

AMBASSADOR FROM ITALY



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Baron Mayor Des Planches, representative of the Italian government at Washington, is a well-known figure at the national capital, having held his present post since 1901; for two years previous to that time he was minister to Servia. He is 56 years old and is popular in diplomatic circles.

THE ISTHMIAN ROAD

GREAT INCREASE IN TRAFFIC FROM ATLANTIC TO PACIFIC.

Tehuantepec Railway, Opened in 1907, Stimulates Interchange of Shipments by Joining Oceans with 190 Miles of Road.

Washington.—More than \$40,000,000 worth of merchandise originating in United States territory crossed the isthmuses of Panama and Tehuantepec in 1907, most of it being interchanged between the eastern and western ports of the United States, including Hawaiian islands. This traffic in merchandise originating under the American flag is more than three times as much as that of any earlier date.

The sudden and large increase in the interchanges between Atlantic and Pacific ports by way of the narrow strip of land which separates these oceans is due chiefly to the opening early in 1907 of the Tehuantepec railway, which connects the waters of the two oceans by a land haul of 190 miles, its terminal being Coatzacoalcas on the Atlantic, or Gulf of Mexico side, and Salina Cruz, on the Pacific side.

The enterprise of connecting the two oceans by this short land haul was planned before the construction of the earliest transcontinental railway in the United States, the first concession for the road having been granted by the Mexican government in 1857. This and subsequent concessions having failed to produce results, the Mexican government in 1885 itself took up the work, making a series of contracts under which a line was completed from ocean to ocean in 1884, but owing to defective conditions its partial reconstruction became necessary, and this reconstruction was accomplished through a partnership entered into by the Mexican government with a British firm, the road having been actually opened for business in January, 1907.

Modern steel docks at the eastern and western terminal permit the transfer by steam and electric power of merchandise from the hold of the vessel direct to the car standing on the dock alongside the vessel, and retransfer from car to vessel by the same manner. The time occupied in shipment across the isthmus is less than 24 hours, and the entire time occupied in the transfer from the hold of one vessel to that of the other vessel less than 48 hours. Regular established steamship lines now run between Coatzacoalcas, at the gulf end, and Philadelphia and New York, and between Salina Cruz at the Pacific end and the western part of the United States and the Hawaiian islands, while various lines connecting with foreign countries also touch at the eastern and western termini.

The result of this new opportunity to interchange merchandise between the Atlantic and Pacific ports with a minimum of land haul has been that the value of merchandise moving from the eastern ports of the United States across the Tehuantepec route to the Pacific, as shown by the reports of the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor, was in the first quarter of the year, \$1,338,000; in the second quarter over \$4,000,000, in the third quarter over \$4,000,000, and in the fourth quarter approximately \$4,000,000.

The westward movements of merchandise via the Tehuantepec route have been chiefly sugar from the Hawaiian islands, the shippers of that article having abandoned the around-the-Horn route and sending via Tehuantepec all their sugar destined for the eastern coast of the United States.

WHITTLES HIMSELF TO FAME.

Pennsylvania Man Carves Marvels with His Knife.

Mohnton, Pa.—Justice of the Peace Daniel M. Peiffer, chief executive of Cumru township, is Berks county's cleverest artist with the penknife. Last week he called at the recorder's office and presented the entire staff with cleverly carved wooden pocket pens.

The jolly squire's courtroom, where he metes out justice, is filled with hundreds of objects made by his skillful blade. He has been a justice for 18 years, serving his first term at Sinking Spring, where he became famous as a whittler, and since then he has whittled himself to fame in Berks county. From youth he was a mechanic, and having first learned his father's trade, blacksmithing, he finally began to whittle away upon metal. Soon he had whittled a complete miniature set of blacksmith tools, all the sizes and styles of horse-shoes he used to make, even the anvil and the forge.

He has carvings that he made from wood picked up at Johnstown after the great flood; from wood that came from the railroad wrecks at Shoemakersville, Exeter and Ludwigs; from wood used for building purposes at the Pan-American exposition, and from nearly every old church of Berks county. From wood obtained from the old Reformed church at Singing Spring he whittled out the pyramids in miniature.

His cleverest little carving is his own watch charm, whittled out of mahogany and weighing an eighth of an ounce, in the shape of a ball, with a little ball in the center which cannot be removed.

FINDS MICHIGAN DIVORCE VOID.

New York Court of Appeals Decides a Complicated Suit.

New York.—The court of appeals has decided, in a somewhat complicated suit, that a decree of divorce given in Michigan when one party is a resident of New York and is served only by publication, is not legal in New York state. The case, it is said, will go up to the United States supreme court.

Eliaz Olmstead, who lived in Tarrytown, died and left an estate of \$3,000, to be divided between his two sons or their "lawful heirs." One of the sons, Benjamin F. Olmstead, married in 1850 Mary Jane Olmstead and by her had four children. In 1870 Olmstead went to New Jersey, his wife remaining in New York. In 1874, without obtaining a divorce, he went through a marriage ceremony with Sarah Louise Welch. Two sons were born to her. Later they went to Michigan, where Olmstead secured a divorce from his New York wife by default, the summons having been served by publication.

All the principals died and the four New York children began a suit to have the two Michigan children excluded from participation in the estate on the ground they were not "lawful issue." The amount at stake is only \$4,000.

Kangaroo for Gastronomes.

Paris.—A new delicacy has been discovered for Paris gastronomes in the shape of a joint of kangaroo on the Oliver, matre in the hotel at Ritz, said that he twice had kangaroo on the menu lately and it has been a big success. People come there who say they are tired of chicken, beef and mutton—tired of everything. When kangaroo is suggested, they jump at it. The hotel, however, requires notice, and the cost is about \$20 for a small joint.

Other delicacies which have regularly appeared on the Paris menus this season are bird's nest soup, chamois, bear and especially peacocks.

PUSHED HER POWER TOO FAR.

Young Lady's Silly Insistence Cost Her Wealthy Husband.

Wilbraham Bootle, a young Englishman, handsome, clever, of high social position and immensely rich, fell in love with a Miss Taylor, who could bring her husband nothing but her pretty face. Wilbraham Bootle, however, aspired to obtain her hand, and easily obtained her consent. The marriage day had been fixed. At a great dinner at Lord Camelford's the conversation turned upon an ascent that had been made in the morning to the cross upon the dome of St. Peter's. To reach the cross it was necessary to pass outside the hall.

Wilbraham Bootle said that he did not possess a steady head, would never be able to reach the cross, and that nothing in the world would induce him to try.

"Nothing in the world," said Miss Taylor.

"Nothing, I assure you."

"What, not even if I were to ask you?"

"You would not ask me to do a thing for which I frankly admit my dislike."

"Excuse me, I do ask, I beg of you, and, if necessary, I insist."

Wilbraham Bootle attempted to laugh the matter off, but Miss Taylor insisted, notwithstanding the interference of Lord Camelford.

The whole company met two days following at St. Peter's to watch the performance of the task imposed upon the young man. He performed his trial with great coolness, and when he came down the triumphant beauty came toward him with outstretched hand; he took her hand, kissed it, and said:

"Miss Taylor, I have obeyed the whim of a charming girl. Permit me now in return to give you a piece of advice. If you wish to keep your power never misuse it. I wish you all prosperity, and now good-by."

FORTUNE TELLERS IN EGYPT.

Found Everywhere, But Luxor Seems Their Natural Home.

Everywhere in Egypt one will find fortune tellers, but no city boasts more for its size than Luxor. Those who read the future with sand are in the majority. They sit cross-legged on the ground and mutter a preliminary jargon. Finally they lift up the sand, and as it trickles through their fingers they claim to see the life of their patron revealed. As none of the prognosticators speak English, and it falls to the lot of the dragoman to translate, it is difficult to place the credit of shrewd guessing where it belongs. At Luxor, as in all cities along the Nile, water for domestic purposes is carried from the river by the women and young girls, and no more interesting phase of everyday life is seen in Egypt than the evening procession of trailing robed figures, many of which now carry large Standard Oil cans instead of pictureque jars upon their heads. The hotels at Luxor are all situated on the river bank, within a few yards of the water, and it is the delight of the guests to sit on the broad verandas and watch the natives who bring up water to irrigate the lawns and to sprinkle the dusty roads.—Harriet Quimby, in "Leslie's Weekly."

Flat Fish for Low Water.

"Carnegie lake" still continues to be a source of interest both to the student body and the townfolk of Princeton. Discussion never wanes as to the advisability of the college going in for rowing, a sport in which it may eventually hope to vie with the crews that row on the Thames or the Hudson. But lately a new suggestion has been made in the university town as to the wisdom of the plan of stocking the sheet of water with fish. Now, it must be known that the new lake is extremely shallow, its greatest depth being less than four feet. When the matter of piscatorial interest was first under discussion, one undergraduate almost put the subject to death by remarking:

"Well, if they must put fish in the lake they will have to limit the kind to flounders. Any other sort of fish would either scrape themselves to death on the bottom or get sunburnt on their backs."

Air Brush in Painting.

The compressed air spray has been used for a considerable time for painting large surfaces, like the Eiffel tower, and for whitewashing tunnels. The newer art of decorating small surfaces by means of an air brush seems to have reached its highest development in Germany. Of the two types of apparatus, one is held like a pencil and the other is used like a revolver, and the air for spraying is supplied from a cylinder of compressed air or carbonic acid gas, or in a more primitive way by a hand pump. It is capable of a great variety of applications. The air-brush can be used for ordinary industrial painting by any unskilled workman, while an artist of some ability can paint flowers and other designs upon enamel, glass, porcelain, bronze, paper, and even upon cloth, carpets and other fabrics. It has proved especially serviceable in retouching photographs.

No Use for It.

Adam was naming the animals. "What are you going to call this one?" asked Eve, pointing to the striped little specimen that came next. "I am not going to call it at all," said Adam, holding his nose. "Send it away!"

This is why the skunk is known by so many different names.

MODELS USED 2,500 YEARS AGO.

Among Interesting Egyptian Relics in New York Museum.

Fourteen models used by an Egyptian sculptor 2,500 years ago are on view among new objects gathered by the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Some of the bits of sculpture have upon them the red lines and the markings which the master so long ago put on them to show where certain carving was to be done. They are in soft limestone, and, frail as is the material, they have lost nothing of the beauty of outline. A queen or goddess in several poses is one of the subjects.

Most important of the new specimens in the museum is the large basalt sarcophagus of Hor-mehet-bitl, which was purchased from the Egyptian government. It weighs six tons. On it is the inscription in hieroglyphics that its occupant was the "royal treasurer, the royal friend, the overseer of the palace, the overseer of the royal chamber, honored by Ptah Seker."

Eight vessels of silver and gold, bearing the name of Rameses II., have also been added in the collections, as well as the whip and the scepter, and other insignia of authority carried by an ancient ruler.

GAVE PLUG HATS BAD JOLT.

Undesirable Citizens First Wore Them at Junction City.

George W. Martin, the veracious secretary of the Kansas State Historical society, tells the following story of the first "plug" hats in Junction City: "It was in the year 1870, when John A. Anderson was pastor and I was a leading pillar of a church in Junction City. Charles R. Carver, who then conducted a famous gent's furnishing house, came into the land office one day, and said that a number of the boys wanted plug hats. He could not afford to send for them unless he had orders for eighteen. I insisted I would not wear such a thing, but he badgered until he got an order from me and from Anderson. The hats came and were delivered Saturday afternoon. A beautiful Sabbath day followed, and Anderson and myself ventured to church wearing plug hats. Then we found the other 16 belonged to gamblers, and they marched into church, single file, down the west aisle, carrying those hats most gracefully, and filled all the available front seats. They knocked Anderson silly for that service, and it was a sad blow to the plug hat in Junction City."—Kansas City Star.

The "One-Dress" Season.

It is curious to note the influence of fashion upon the spread of so essentially an unfashionable thing as the recent currency stringency.

It was a "rich man's panic," therefore it is now a sign of richness to be poor. Many a household which is abundantly able to keep its style of living on an exact level with the standard of last winter is lopping off familiar luxuries, simply because the great social leaders have found it expedient to do so. They call it a "one-dress" season on Fifth avenue, and Fifth avenue's imitators are preparing to make a "hard times party" as a form of entertainment as it was in Richmond during the civil war.

By and large the phenomenon is a beneficial feature of the situation. We have learned that the pace must be eased off a bit, and we can yield to the inevitable far more easily if it is officially recognized as the fashionable thing to do.

High Honor Worthy Won.

To command a great ocean steamship is one of the highest honors that can befall a seaman. Capt. Pritchard, the commander of the mammoth Cunard Mauretania, has well earned the position which he now holds. He came to it by steps of well-merited promotion from a humble beginning. A native of Wales, he was left an orphan when a lad, and, obeying his mother's last wish, set out to become a sailor. At first he acted as cook on a small sailing vessel, but in a couple of years he entered the maritime service proper. At the end of 12 years he was captain and part owner of a brig. Subsequently he made voyages to every part of the world. After 21 years of this life he entered the Cunard service, where he has been for 28 years. He has commanded nearly every big Cunard vessel.

A Gentle Hint.

When a boy Gov. Hughes knew something of dire poverty. His father was earning a salary of \$2,000 a year in a Baptist church in Greenpoint, which was frequently unpaid. The family's larder was often empty and the salary long overdue. The father hesitated to ask for it, but when he did one night in prayer meeting it was in these words: "I cannot invite any of you to my house to dine, for I must tell you frankly that our household stock is so reduced that I should feel ashamed to have one of your own servants sit at my table."

An Appropriate Text.

Rev. Mr. Blank was putting on a new four-ply collar and giving expression to exclamations.

"Dear me," said his wife, "you really sound profane."

"I'm not," he contradicted. "I'm saying blessed collar, bless the blessed collar. Look at the fourteenth verse of the fifty-fifth Psalm. 'The words of his mouth were as butter, but war was in his heart.'"

TOILET A REAL WORK OF ART.

Maiden of Japan as Equipped for Festive Occasion.

The Japanese college girl entertained the fudge party with oriental reminiscences.

"On every holiday," she said, "the Japanese maiden must rise and have her toilet finished before the sun looks over Fujiyama, our sacred mountain."

"And what a toilet! The long, coarse black tresses are washed, combed and greased till the head shines like a knob of polished black marble. The cheeks are rouged a fine pink. The throat, neck and bosom are powdered, but at the nape of the neck there are left three lines of the original brown skin, in accordance with the rules of Japanese cosmetic art."

"With charcoal she rounds and lengthens her eyebrows. She reddens her lips with cherry paste, adding a gilt diamond to the center of the pouting lower lip. She puts on eight fresh garments and she ties her obi, or great sash, in a symbolic knot. Her socks—she doesn't wear stockings—are very white and pure, and her clogs are lacquered till they shine like a silk hat."

"Now she is ready to set out. She fills her silk tobacco pouch, thrusts her pipe in her girdle, puts six paper handkerchiefs up her wide sleeve and sallies forth, turning her toes in and waving her fan with a demure grace."

DOING AWAY WITH HAND WORK.

Device Sought by Which Poultry May Be Artificially Plucked.

Six turkeys slain that morning revolved slowly on a kind of spit in a small room on the ground floor of a great poultry farm, and as they revolved they were miraculously plucked. Invisible hands stripped off their plumage; the air was gray with falling feathers.

"Wind plucked turkeys—it is an experiment," said the foreman. "Those birds are being plucked by cross-currents of electrically driven air. But experiment is not a commercial success."

"For many years we have tried to invent a poultry-plucking machine. We have not succeeded well. Air plucking seems to be the idea that offers most promise, but it still wants a lot of working out. Yet eventually, I have no doubt, these turkeys that now take a half hour and cost ten cents apiece, to pluck by air will be air plucked in a few seconds, and at no more cost than ten cents a thousand."

Laughable Linguistic Errors.

The mistakes made by foreigners in endeavoring to use some of our slang phrases are often quite amusing. This was shown the other day, when a Teutonic friend, in trying to make evident the social prominence of a common acquaintance, exclaimed:

"Oh, he's the biggest pebble in the peach!"

On another occasion, while admiring the fair complexion of a baby, brought forth by a fond mother for his inspection, he said:

"He is fine. What nice white meat he has got!"

Then, in taking leave of his hostess, he remarked:

"Well, so long. See you farther on. Cold out, don't you?"

New French Machine Gun.

Although the French army remains unshaken in the belief that its new machine gun, firing 550 balls a minute, is the most formidable in the world, certain important defects have been pointed out in all the gunnery camps where it has been tested.

Owing to its practically ceaseless fire gases generate, which throw it out of gear, though in some cases 10,000 shots have been fired without revealing any fault. The arsenal at St. Etienne has been furnished with designs for modifications which will remedy the defect, allowing for which officers believe that no regiment could advance 500 yards without most of the men and horses being hit, owing to the gun's differential action.

A Risk.

"Many a man has by simple economy laid the foundation of a fortune."

"Yes," answered the man who doesn't figure closely, "but by the time you get your fortune you are so liable to be grounded in habits of economy that you won't enjoy spending the money."

Explanatory.

"Why are you raising the price of milk two cents?" asked the housewife grimly.

"Well, you know," returned the milkman, "winter is coming on and—"

"Oh, I see," resumed the woman, not softening in manner, "the water will be needed for making ice."

Hopes Realized.

Editor—So this joke is absolutely original with you?

Humorist—It is.

Editor—Well, now, isn't that interesting? For years and years I have wished that some day I could see the originator of that joke.—Somerville Journal.

Brute.

"I shall never speak to you again," declared Mrs. Jawback, reduced to tears at the end of the argument.

"Just like a woman," scoffed Mr. Jawback, brutally. "If you can't get your way in any other way, you resort to bribery."

MANY KILLED IN MINES.

Over Two Thousand Men Gave Up Their Lives in 1906.

Philadelphia.—The total number of men killed while mining coal in the United States during 1906, according to statistics gathered by the geological survey, was 2,081. The number of workmen receiving injuries in this industry more or less serious, but not fatal, was 4,798 during the same period.

The death rate per thousand of workmen was 3.4 or, in other words, of every 1,000 coal miners over three were killed and more than six seriously injured in accidents at the coal mines. This is a heavy toll when it is considered that England's death rate per 1,000 coal miners during last year was only one. Every 190,353 tons of coal mined in this country last year cost one life.

The principal causes of death were falls of roof and coal, and explosions. The deaths due to the former numbered 1,008; gas and dust explosions, 228; powder explosions, 80; miscellaneous, 73.

The number of men killed in Pennsylvania mines during 1906 was Anthracite, 557; bituminous, 447, total, 1,004, or more than half of the number killed in the 20 states and territories in which coal was mined. But Pennsylvania produced more coal than all the other states and the territories combined.

During the same period the number of persons injured in accidents in Pennsylvania mines was Anthracite, 1,212; bituminous, 2,372. Of those killed in Pennsylvania mines, 583 left widows and 1,294 children were made fatherless. Pennsylvania's death rate per 1,000 miners was Anthracite, 3.43; bituminous, 3.14.

The state which made the lowest record in the death rate per 1,000 for 1906 was Maryland, with 1.09. Colorado had the highest death rate, 7.74 per 1,000; West Virginia, second, with 5.65.

HAULS MASTER TO SCHOOL.

Faithful Dog is Devoted to Crippled Boy.

Marion, O.—Remarkable devotion is shown his young master by a large St. Bernard dog, which, after having watched at the sick bed of 14-year-old Emmet Shoats for months, now hauls him to and from the district school-house, half a mile away. Young Shoats is a cripple and unable to walk. Any morning about eight o'clock the big dog can be seen wending his way down the pike drawing his little master behind in a small wagon. The faithful dog "hangs" around the school-house until evening and is always there at the dismissal of school.

The dog and the boy have been playmates since childhood. Until two years ago they romped together through the woods and pastures. One day in their play young Shoats hurt his leg. Since then he has been practically an invalid. During the time that the boy was in a local hospital the dog seemed broken-hearted and would scarcely eat. He fell away until he was figuratively speaking, nothing but skin and bones. Now he is full of health and vigor. The old St. Bernard cannot be bought at any price.

ONE ON THE PRESIDENT.

W. F. Cody Tells a Story of Roosevelt's Quest of Bear Dogs.

Denver, Col.—"Buffalo Bill" Cody, while a guest here, told this joke on President Roosevelt:

When the president was in Colorado hunting, the expedition was hard up for bear dogs. On the third or fourth day out Chief Guide Goff said: "Mr. President, I know a man who has good bear dogs. I will see if I can get them."

"All right," said the president, "do it." But the man turned down the guide.

"I will go over and see him myself," said the president, and he did.

"Nothing doing," said the owner of the dogs.

"Do you know who I am?" demanded the president. "I am the president of the United States."

"Well," replied the dog owner, "I don't care so— if you are, and wouldn't care so— if you were Booker T. Washington, you couldn't have my dogs."

And the president, concluding that the dog owner knew his own business best, went back to camp and told the story with much glee.

BUG IN EAR FOR MONTHS.

Caused Boy's Headaches and Came Near Taking Life.

Atlantic City, N. J.—Surgical experts who opened the ear of nine-year-old Somers Braddock, of Bakersville, to discover the cause of headaches, which had been worrying the child for months, found a dead beetle in the inner ear. Removal of the bug was followed by immediate departure of the pain, and the lad's hearing will not even be affected by the insect's long residence in his ear tube.

The lad was sitting on the porch of his home one night last summer when he screamed out that a bug had crawled in his ear. His parents made an examination, but failed to discover the bug, and no more was thought of the incident until the child began to suffer from pains in his head.

Surgeons who performed the operation declare that, had the bug gone a fraction of an inch farther into the child's ear, it would have killed him.