

A UNIQUE WAGER.

Won by Astor Over a California Redwood Dinner Table.

Incredible Englishman Convinced of the immense size of some American trees after losing \$26,000 in a bet.

William Waldorf Astor has won a wager of \$25,000 by giving a long expected dinner to 27 persons, seated around a table, made from a single cross section of a great California redwood tree.

Nearly two years ago Mr. Astor had a discussion with Gen. Owen Williams about the size of California trees, the Englishman not believing that they grew to such enormous size as Mr. Astor asserted. The result was a wager by the American millionaire that he would give a dinner to 27 persons who would dine comfortably around the trunk of a California tree.

At great expense Mr. Astor had a section of a gigantic tree sent to him from California. It measured 81 feet in circumference. When the tree arrived in England it was taken to Cliveden, the beautiful country place of Mr. Astor on the Thames, near Henley. There it was partially buried in a part of the park known as the Half Moon. What the object was in burying it is not known, but it was left for months partially under ground.

Four weeks ago the section of the tree was turned over to a firm at Aylesbury, who smoothed off the surface and polished it highly. As it was impossible to get the table into the house, a large marquee tent was erected over it in a little glade of the Half Moon wood. The ground was strewn with fresh ferns to make a natural carpet and there the dinner was given.

No cloth was spread over the polished surface, but it was prettily decorated with wild flowers by young Miss Astor, while beautiful canary birds cast a soft light over the costly silver plate and china. Chinese lanterns were hung from the great doorway of Cliveden to the marquee and the glade was gayly illuminated.

INCREASING ENORMOUSLY.

Report on the Amount of Exports for the First Nine Months of This Year.

Exports for the first nine months of this year show a healthy increase, and a large decrease in imports is recorded. According to the bureau of statistics the exports for September indicate that this year will show the largest export record in the history of the government. For the nine months ending September 30 the exports for 1898 were \$369,127,868, against \$764,238,442 for the corresponding time last year, and the imports fell from \$588,764,903 in 1897 to \$475,172,777 in 1898.

No September, with the single exception of last year, has shown such a large export, and no nine months period of the calendar year has come within \$100,000,000 of the record made in the first nine months of this year. Exports for September were \$90,495,638, while no preceding September, except that of 1897, ever exceeded \$86,000,000, the average for the last 15 years being \$68,000,000. Since 1884 the average for the nine months has been \$604,000,000. Thus the September exportations and those for the entire nine months were in each case more than 33 percent in excess of the average for the corresponding period during the last 15 years.

INJECT SERUM TO BRAIN.

Buccal Test of New Operation for the Relief of the Dread Tetanus.

A new operation for the relief of tetanus has been tried at the Central Hospital in Paterson, N. J. The patient was Aaron M. Hemion, a young man of that city. He was in the last stages of the terrible disease when the operation was performed. After the treatment he was resting easily, and Dr. Charles Church, in charge of the hospital, said that it is only a question of a short time when he will be able to sit up.

The ordinary method of injecting tetanus anti-toxin serum is under the skin of the back or the side. It has been found of doubtful effect in cases where the disease has been allowed to develop unduly. In Hemion's case the injection was made directly into the brain, and the favorable result of it has interested scores of doctors.

AGED RIDE TO CHURCH.

Brooklyn Pastor Adopts Novel Plans to Get Parishioners Interested.

Rev. J. H. Willey, pastor of the Nassau Avenue Methodist Episcopal church of Brooklyn, sent out carriages the other Sunday morning and gathered in 90 of the aged and infirm members of his flock to hear his sermon. Some of the lame and the halt who were unable to get around were carried in chairs from their carriages to the audience-room in the church.

Rev. Mr. Willey announced a week ago that he intended to start a nursery in connection with the church, so that mothers could bring their babies and hand them over to the nurses in waiting. The little ones would be taken to a sound-proof room, somewhere in the basement, where they would be attended by the nurses until the services were over.

Great Strength of the Oyster. The oyster is one of the strongest of creatures, and the force required to open it is more than 1,300 times its own weight.

PROCLAMATION TO CUBANS.

Gen. Wood Issues a Provisional Declaration of Independence.

Gen. Wood, military governor of the department of Santiago, has issued a proclamation in ten sections, which is a provisional declaration of independence.

The first article guarantees to the people the right of assembly for the common good and to apply to those in power by petition or remonstrance for the redress of grievances.

The second section guarantees the right to worship God according to individual conscience, provided there is no interference with any existing form of worship. The third section directs that courts of justice shall be open to all and that no private property shall be taken by the government without compensation.

The fourth section, dealing with criminal trials, invests the accused with the right to be heard himself or by counsel and to have compulsory process to secure the attendance of a witness in his behalf. The fifth section says no person accused of crime shall be compelled to give evidence against himself. The sixth section declares that no such person, who is once acquitted of the charge brought against him, shall be tried again for the same offense.

The seventh section provides that all persons charged with crime shall be entitled to bail except in cases of capital offenses and that the writ of habeas corpus may not be suspended except the commanding general of the department deems it advisable. The eighth section says that excessive bail shall not be required and that no excessive fine nor cruel or unusual punishment shall be inflicted.

The ninth section provides that in order to secure the people against unreasonable search there shall first be established under oath a presumption of guilt. The tenth section guarantees to all the right to write or print freely on any matter, subject to responsibility for abuse of the right.

The municipal laws are to be administered in accordance with these declarations of rights, subject to modifications, which in the judgment of the commanding general would be beneficial and promote the principles of enlightened civilization.

GRAZED BY SHELLS.

Battleship Indiana's Narrow Escape from Destruction in the San-tango Fight.

An examination of the bottom of the Indian in dry dock revealed an elongated, trough-like dent, perhaps two inches deep, in the plates of the starboard bow, about four feet below the water line, made by a heavy shell falling at the end of a curved trajectory, that had struck, glanced and burst, says the Army and Navy Journal. This shows how marvelously our ships escaped injury. "When this shell struck it made us all flinch," remarked an officer who was there, dropping his shoulder and cocking his knees and shrinking into a small a space as his bulk allowed in illustration of what he meant. "Everybody did it—instinctively, irresistibly turned their heads away and lifted the right elbow as if to ward off a blow with a club, and there was a second or two of awful waiting, while the roar and scream seemed to still all the rest of the battle roar and to come straight to the ear. Then followed an immeasurable roar—shocking, benumbing, blinding explosion, and a prodigious fountain of water burst up beside the bow, and deluged the forward deck, while the ponderous ship, tearing its way through the water with gigantic weight and momentum, seemed to stop suddenly and was jarred from stem to stern as if she had run against a stone wall." The vessel was promptly examined, but everything below was found tight and dry.

WHICH IS THE BETTER GUN? War Department to Investigate Merits of Our Army Weapons and That of Spain.

The war department has ordered a board of officers for the purpose of determining the relative value of the Krag-Jorgensen gun, of the American army, and the Mauser rifle, of Spain. The test is to be made just as soon as possible.

Since the campaign of Santiago a question has arisen as to the superiority of the two weapons. While the American gun stood the severe test it was subjected to in a damp climate and repeated rains, number of the most prominent officers are of the opinion that the Mauser is perhaps the better gun. The test is to be a severe one, and it is to be made under all conditions that could possibly be encountered in warfare.

Maj. Barry, the ordnance officer at Santiago, reports that the shipping of the captured arms and supplies to the United States will soon be completed, and that many of the Spanish rifles are in excellent condition and ready for service.

Theaters Have No Programmes. Theaters in Spain have no programs. A bill in the lobby sometimes gives the cast, but most of the actors remain unknown by name. The curtain is devoted to advertisements, and in Madrid theaters advertising cards are affixed with the numbers on the back of each seat.

Jury Law of Mexico.

Nine men constitute a jury in Mexico, and a majority gives the verdict. If the jury is unanimous there is no appeal.

London's Big Police Force. London has 13,564 policemen, or 19 to every one of its 688 square miles.

Actors Have No Programs.

Theaters in Spain have no programs. A bill in the lobby sometimes gives the cast, but most of the actors remain unknown by name. The curtain is devoted to advertisements, and in Madrid theaters advertising cards are affixed with the numbers on the back of each seat.

Double-Entry Bookkeeping.

The double-entry system of bookkeeping, now in common use, was first practiced in Italy in the latter part of the fifteenth century.

A Russian Custom.

A Russian family, when moving to a new home, kindles the fire on the hearth with coals brought from the old residence.

ADDED TO OUR NAVY.

Spanish Warships That Are Being Utilized by Uncle Sam.

They Number Eight Thus Far, and Five of Them Have Been Secured by Dewey and Added to His Fleet.

The effective strength of the United States navy has been increased by eight useful war vessels which recently flew the Spanish flag. Five of these are now attached to Admiral Dewey's squadron, two are credited to the North Atlantic station, and the last is the cruiser Infanta Maria Teresa. Several days ago the navy department, which is now making up its list of vessels in service, which is a customary report in the secretary's annual report to congress, sent a message to Admiral Dewey for an accurate list of the prizes he was now utilizing in his fleet. The questions show what latitude the department allows to the admiral, and the answer tells how unquestionably he has acted for the good of the service and to strengthen his own forces without waiting for help from home. He replied:

"Following former Spanish vessels in my possession: Manila (cruiser), commissioned July 20, Lieutenant Commander Frederick Singer; Callao (cruiser), commissioned July 2, Lieut. Benjamin Tappan; gunboats Leyte and Mindanao, also armed launch Barcelo, temporarily commissioned for action August 13, Naval Cadet W. B. White. DEWEY."

The officers named are in command of the respective vessels.

In the Atlantic the only Spanish vessels now in actual service as a result of their being captured by the navy are the gunboats Alvarado, commanded by Lieut. Victor Blue, and the Sandoval, commanded by Lieut. E. A. Anderson. These are exceedingly good vessels for duty in Cuban waters, where the Spaniards found them most useful. They are now at Caimanera in commission. The Maria Teresa is the only ship of the Cervera squadron raised thus far. The Teresia will be armed with guns saved from the Colon and other Spanish ships, to replace those of the own which may have been ruined. They are now at Caimanera in commission. The Maria Teresa is the only ship of the Cervera squadron raised thus far. The Teresia will be armed with guns saved from the Colon and other Spanish ships, to replace those of the own which may have been ruined. They are now at Caimanera in commission. The Maria Teresa is the only ship of the Cervera squadron raised thus far. 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