

TO WEB LEAP YEAR OR NEVER

Paris' Aid, Sailing, Declares Life Will Be Lonesome and Miserable Unless Some Girl Proposes.

New York.—"Don't forget that I've got my flag up and if I miss marriage this leap year, I shall be doomed to a bachelor life and misery forever."

"This is the parting hint to the girls by Maj. Archibald Butt, military aide to President Taft."

UNCLE SAM ADOPTS "BABY"

Tiny Mail Sack Originating in Chicago Already Saves \$500,000 for Government.

Chicago, Ill.—Chicago has a new "baby." It was born in the postoffice and has been adopted by Uncle Sam.

The new creation is a small mail sack, the baby of the bag department of the United States mail.

DAKOTA CAT A FIRE FIGHTER

Feline Extinguishes Blaze in a Trouser's Leg and Paws Out Other Flames.

Deadwood, S. D.—What is believed to be the only fire-fighting cat in the world is a pet in a Deadwood business house.

BABY IS BORN IN PRISON

Negro Boy Baptized in Hospital Ward of the Eastern Penitentiary.

Philadelphia.—The gloomy walls of the Eastern penitentiary echoed three days ago to the cries of a tiny new baby.

SENTENCED; ASKS FOR DEATH

Assailant of Girl Begs Spectators for Rope With Which to Hang Himself.

Akron, O.—John Rettig, 48 years old, a widower, was sentenced to eight months in the workhouse and to pay a fine of \$500 and costs for contributing to the delinquency of a 16-year-old girl.

HOSPITALS FOR BANKRUPTS

Berlin.—A singular foundation is to be established near St. Petersburg through the will of the wife of the lawyer Ivanhoff, who left 2,500,000 roubles under strange conditions.

PANELS HOUSE WITH WARSHIP

Hard as Iron Are the Timbers of British Frigate Despite Its Age.

New York.—Oaken timbers from the old British warship, the Daedalus, have been brought to New York and are being converted into panels for the interior of the new home of Stephen Carlton Clark at No. 42 East Seventieth street.

Though the vessel was built in 1769 and was in commission until two years ago, the timbers are sound, and "hard as iron."

The timbers are being turned into paneling at Sherwin & Berman's in East One Hundred and Thirty-seventh street. The work will require four months.

HENS PHONE ALARM TO OWNER

Well-Known Poultry Raiser Catches Chicken-Thief by Unique Method.

Winsted, Conn.—To catch an animal which had been killing his hens, B. E. Moore, a well-known poultry raiser, who has a pen of hens taking part in the International egg laying contest at the State Agricultural college at Storrs, had a telephone installed in his henhouse.

The wire ran to his bedroom, where the receiver was fastened to a bed-post close to his pillow. The receiver on the other end was also off the hook, thus permitting any sound to the henhouse, where he shot and killed the thief, a mink.

NO REASON FOR EXISTENCE

Pastor of City Temple Church, London, Takes a Gloomy View of Things in General.

London.—Rev. Dr. R. J. Campbell, pastor of the City Temple, said at a service that he doesn't believe there is any reason for existence.

HAD NOT MET IN 40 YEARS

Brothers Gilman Greet Each Other at Railway Station—Death of Parents Separated Them.

Peabody, Kan.—Thomas and William Gilman, brothers, who had not seen each other since they were children, 40 years ago, met by accident at a railway station here.

QUAIL SHUT OUT THE SUN

Los Angeles.—Ranchers from the Coachella Valley who were in Los Angeles recently reported that quail were so thick in the valley that crops of all kinds were being destroyed.

CORN GROWS IN APPENDIX

Strange Conditions Found in Human Body by Doctors Operating on a Farmer.

Lawrence, Ind.—Three grains of corn that had begun to sprout were found in the appendix of James B. Powell, a wealthy farmer, when he was operated upon for acute appendicitis.

COMIC KING IN U.S.

Emperor of Sahara Now Lives in New York.

Ruler is Without Funds—Former Boulevardier, Known as "The Little Sugar Bowl," is Plaintiff in Big Law Suit.

New York.—Jacques Lebaudy, first emperor of the Sahara, idler of the Paris boulevards and one-time lover of the spectacular, has found New York a place where he can indulge in many of the eccentricities which made him notorious in France and elsewhere.

Strange as it may seem, in a city where publicity is the lot of doers of the unconventional the emperor of the Sahara in the six years that he has spent in exile here has had many adventures which have escaped notice.

As was his wish when he came here as an exile from France, but with money to burn, he has effaced himself, has joined the submerged tenth and is here, just now he is living in a villa within a hundred miles of this city, enjoying himself and awaiting the outcome of the suit which he has brought against the superintendent of banks and the Carnegie Trust company for an accounting of something like \$3,000,000.

The suit brought by Jacques Premier, as he used to sign himself on hotel registers, is really an echo of his Sahara expedition. It was in 1906 that Lebaudy, forced to abandon his scheme of empire in the desert owing to the refusal of the powers to recognize his claims, determined to seek an asylum in the United States.

It was after this proclamation that the emperor says he turned over the disposal of his property to the trust company which he is now suing. It is almost needless to say that his claim has been disputed by the receiver and the banking department.

Just why Lebaudy, after entertaining Europe with his escapades and playing the role of an opera bouffe monarch, should have elected to retire into seclusion has long been a mystery. Not even his friends of former days have known in recent years the residence of the emperor.

While the former idler of the Paris boulevards is now seeking a fortune in the courts of this country, that does not mean that he is penniless. He yet has a large fortune. An investigation of the career of the ex-monarch of the desert in this country revealed that at the time Mr. Hariman was reported to be about to rehabilitate the Erie Lebaudy was shrewd enough to purchase a large block of Erie shares at from \$12 to \$15 a share, which he afterward disposed of at from \$30 to \$35 a share.

SINGS HIMSELF TO FREEDOM

Kentuckian Liberated After Rendering "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" for Benefit of Jurors.

Richmond, Ky.—Isaac Lakes sung himself out of jail here when he rendered "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" before a jury in the circuit court room. He was indicted for disturbing public worship by singing too loudly.

SETS GOLD WALL IN ARTERY

New York Surgeon Astounds His Colleagues by Unusual Operation.

New York.—An assemblage of physicians and surgeons, many of them from other cities, was held spellbound by an operation performed by Dr. William C. Lusk. A new interior wall of gold wire was supplied for a distended aorta.

SHERIFF PREVENTS WEDDING

Kenton, O.—Denied permission to marry by the girl's parents, Daniel Lewis, 19, and Ethel Smith, 16, eloped. They were pursued 20 miles by the sheriff who prevented the marriage and arrested Lewis.

FARMER WELL PAID FOR WORK

Oregon Man Goes Trapping and Expects to Make \$500 With Little Labor.

Klamath Falls, Ore.—When R. S. Sparks walked down Main street lately enveloped in pelts of wild animals he had caught and skinned, he attracted no little attention.

The bounty collected from the skins was at the rate of \$100 for the coyote skins and \$2 for the hides of the bobcats. In addition to the total bounty of \$320, he will get anywhere from \$4 to \$8 apiece for the skins. As a rule, coyote skins bring less than those of bobcats, but this winter they are slightly higher.

Sparks places his traps on hilly places where he can see them from the door of his house on the farm about two and one-half miles from Bonanza, and before breakfast looks out to see if there is a catch.

NINE KITTENS ARE ABDUCTED

Kidnaper Evidently Fought Many Hard Battles to Accomplish the feat.

Los Angeles.—William Helm, 645 South Daly street, is owner of a huge white Persian tom cat, worthy of a special prize at the next annual cat show as the original kidnaper of his tribe.

Ordinarily he presents a most docile and innocent countenance despite his crimes. One night he set out by stealth, to return before dawn, where he waited for Mrs. Helm to open the door.

Mrs. Helm was struck with the battle scars on her pet. One of his eyes was closed, his coat was torn and rough and his tail was limp and almost as bare as a rat's.

HIRES HUSBAND FROM JAIL

Asheville (N. C.) Woman Purchases Convicted Spouse's Services for \$500 a Month.

Asheville, N. C.—Placing a much higher value on his services than anyone else, Mrs. P. H. Trash hired her husband from the board of county commissioners for one month for \$500, strictly cash in advance.

Trash, a man worth \$50,000 and well connected, had been found guilty of keeping liquor to sell to retailers in his prohibition section and sentenced by Judge Long in superior court to pay a fine of \$2,000, costs amounting to \$400, and to be imprisoned in jail thirty days; but upon the tearful petition of the wife the judge stipulated that if the county commissioners chose to do so they might hire the defendant for his term to the highest bidder, but not less than \$500.

The board decided to take the money and in default of other bids the defendant was struck off to the wife for \$500, which she promptly paid.

TIRES OF AFFINITY

Former Crown Princess is Plaintiff in Divorce Suit.

Was Separated From Prince Because of Escapade With Tutor—Afterwards Married a Musician—Now Seeks to Be Free.

Rome.—The trial of the suit of the Countess Montignoso, formerly crown princess of Saxony, for a legal separation from her husband, Enrico Toselli, was begun here and promises to be replete with sensational incidents.

The Countess has made no public statement in regard to the suit, but her friends declare that many of the accusations made against him are false, and he is expected to make a vigorous defense. It is hinted also that he will bring serious counter charges against his wife, the former princess.

Princess Louise, or the Countess Montignoso, first came into notoriety in 1902, when she disappeared from the court of Dresden and was not located for several days, when she was found at Geneva in company with M. Giron, a former tutor of her children, who had been ordered out of Saxony on account of his attentions to the princess.

The princess and Giron at first seemed to be very happy, going from Geneva to Mentone. Then came the serious illness of Prince Christian, the eldest child of Crown Prince Frederick and Princess Louise, and the mother agreed to part with Giron if allowed to see her son. This was refused, but Louise did not go back to Giron.

After her flight Louise assumed the title of Countess Montignoso, and was granted an income of \$7,500 a year from her former husband. The countess then came to Italy, where she had an affair with the Marquis Guiccardini, which caused the latter's wife to leave him and sue for divorce. Louise next met Signor Toselli, who was a music teacher with a very modest income. They eloped to London, where they were married in 1907.

The pair have not lived together for nearly two years, but not until recently were any steps taken looking to a legal separation. The fact that the countess now seeks her freedom has given rise to a report that she has another matrimonial venture in view and consequently desires to rid herself of the Italian plaintiff.

GIRL WHO LIKES GHOSTS

But Some of Them Are Sporty, Concludes Wellesley Girl Fancier of Spooks.

Wellesley.—Miss Agnes Rockwell, a senior at Wellesley college, has acquired a wholesome sympathy for ghosts, not the kind that walks on Saturday, but the sort that plays havoc with one's spinal cord.

She says they are much abused and are really good and not bad. She knew a ghost once, she declares, that of a favorite black cat. Her nurse, she says, "in common with many other distinguished people, held the fallacy that ghosts are horrible creatures and that every man's hands should be against them."

"A most flagrant instance of the misbranding of ghosts in fiction has driven me to take up my pen in their defense," she continued. "It must have been apparent to all considerable literateurs that of all the faithful servants who wait upon the pleasures of the insatiable novel reader, none are so abused and mistreated as the ghosts."

"The finest specimens of ghosts, and in my opinion the only really authentic ones, flourish in England. All other ghosts are sports."

10,000 LOONS TAKE WING

Mobilization and Flight of Birds From California to North Rare Scene.

San Diego, Cal.—The first sign of spring was evident on San Diego bay a few days ago when a flock of loons, estimated to have numbered 10,000, mobilized on the surface of the water and maneuvered to the weird ovals of their leaders until their formation was perfect.

Then, at a signal, the feathered visitors from the north, which have been about San Diego during the winter, rose and in wedge-shaped body headed for their northern summer home and witnessed the strange mobilization, which lasted for more than an hour.

To Have Aerial Line. Indianapolis, Ind.—Capital assured for a dirigible balloon passenger line between this city, Chicago, Louisville and Cincinnati. Ten passengers will be carried on the first trip.

GIVES \$5,000 TO GREET BIRDS

Anonymous Donor Contributes to Audubon Societies' Fund to Encourage Children's Care.

New York.—Five thousand dollars was given to the National Association of Audubon Societies to encourage school children to welcome the birds in the eastern and middle western sections of the United States.

The donor, who prefers that his name be kept secret, in following the example of Mrs. Russell Sage, who is giving \$5,000 a year to the same society, to be used in promoting the study of the feathered wanderers of the air in the south.

It was announced at the offices of the association that work would be begun at once. The idea will be carried along in this part of the country on somewhat different lines than in the south. In the winter the children of the east and middle west will be encouraged to put out boxes for the shelter of birds and to place food for them on the window sills of their homes.

With the coming of spring, instruction is to be given as to the northward migration of the flying hosts. The association will expend the fund in sending out plates, color prints and descriptions of the common varieties of birds, directions for feeding them and how to place material at hand which they may use in the building of nests. Two field agents will also give lectures.

U. S. PAYS OFF AN OLD DEBT

Government Sends \$177 to Minnesota Due Him Since Days of the Civil War.

St. Paul, Minn.—Another proof that Uncle Sam is honest and will pay his debts as soon as he can is on exhibition at the office of Julius Schmahel, secretary of state, at the capitol. It is a check for \$177, which was received by Charles A. Rose, document clerk. Uncle Sam has been owing Mr. Rose this money since 1863 and at last has got enough ahead to pay the debt. In 1863 Mr. Rose was transferred from one company of volunteers to another and at the time of this transfer there was due him \$177. The amount was never paid and Mr. Rose had even forgotten that he had it coming until the check arrived yesterday.

Warren, Pa.—Hiram Towseley, of Garfield, near here, has received a check from the United States government for \$105, which was the balance due him in prize money for services rendered in the Civil war. Mr. Towseley was one of the crew of the gunboat Connecticut. For valuable cargo captured his share amounted to \$240, of which \$105 had not been paid, owing to an oversight.

TO USE MUSIC ON CRIMINALS

Teacher of Instrumental Melody to Work at New York Reformatory Indorsed by Council.

New York.—Patrick A. Whitney, commissioner of corrections, has decided that music should have a large part in the work of reforming youthful criminals, and he has accordingly directed the employment of a teacher of instrumental music at the city reformatory on Hart's island. His order to this effect is indorsed by the aldermen in a resolution which says: "Music is extremely beneficial in the general scheme of social reform, for which this institution is established, and is necessary as a part of the special reform work there. Furthermore, beginners may practice on an island to their heart's desire and annoy no one but themselves."

Commissioner Whitney will offer the convicts an "optional course" of eighty instrumental music lessons this spring.

BABIES ARE THIEF'S NEMESIS

Man Arrested for Jewelry Theft Gives Tots Great Credit for His Capture.

Spokane, Wash.—Babies are the best protection against burglars, according to James Burke, under arrest at Missoula, Mont., who has confessed the theft of \$11,000 in jewels from the Thatcher residence at Pueblo, Colo., and the taking of gems worth \$5,000 from B. I. Gordon of Spokane.

DOG PUTS OUT FIRE

Louisville, Ky.—After extinguishing a fire caused by hot coals falling from a grate, the prize-winning collie of W. J. Atkinson awoke his master to have a look at his bilgeared paws.

The dog sleeps on a rug in front of the grate and during the night live coals fell on the rug. Mr. Atkinson was awakened by the dog whining and scratching at his bedroom door. He arose and followed the dog to where it indicated the burned places in the rug with its nose. Then the dog exhibited its paws, which had been bilged in beating out the blaze.