 36 inches; waist, 21 inches; hips, 37 inches; round the largest part of the forearm, below the elbow, 11 inches, which should gradually taper to six inches around the wrist. Here are the proportions of the correct tall woman: Height, 5 feet 8 1/2 inches; bust, 36 inches; waist, 25 inches; hips, 42 inches; top of arm, 14 inches; wrist, 6 inches; thigh, 22 inches; calf, 14 inches; ankle, nine inches.

The Spanish Flag in Kansas.

In the northwestern part of Republic county, Kansas, on the site of an old Pawnee Indian village, stands a granite monument erected by the state, commemorating a unique incident in American history. Here on September 29, 1806, Gen. Zebulon Pike, leading a straggling band of American soldiers on an exploring expedition through the unknown country beyond the Mississippi river, came upon a Pawnee village in which a Spanish flag was flying. After much maneuvering and almost at the point of the bayonet Pike forced the Indians, who outnumbered his command ten to one, to haul down the Spanish flag and hoist the Stars and Stripes in its place.

At Bannockburn.

A splenetic Englishman, trying to badger a Scotchman who was something of a wag, declared that no man of taste would think of remaining any time in such a country as Scotland. "Tastes differ," replied the Scot, suavely. "I'll take ye to a place in Scotland not far frae Stirling whaur thirty thousand of our countrymen ha' been for 500 years, an' they've nae thought o' leavin' yet."

No Need To.

"Do you know that Mr. Thompson I was just speaking to?" asked the lady at the tea party of the one standing next to her.

"Oh, yes. I suppose he says those sweet things to all the women he meets?" "No, he never says them to me." "Indeed! And you know him?" "Oh, yes; I'm his wife!"—Stray Stories.

No Half-Way Measures.

"I tried to compliment that opera singer but he seems offended." "What did you say?" "I said I considered him the greatest living tenor."

"You should have told him that he is the greatest tenor that ever lived and that after his death real music can survive only by means of the phonograph."

An Empty Form.

Little Willie—Say, pa, what does it signify when one woman kisses another?

Pa—About as much as when one man in business calls another "oh chap," my son.—Stray Stories.

STRANGE CAPTURE OF SALMON.

Incident Proves That Belief of Some Fishermen Is Wrong.

Fishing a well-known river in Norway this June, one of the tenants of the fishing lodge opposite ours caught a fish of 29 pounds in the morning and lost another, his spinning line being broken by the rush of a heavy fish. Fishing with prava the afternoon of the same day, the same angler, in the same pool, got into a good fish at his first cast. After a long fight the fish was gaffed and landed. Then was revealed a strange state of things. The prawn tackle had never touched the fish; in fact the hooks were a foot or more from it. They had caught in the cast which had been lost that morning, and was now twisted into knots and tangles, no doubt by the salmon endeavoring to get rid of the treble Norsk cast and hooks. The line had been got rid of. As the prawn swung down the pool it had grappled the lost cast still attached to the salmon, and fish (33 pounds), cast, and tackle were recovered. We watched the incident from the road, and crossing the river handled the recovered cast. Many maintain that salmon once hooked and played for any length of time leave the pool.—W. H., in London Field.

ALL ARE TIPPED IN BOHEMIA.

Even the Street Car Conductor Gets Tips—Pay for Privilege of Serving.

In the city of Prague a tip to the tramway conductor is considered de rigueur. The orthodox tip consists of but two heller, or two-tenths of a penny, yet as "strap hanging" is allowed for in considering the carrying capacity of the car the conductors should have got a goodly pocketful of the minimum coin by each day's end.

Tippling, it was ascertained in another of Bohemia's larger towns, is so fully recognized that the head waiter at a cafe pays a rent for his post, supplies all the journals for the coffee room and looks after the other waiters, and then makes an income larger than that of a university professor—all out of his tips.

After supper at one of the delightful open air cafes of the capital it was found that approximately one should give a half krona, ten cents, to the head waiter who took payment, four cents to the under waiter who brought the vianda, and a cent to the boy who brought—and even brought again as one glass was finished—the beer.

The Prolific Queen Bee.

The queen bee is a great antagonist of race suicide. She strives to perpetuate the race with an ardor and an understanding that is worthy of the highest commendation. Some have been known to lay 4,000 eggs a day for a year, the number lessening after that to 1,300 and going forward at that ratio for another two years. With 60,000 bees to the colony that single prize-winning queen laid enough eggs to establish 46 colonies. Bee keepers figure on a net income of three dollars a colony each year. If the owners of the bee under discussion profited from her labors to that extent the gain was \$148. It is not to be presumed that any such results were obtained. To argue so much in favor of one bee would be to place belief in the statement that a man with ten acres of ground and two rabbits can become a millionaire in three years selling rabbit skins to glove manufacturers.—Technical World.

Sure to Please.

"A birthday present for your son, eh? And he is pretty hard to please, madam?" "Indeed he is," replied the fond mother. "And I do want to please him so."

"What age is he, madam?" the clerk inquired.

"He will be just 16." A triumphant smile illumined the visage of the salesman.

"Then, madam, give him this," he said. And he laid before the woman a magnificent case of crimson Russia leather containing a horse-hide strop and a dozen exquisitely fine razors.

And They Were All Happy.

A boy in the California State School for Dependent Children wrote his father thus: "Dear Papa: We children are having a good time here now. Mr. Sager broke his leg and can't work. We went on a picnic and it rained and we all got wet. Many children here are sick with mumps. Mr. Higgins fell off the wagon and broke his rib, but he can work a little. The man that is digging the deep well, whipped us boys with a buggy whip, because we threw sand in his machine, and made black and blue marks on us. Ernest cut his finger badly. We are all very happy."

When the "Wrong Lady" Came.

Some young idlers had been enjoying the fun of halting passing shop-girls with rather doubtful compliments, and from some of the answers returned it was evident that not all of those addressed were taking things kindly. Presently one of the older boys, seeing it was going too far, spoke up. "Look a' here now, fellers," he added, "youse might think youse is wise guys an' all that, but just keep on and the 'wrong lady'll come along an' she'll break yer face, see?"

The Facts.

"These yarns about cooks wearing their mistresses' clothes are all fakes, are they not?" "Of course. Why, my cook wouldn't even condescend to patronize the dressmaker who makes my gowns!"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Nothing to Square.

"Take home a box of candy or a bunch of flowers to-night?" "What for? I'm sober."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

TALLS OF SIBERIAN HORRORS.

Sufferer Describes Agonies Endured in Russian Penal Settlement.

Horrid is the picture of existence in the penal colonies of northern Siberia given in a book just published in Germany by L. Tane, who returned to life after a burial of eight and a half years in the living grave of Kolymak. In that time, he says, he saw one after another of his fellows succumb to suicide, hunger and insanity. They were all young men and all were sent away for terms ranging from five to ten years for political offenses.

The trip to Kolymak takes 16 months. "I was 20 years old," he says, "when I was convicted for harboring liberal convictions. In our party were a 16-year-old boy and another a year younger. All told we were 50 politicals." The writer describes the agonies of hunger which the deported "politicals" had to endure. Mail was received three times a year.

"I shall never forget one mail day," he says. "In 18 months a certain one of our number had not heard from home. This mail brought him a letter. It was a last greeting written in an uncertain hand by his mother on her deathbed. In desperation he did what so many of our party had done before him, and which others did after we had laid him away."

DOMESTIC INCIDENT IN 1950.

By One Who Has Taken a Long Look Into the Future.

"My love," mentioned Mr. Sufferer-Gette, "I wonder—I wonder whether you would let me have the use of my latch key one day this week?" "Latch key?" bellowed "his wife. "What the blazes do you want with a latch key, my good man?"

"Well, my love," coughed Mr. Sufferer-Gette, "we are holding a series of fathers' foregatherings in the mission hall this week, when we hope to do a little needlework on behalf of the parish poor. Miss Nancy has kindly consented to come and talk to us about her recent farthest north trip, and—"

"Great heavens!" roared the frate wife, banking her pipe upon the table to emphasize her words. "Don't you know your duty is at home?" Besides, on Monday I've got to attend the Women's Emancipation league. Tuesday the Sisters of Charity meeting; Wednesday the local follow-up women's concert; Thursday the Daughters of Toil lecture; Friday, the Women's Science Research club, and on Saturday our football club's smoker. Now, don't you forget—your duty is at home!" And so it came to pass.

Vegetable Stones.

"These are vegetable stones," said a geologist. "Stones, that is, that grow in vegetables."

"Here is a tabasheer. It is found in the joints of certain kinds of bamboo. It is always round and brown, like this. Here is the cocoon stone. You find it in the endopoderm of the Javanese cocoon. Round or pear-shaped, it has always this milk-white luster, like a pearl. The smaller stone, with its pearly luster a little tarnished, is found in the pomgranate. It is pure carbonate of lime. These stones are formed from silicious and calcareous juices circulating in the plant organism. They are the result of a diseased condition. Man himself, you know, occasionally puts forth stony growths; and they must be removed, or the human stone-grower lies in excruciating pain."

Demands Come High.

A young man in a responsible post in a New York broker's office asked his employer for an increase in salary the other day.

"Why do you want more than you've been getting?" queried the boss.

"Well, I'm doing two men's work now. Then, too, it's pretty hard sliding to make both ends meet each month. I've got a good many demands on me that you don't know anything about."

Queer Languages.

Among the queerest languages used by human beings are those of Gomerio, in the Canary islands, and the Cameroons of West Africa. The Gomerio converses with people a mile or so distant by whistling, using both fingers and lips so expertly as to express all the signals required to make the conversation intelligible. A Cameroonian man uses a drum for the same purpose. The instrument is rather peculiar, its surface being divided into two unequal portions, so that when it is struck it yields two different notes. With a code not unlike the taps of the telegraph system, the natives make this drum express any syllable of their language.

English Scholars Honored.

Dr. James Augustus Henry Murray, one of the great scholars of England and famous as editor of the Oxford New English dictionary, has been made a knight by King Edward.

Has Risen Despite Handicap.

Prof. E. D. Campbell, director of the chemical laboratories in the University of Michigan, lost his sight 18 years ago through an accident. In spite of his affliction he has taken a high place in education and has made original researches of much value in the chemistry of iron and copper.