

THE TROCHA IN CUBA

An Interesting Reminder of Spanish Rule in the Island.

Inspection of Department of Puerto Principe Includes a Trip on Railroad Along Line of the Trocha.

Col. Whiteside, commanding the department of Santiago and Puerto Principe, has returned to Santiago from his first inspection of the southern portion of his department.

Jucaro, on the south coast of Puerto Principe province, was the last place visited. The town is the southern terminal of the military railroad of Jucaro and San Fernando, with headquarters at Ciego, half way across the island, where two troops of the Eighth cavalry are stationed.

The trocha was built originally in 1888, and was renewed in 1895. It was intended as an impassable barrier, to keep the unruly Cubans of the eastern half of the island from getting into the western provinces.

The trocha consists of a wide ditch with four strand barb wire fences on each side, having an elaborate system of entanglements between the fences.

At intervals of one kilometer are located forts of solid masonry, two stories high, with 40-foot watch towers. Half way between these forts are strong block houses roofed with iron, and between each fort and block house is a substantial earthen wall called an escriba.

With a well equipped line of railroad along the entire trocha, 48 miles, from coast to coast, and a garrison of from eight men to 2,000 about every 300 yards—the Spaniards seemed well equipped to stop any party of belligerent Cubans who might be migrating with hostile intent toward the rich western provinces.

Nevertheless, the Cubans seemed able to cross at will. Gen. Antonio Maceo, with 3,000 men, crossed near one of the larger barracks, with a loss of two men wounded, and Gen. Gomez crossed with a larger force near the important town of Moron, without any loss whatever.

This military railroad is being operated by the government, under the efficient management of Capt. W. S. Scott, who has served in nearly all departments of the Pennsylvania railroad. He is enthusiastic about his road, which is almost self-sustaining now, and can easily be made a source of much profit.

START OF ROCKEFELLER SPLIT

Quarrel Causing Frank to Leave the Church Originated in Business Deal Between Brothers.

The quarrel between the Rockefeller brothers, which caused Frank Rockefeller to withdraw from the Euclid Avenue Baptist church, Cleveland, O., began in 1892 when Frank and James Corrigan borrowed \$140,000 of the Standard Oil chief to develop the Franklin Iron Mining company in the Mesabi range.

The business venture was a great success, and Corrigan and Rockefeller were offered \$1,800,000 for the property, which they refused. John D. Rockefeller had \$150,000 of his brother's paper, and as a business precaution asked for Corrigan's indorsement.

WOMEN "AUTO" DRIVERS.

Labor Unions of New York About to Take Steps to Force Them to Become Members.

Mrs. Gould, Mrs. Astor, Mrs. Vanderbilt, and other women of the "400," who operate automobiles, have been declared eligible for membership in the Engineers' union, and steps may be taken to force them to join.

Why Not a Warless War? England wants about 3,000 American horses for use in South Africa.

Women in Swiss Schools. Five cantons of Switzerland have admitted women to the business schools and reported good results.

DOG HAD PARSON'S TEETH.

Reverend Gent Smeared, Dental Work in Droppings and Trouble Followed.

Rev. Thomas E. Clarkon, one of the pillars of the Camp Meeting association, met with a peculiar experience at Ocean Grove, N. J., in the temporary loss of his set of false teeth.

"Come here, you naughty Puff," said his mistress; "how dare you run away with the gentleman's teeth?" The dominie nearly collapsed, but managed to stammer out: "You contemptible cur, drop my teeth."

ALFRED VANDERBILT TO WED.

The Heir of Cornelius Will Be Engaged to Miss Elsie French.

The engagement of Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, the second living son of the late Cornelius Vanderbilt, and Miss Elsie French, the daughter of Mrs. Frances Ormond French, was announced at New York the other day.

Mr. Vanderbilt will sail at an early day from England for a brief stay in this country. He comes here simply for the purpose of accompanying his mother, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, and her children, Miss Gladys Vanderbilt and Reginald Vanderbilt, abroad.

Mrs. Vanderbilt, who has passed the winter in New York, will sail the latter part of May. Alfred Vanderbilt will then return to Newport, where he has taken Rocky Hall, a cottage on Bellevue avenue, for the summer.

WALES USED FIELD GLASSES.

The Prince Inaugurates an Innovation at Public Dinner Which Will Become Popular.

Of the recent London dinners none was more striking than the banquet given at the Hotel Cecil by the British Empire league, in honor of the colonial troops in South Africa and of the Australian federation delegates.

The prince inaugurated a custom which may become popular at large public dinners where the guests are so numerous that they can scarcely recognize each other. With his coffee and cigars the prince's special attendant brought him a huge pair of field glasses, with which he carefully scrutinized the long table and the galaxy of bejeweled women who filled the balconies in order to hear the speeches.

BIBLE TITLE CONTEST.

Ancient Oxford University Declared Alone Entitled to Use the Word "Oxford."

Ancient Oxford University was declared by Justice Wheeler, of the United States circuit court, to be alone entitled to the word "Oxford" as a Bible trademark.

At the trial last November the original edition of the Oxford Bible, valued at \$2,500, was produced. It was charged that there were 10,000 errors in the Wilmore-Andrews edition of the Bible. S. C. Andrews, of the firm, testified at the trial that the presses, cuts and prints of the Bible to his firm had cost \$200,000.

Strongest Eyes. Brown eyes are said by oculists to be the strongest.

GUAM'S POPULATION.

Census of the Island Shows There Are 8,661 Persons There.

Gov. Leary Also Reports a Growing Surplus in the Treasury—Wood Ice Machine and Library to Make Him Happy.

Gov. Leary has sent to the navy department another of his characteristic official reports about affairs in Guam, including the results of a thorough census taken under his direction, and a financial statement of the first six months of his administration.

The tabulated enumeration of the population of Guam has been forwarded by the secretary of the navy to the director of the census, to be included in the total of the United States.

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VALUABLE VASES SEIZED.

Ancient Ornaments Worth \$40,000 Now in Hands of Customs Officers.

Two Chinese vases, worth \$40,000, were seized by the customs officers at New York on the French liner pier for alleged evasion of the customs law.

The authorities learned in some manner of the importation of the vases into the city from China via Vancouver and Quebec and located them at a storage warehouse. M. De Malherbe exhibited them at that place to several collectors. It is said, and asked \$40,000 for the pair. The vases were removed a few days ago.

An inspector learned that M. De Malherbe had secured passage on La Bretagne, intending to go with his vases to France. They were seized just before the ship sailed.

PLANS LONG DRIVE.

Capt. John J. Phelps to Cover a Thousand Miles During Three Months' Summer Trip.

Capt. John J. Phelps, of Hackensack, son of the late William Walter Phelps, who in 1896 drove a team of four horses 800 miles without a mishap, has completed arrangements for a trip this summer that will exceed the previous one.

The distance Capt. Phelps expects to cover is 1,000 miles, and he will drive four sorrel horses, well-matched and even trotters.

A Falling Barometer.

Both rains and reputations are reported to be falling in South Africa, remarks the Baltimore American.

TRAINING BOERS' HORSES.

The Animals Are Thought to Stand Patiently Where Their Riders Leave Them.

An Englishman now in Baltimore who spent several years among the Boers in South Africa said the other day that the Boer force was stronger in numbers than it seemed to be, because every man in the army was mounted and detachments could move from one point to another in an incredibly short time.

"Every Boer warrior has a horse," said he, "and their horses are so trained that they will stand where they are left until their masters return. I have seen them training their horses in this way and their method is effective, though herculean."

A Boer will take a young horse, a two-year-old, or perhaps a yearling, and attach a halter to him. From the halter hangs a rope and at the end of the rope is suspended an iron ball, which hangs about the animal's knees.

The horse is then turned loose in a large lot. He immediately begins to prance around and the iron ball keeps striking against his knees. The horse is driven wild and the ball keeps on getting in its work.

FISHING IN POLYNESIA.

The Natives Hook the Finny Tribes with Fishhooks That Grow on Trees.

A party of palu fishers are ready to set out from the little island of Nanomega, the smallest but most thickly populated of the Ellice group, says Chambers' Journal.

The tackle used by the natives is made of coconut sennit, four or eight strands, of great strength, and capable of holding a 15-foot shark, should one of these prowlers seize the bait. The hook is made of wood—in fact, the same as is used for shark fishing—about one inch and a half in diameter.

These peculiar wooden hooks are grown; the roots of a tree called ngua, whose wood is of great toughness, are watched when they protrude from a bank and trained into the desired shape.

The fish is struck, is always broken by its struggles and falls off, thus releasing the line from an unnecessary weight. It is no light task hauling in a thick, heavy line hanging straight up and down for a length of from 75 to 100 fathoms or more.

BUDDHISTS COME TO STUDY.

Seek Knowledge of Christianity as It Exists in America—Stirred by Its Inroads in Japan.

Stirred at the inroads made by Christianity in Japan, the leaders of the Buddhist faith in that country have sent to America E. Hyesama and Dr. J. Chikadzumi, of Tokio, to study the institutions of America, religious and social, Christian and Jewish.

TAKING CENSUS OF CHINESE.

Enumerators Have Difficulty in Obtaining Correct Dates of Birth—How This Will Be Avoided.

It has been found very difficult heretofore for census enumerators to obtain the correct dates of birth, etc., as given by Chinese in answer to questions on the census enumeration schedule.

Teaching German in the Transvaal. Johannesburg has a German school which last June was giving instruction to 113 boys, 84 girls and 25 children in the kindergarten.

JESUS TO AGRIPPA.

Discovery of Alleged Correspondence Between the King and Christ.

Preserved in Inscription Carved in Stone Over Gateway of Palace of Kings of Ephesus—May Be Genuine.

The London Express produces a fac-simile and official translation of the correspondence between Jesus Christ and King Agrippa, said to have been verified by a recently discovered inscription on the gateway of an old palace at Ephesus.

The letters in Syro-Chaldaic characters to which the inscription refers were originally discovered beneath a stone at a spot about 54 miles from the City of Ionia A. D. 97.

There is no doubt that the inscription found at Ephesus is a genuine production of the fifth century. Certain Syrian documents, dated in the year 200 A. D., and giving almost the same letters, have long been suspected of being literary forgeries.

The alleged answer is almost a paraphrase of much that is found in the New Testament. Whether it was actually sent, or was the result of a continuing tradition, transferred from papyrus to stone, is a question opening too wide a field for a mere archaeologist.

CAUSES TROUBLE.

Failure of Congress to Provide for Cost of Gordon Gas Check Proves Expensive Oversight.

There is an interesting story connected with the adoption of the Gordon gas check, a device used extensively in the army and navy as a part of the equipment of great guns.

The navy had already adopted it and arranged the compensation of the owners, but congress failed to make the necessary appropriations.

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MUCH RICH ORE IN SIGHT.

The Black Hills Mines in South Dakota Promise a Large Output in Present Year.

Otto P. T. Grant, the German who owns the Hidden Fortune mine north of Lead, is about to open up the rich ore which he discovered last fall and from which he shipped nearly \$200,000 worth in three car loads.

CAPITOL COAL CHUTES.

A Source of Annoyance to Congressmen, and the Matter is to Be Rectified.

Senators and representatives have been much annoyed lately by the noise and confusion caused by the laying in of fuel for the comfort of those who spend the better part of the winter in the capitol building.

THE SAFEST SAFE.

Miss Hattie Gammel, who is said to be the richest American girl in her own right—her fortune being estimated at from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000—is engaged to be married to an Englishman named Thomas Shaw Safe.

SHAMROCK ON GRAVES IN AFRICA.

Shamrock will be planted on the graves of the Irish soldiers in South Africa. The duke of York has accepted a thousand packets of seed and has forwarded them to the officers of the Irish brigade.

TO ABOLISH OLD ARSENALS.

War Department Officials Anxious to Out-of-Needless Outlay of Money.

War department officials are anxious to abandon seven arsenals which are deemed useless, and which require \$500,000 a year for maintenance.

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TO SPEND MONEY LAVISHLY.

Estimated That American Visitors to Paris Exposition Will Drop \$40,000,000.

Bankers estimate that American visitors to the Paris exposition will spend abroad this year \$40,000,000 more than is usually spent by Americans in Europe during the vacation season.

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