

JUST FOR A JOKE.

Missouri Wits Lynch a Dummy and Fool Whole Town.

Frightened Citizens Hear Attack on Jail and the Prisoner Pleads for His Life and See Supposed Victim Hanged.

Ten masked men, with a dummy man and an old clothesline, made a number of people believe the other night at Kansas City, Mo., that Ernest Cleveland, who shot George Allen and Della Cleveland at a district schoolhouse a few nights ago, was being lynched. The street lights were turned off a few minutes after ten o'clock and a party of men were heard to rush from the northwest corner of the square to the courthouse. A number of men and boys have been staying up nightly since Cleveland was brought here, expecting a lynching. With hatchets the "mob" banged on the jail doors and an old piece of sheet iron. In the meantime a crowd was gathering and listened breathlessly on the south side of the square. Shortly they heard a man begging for his life and he was marched to the courthouse front, where Jones was lynched three months ago. The man was asked if he had anything to say, and he made the plea that he was drunk when he did the deed.

"That won't do," said the leader. "Give him what happened to Jones." The rope was placed on the dummy and the crowd around the street saw it swing to the porch railing, firmly believing that Cleveland had been hanged. The mob went out the back way and "quietly dispersed," after frightening a few men and causing them to run back home.

A large number of spectators crossed into the courthouse yard, but did not get close enough to discern the joke. Coroner Dowell and Sheriff Jake Hymmer were noted. The coroner was first to arrive and, after feeling the pulse of the dummy, announced that the body would not be taken down until the sheriff arrived. It was not long until Sheriff Hymmer and Deputy Van Dyke came running up.

"Shall we cut the rope, or do you want to save it, Mr. Sheriff?" said the coroner. "Save it to use on some of that mob," was the mad reply of the officer.

At this point the joke was discovered. Cleveland was told beforehand by the jokers what they intended to do and he was not frightened.

PENALTY FOR MATRIMONY.

Evanson Bachelor Girls Will Hereafter Dine at the Expense of the Little God.

Members of the Bachelor Girls' club, of Evanson, Ill., held a secret council the other night debating the most effective method of punishing their members who so far forget the vows they take when they become members of the club as to get married.

Various suggestions of meting out evidence of displeasure were talked of, but the one most favored is the plan adopted by the men bachelor clubs. Those who are contemplating the matrimonial venture will be required to notify the club at least six weeks in advance of their intentions and defray the expenses of a banquet, to which all the "surviving" members of the club shall be invited.

SALVATION ARMY PAWNSHOP.

A Novel Method of Aiding the Poor Has Been Inaugurated in Boston.

The Salvation Army has fitted up a storeroom in the south end of Boston in a thickly-settled section where the poor live as a pawnshop, and will go into the business of money lending. It is designed to buy and sell second-hand furniture and make small loans on personal property.

MARRIED OVER TELEPHONE.

The Bride Was in Williamsport, Pa., and the Groom Was in Elmira, N. Y.

Harry A. Rantz, of Elmira, N. Y., has gone to Williamsport, Pa., a distance of 78 miles, to claim the bride to whom he was united in marriage over the long distance telephone. Desire for a "novel wedding" led the couple to adopt this method of getting married. Both had the consent and cooperation of members of their families, and, according to the lawyers consulted, the marriage is as binding as if they had stood hand in hand before a church altar.

AFTER THIRTY YEARS. LIFE IS SACRIFICED.

John Perkins, of Arcola, Ill., Discovers a Sister in Kansas—Abducted from Her Home in 1868.

After a separation of 30 years John Perkins, a prominent farmer living ten miles east of Arcola, Ill., has located his sister at Linn, Kan., who, he claims, was abducted by an uncle named Freeman West at Molina, Ill., in 1868. Mr. Perkins tells the following story of the abduction:

In 1868 James Perkins (father of John Perkins) lived in Mercer county, Ill. He had a wife, two sons—John, aged six years; Andrew, aged four years—and a daughter, Lottie, aged less than two years. At this time the mother died and the children were left to the care of relatives. An uncle, Freeman West, and his wife, having no children, took the little girl and emigrated west. The father and the little brother could get no trace of the whereabouts of the sister until a few days ago.

West was afterwards killed in a melee at a dance, and the secret of the little girl's identity was buried with him.

Lottie, who was now thrown out of a home, was picked up by the authorities and taken to the poorhouse. A home in a family on a farm was soon found for her, and here she lived for ten years.

She ultimately married a prosperous farmer named Wesley Mosher, of Linn, Washington county, Kan. The husband took an interest in finding his wife's relatives, finally locating a man who knew of the West family in Molina, Ill., and Mr. Mosher wrote to one who proved to be a brother of Freeman West, who knew of the abduction of Lottie Perkins by Freeman West and wife 30 years ago.

CARBIDE FROM SAWDUST.

Ottawa (Ont.) Lumber Company Succeeds in Advancing Its Disposal of Its Waste.

The manufacture of calcium carbide from sawdust has been successfully undertaken by the Ottawa (Ont.) Lumber company. The experiment was entered upon some weeks ago, shortly after the plant was established at New Edinburgh. It had long been a problem with the company how to dispose of its sawdust. Some time ago a law was enacted forbidding the dumping of sawdust in rivers. Then a genius devised a plan to get rid of the stuff. The new process occupies the same position in the conversion of the cellulose tissue of wood into carbon that the Bessemer process does in eliminating carbon in the manufacture of steel. The Emerson method, which is used, aims to first produce the carbon from the sawdust; and then to electrically smelt this with lime to form calcium carbide. It is claimed that by this process carbide can be produced in a better state of purity than by other means, and more cheaply than coal.

Experiments with Ottawa sawdust have shown the possibility of producing a practically pure carbon, and it is claimed that carbide manufactured from such carbon will produce a larger quantity of acetylene gas than carbide manufactured from coke. The success of such a process for the utilization of common sawdust opens up a new field of industry and revolutionizes the manufacture of calcium carbide.

The People of the English Town Found to Prefer Electricity to Cheap Gas.

The city of Leeds, England, with a population of 400,000, owns its own gas works and sells its gas for 50 cents for 1,000 cubic feet. It was supposed that at this rate it would be impossible for the electric lights to compete with gas, but capitalists decided in 1890 to make the attempt. The financial outlook was so poor, apparently, that the city government refused to make any attempt to stop the new company's works, the capitalists went ahead under a franchise by the terms of which the city of Leeds could purchase the electric plant at any period prior to 1901 by the issue of its own Leeds municipal stock that would produce a dividend of five per cent. per annum upon the sum expended by that company and chargeable to capital account.

The new works were opened in July, 1893, with the subsequent result that the profit on the working capital was seven per cent. in 1893, 11 1/2 per cent. in 1896 and ten per cent. in 1897. This success, says the Boston Transcript, has induced the city of Leeds to exercise its right of purchase of the electric plant and pay for it with five per cent. of stock. As this stock sells at a premium of 100 per cent., the stockholders in the electric company receive a dividend of 100 per cent. upon their investment, and a few years, besides their dividends, and the city obtains a plant from which electric lights can be furnished at rates considered impossible a few years ago.

BETTER PROTECTION.

Bill Introduced in Congress That Concerns the Welfare of Railroad Employees.

Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania, wants better protection afforded the railroad employes of the country and has introduced a bill in congress which will, if adopted, compel the railroads to take measures with this end in view. The measure provides that six months after its passage all railroads will be required to securely guard the frogs, switches, and guard rails on their roads, and keep their crossings, platforms, and other constructions near their track in such condition as to thoroughly protect and prevent the feet of employes or other persons from being caught in them. The penalty for failing to carry out the provisions of the measure will be not less than \$500 fine nor more than \$2,000 for each offense.

RECORD BIRTH OF LIONS.

Victoria, a lioness in Sanger's circus, near London, has given birth to five cubs. This is believed to be the largest number born at one time in captivity. The cubs have been named after Queen Victoria's children.

QUICK DIVORCES.

In four hours recently a Paris court granted 294 divorces, a little over a divorce a minute. All the parties received state assistance in their cases, so that their divorces cost them nothing.

Bulletin Financier.

Mardi, 1er mars 1899.

COMPTOIR D'ORDRES DE BOURSE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Paris 100 1/2, Londres 100 1/2, New York 100 1/2, etc.

LES MARCHES MONDIAUX.

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Bulletin Commercial.

Mardi, 1er mars 1899.

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