

SERGEANT CHICK'S BRAVE ACT

Entered a Burned Building to Light the Fuse of a Bomb Which Failed to Explode.

The adjutant general has received from Maj. Gen. Otis a report submitted by Brig. Gen. S. P. Hughes, provost marshal general of Manila, in regard to the fires started by the insurgents in Manila on February 22 and 23. Gen. Hughes calls attention to a heroic act performed by an enlisted man of the United States army. It became necessary to blow up some buildings to prevent the spread of the flames, and in referring to this Gen. Hughes says: "I wish to make mention of Sergt. Leon H. Chick, battery H, Third United States artillery, who was acting under direction of Capt. W. T. Wood, chief of ordnance, in placing and firing the powder cartridge. The fuse of the second cartridge failed, and the building was one sheet of flame in the lighter materials of the upper story. Sergt. Chick simply asked, when it became apparent that the first fuse had probably failed, if Capt. Wood wished the fuse replaced, and on receiving an affirmative answer he entered the fire trap, renewed the fuse and caused the explosion of the cartridge, which so wrecked the building as to enable the fire to be checked with the means then at hand. This quiet discharge of so perilous a duty is, in my opinion, worthy of special recognition, and I therefore recommend Sergt. Chick for the appointment of ordnance sergeant, which I am informed is a position he seeks, and also that he be granted a certificate of merit."

In forwarding the report to the adjutant general of the army Gen. Otis says: "Gen. Hughes might have added in his report that he was present in person with his troops during the entire period covered in this report and directed in person all operations. His tact and unceasing vigilance saved the city from conflagration and possibly preserved the lives of the inhabitants."

SLEEPING CARS FOR OFFICERS

War Department Extends the Privilege of This Luxury of Travel to Them.

Officials of the war department have extended the privilege of using sleeping cars by an amendment of army regulations. The following persons are entitled, at public expense, to a double berth in a sleeping car, or to the customary stateroom accommodation on steamers where extra charge is made: Officers of the army traveling on duty with troops, army nurses, civilian clerks and agents in the military service when traveling under orders on public business, sergeant majors, ordnance, commissary and quartermaster sergeants (post or regimental), hospital stewards, chief musicians, chief trumpeters, saddler sergeants, and sergeants of the signal corps when traveling under orders on public business without troops; also invalid soldiers, when so traveling on the certificate of a medical officer showing the necessity therefor. When the number of officers traveling with troops is too small to justify the hire by the quartermaster's department of a standard sleeping car for their accommodation, they shall be furnished with such part of a tourist sleeping car, or other suitable sleeping car properly curtained off, for their accommodation, as the quartermaster's department may provide for their use during the journey.

CITY BUILT IN A DAY.

What Was a Prairie in the Morning Becomes an Organized Town Before Nightfall.

The greatest town-building record in Oklahoma has been won by Mountain View, Washita county. Monday the town site was a prairie. The same day it was surveyed and platted and a large portion of it sold and settled upon. Washita river was bridged and a vast amount of accumulated freight was moved and located. The town was organized and officers and all lines of business and professions started. The town in one day became a city of nearly 800 inhabitants, with W. T. V. Yates as mayor, Senator G. W. Bellamy as treasurer and Col. John Kerfoot as police judge, with a full complement of councilmen and officers. Some of the lots sold as high as \$900 within 30 minutes from the time the surveyor drove his stakes.

Mountain View is the western terminus of the Rock Island extension across the Comanche and Apache country, and is in the Washita valley at the foot of the mineral-bearing Washita mountains. Scores of settlers had been encamped along the Washita river waiting for the location of this mining town of Oklahoma, and when the location became fixed the stampede began.

Real Outrage at Newport.

An agent of the Astor estate was in Newport the other day and said Mr. and Mrs. Potter Palmer had rented Beauclieu on Bellevue avenue for the season and would arrive with Miss Julia Dent Grant in June. It is reported that the wedding of Miss Grant to Prince Cantacuzene will take place at Beauclieu next season.

Painless Dentistry.

A New York dentist predicts that the time is near when the human race will lose its teeth. If that is the case, we may look forward with some hope, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, to the time when there will be such a thing as painless dentistry.

Mummy of Thothmes I. Found.

According to a dispatch from Cairo to the London Daily Mail, the director of the Egyptian museum has discovered the mummy of Thothmes I. of the eighteenth dynasty, B. C. 1633, and three other mummies in gilt coffins.

AGREED WITH WALES

Tod Sloan Meets the Prince and Admits He (Sloan) Is a Great Rider.

Is Not Struck by the Prince's Clothes—Declares He Would Not Step Into His Shoes If He Could.

Tod Sloan was presented to the prince of Wales by Lord William Berosford at Newmarket the other day, says the New York Journal and Advertiser, and the American jockey was not a bit flustered at the honor. The prince spoke of Sloan's success on the turf and called him a great rider.

Sloan agreed with him thoroughly, and the ingenuousness with which he did this moved the prince to laughter. "The prince," said Sloan, "is all right. This is the first time I ever shook hands with his majesty, but I have known him by reputation longer than he has known me."

"He told me I was a great rider, but I have been told that by men who know more about riding than all the princes in Europe combined. 'Yes,' I says, 'I am a great rider.' His royal highness smiled, and Lord William, who introduced us, said he guessed I thought I was the greatest rider."

"Better ask some of your own jockeys about that," I said; "the most and the best of them seem my back at Newmarket often enough to judge."

"I always heard the prince of Wales was a great dresser, and I paid some attention to his clothes. I am not going around the world singing 'Yankee Doodle' at every quarter, you know, but you see a thousand better dressed men at the Suburban in New York every spring than the prince is. He isn't really built to show off good goods, but one thing I'll say for him that won't say for any other Englishman, and that is, his clothes don't look as if they hurt him."

"I can't say I'd trade places with the prince. Things come too easy for him. He never can know the fun of beating out a whole field by your own nerve and skill. The handicap is all his way, and it must get pretty slow for one of his gait."

IT IS MISUSED.

Privilege of Printing Undelivered Speeches in Congressional Record Likely to Be Abridged.

Members of congress who are still in Washington now realize that too much liberty has been given senators and members by granting the privilege of printing matter in the Congressional Record which is not delivered on the floor. It was in this way the Atkinson literature was printed in the Record and is now being given free circulation through the mails. Both the house and senate have rules which prohibit anything being printed in the Record without unanimous consent being obtained. Senatorial courtesy almost forbids objection on the part of a senator to the insertion of an undelivered speech unless a filibuster is being indulged in, when it is sometimes objected to, but solely on personal grounds.

In the house it is not so easy to obtain consent to print undelivered "speeches," but still it is done to an alarming extent. Seldom is the character of the matter to be inserted questioned, and in this way the Record is used as a vehicle for the distribution of false, misleading, injurious and irresponsible publications. It is believed a strict rule will be adopted by the next congress on this subject. Representative Burton, of Ohio, said: "The leave to print should be limited to statistics, and if a member does not get an opportunity to deliver a speech it should be left out of the Record. The little time saved does not cut much figure."

TEST OF FLYING MACHINE.

Prof. Langley's New Aerodrome Falls to Sea Successfully.

Prof. S. P. Langley, secretary of the Smithsonian institution, the inventor of the aerodrome, who was given \$25,000 by the board of ordnance to experiment with his flying machine for war purposes, made his first test at Quantico, Va.

Prof. Langley, with the amount of money at his disposal, built a new and larger machine than that with which he experimented two years ago. The machine was launched from the top of a houseboat anchored in a broad sweep of the Potomac about three-quarters of a mile from the island owned by the Quantico Rod and Gun club. The result was not so successful as were Prof. Langley's former experiments with the smaller machine.

The machine soared to a height of 600 feet, but descended after a horizontal flight of 800 feet. His former machine, which was propelled by a small steam engine, flew three-quarters of a mile, and only descended when the steam was exhausted. It was understood that Prof. Langley was to overcome the limited power capacity of the former machine by the use of a condensing engine, which could repeatedly utilize the condensed steam from the boiler.

"Boys" Run a Kansas Town.

At a recent election in Hays City, Kan., a ticket composed of boys was run against the old men, and the boys won. Fred Haffamier, the mayor, is barely 21, and only one of the councilmen older than 23. Haffamier was born on the town site. Two of the councilmen were privates in the Twenty-first Kansas.

Athletes in the Philippines.

In the opinion of the St. Paul Dispatch, Col. Punston seems to be about as good a swimmer as Aguinaldo is a runner.

COOL AND TELLING NERVE.

A Knowing Geologist Made Use of an Opportunity to Overawe His Help.

For sheer, cool nerve and absolute, inspired genius in dealing with men, commend me to Clarence King, the geologist, if the story that is telling about town be true. Mr. King, the tale runs, was in the field all one summer—last summer. This field happened to be in the far west, and the men he was compelled to employ as assistants were a band of cheerful ruffians, half-breed desperadoes and "greasers," scamps, says the Washington Post. Bad as they were, they worked well, and they were indispensable. One night one of them deserted. Mr. King knew what that meant. It meant a stampede and an empty camp if the deserter were allowed to go unpunished. He chose a companion on whose silence he could depend, mounted and took the trail. On the third day the deserter was overtaken, captured and landed in a convenient fort.

The runaway had subsisted for three days of his liberty on such game and birds as he could kill. His horse was white, and as he rode often with prey slung to the saddle the animal was streaked and stained with blood. The man being in safe keeping, Mr. King and his companion rode back to camp leading the crimson-streaked horse, with all the deserter's belongings strapped to his back. They spoke no word of the missing man to his former companions, but dismounted in grim silence. The men endured the pangs of curiosity as long as they could. Then they sent a committee to Mr. King to make inquiries about the fugitive. Mr. King gave a meaning look at the blood-stained horse and made answer briefly: "He is gone," he said, impressively. "He is gone where anybody else who tries to desert will go, too."

THE LION-TAMER'S JOB.

One Who Has Been Bitten Forty-Seven Times During His Dangerous Career.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of immunity from bites," said a lion tamer recently to a New York Telegraph man. "Although my lions do not often catch me, they do with a frequency sufficient for all practical purposes. Within three months I have been bitten twice on the leg and once on my right arm. Altogether in my career I have been bitten something like 47 times. But lion tamers get used to such little things."

"The most serious accident I ever experienced was when I was bitten almost through the right thigh. With good treatment I soon recovered. There is no better remedy for an animal bite than lukewarm water and plenty of salt, and by using them I have invariably escaped blood poisoning. I am always armed when I enter a cage, though my audience may not know this, and on five occasions when the lions became maddened and I saw death staring me in the face I have had to shoot to kill."

AN ODD CATCH.

How a Mischievous Middy Fooled an Obscure Subaltern.

The followers of Isaac Walton on board a man-of-war are wont to ply the gentle art (with a line alone) from over the ship's side during the evening, says the Cornhill. A subaltern, who was not particularly liked by his junior messmates, was one day so engaged, when a midshipman, seeing the line depending from the "chains" above, reached out of one of the main deck ports and gave it a couple of violent tugs, in imitation of a fish biting. Up the line was hauled with alacrity, but, of course, with no result.

Once again the "sub" essayed to catch this big fish that had given him so heavy a bite. This time the midshipman was more elaborate, for, getting a companion to keep the necessary strain upon the upper portion, he hauled up the lower part of the fishing line and attached to the hooks an old shoe, an empty bottle, a holy stone and a sardine tin. Having carefully lowered these to the full extent of the line, he gave it a more powerful pull than ever, and the expectant fisherman above hauled in as fast as he could, hand over hand.

But his language when he discovered the nature of his "catch" is too much to ask even an unfortunate compositor to set up in cold type.

Gentle Cannibals.

Cap. Guy Barrows in Pearson's Magazine maintains that cannibalism is a sign of a little higher development than the tribes who do not practice it possess. It is a relic of some religious rite or perhaps hunger that has been retained until the descendants like the practices of it. The flesh of relatives is never eaten and some tribes forbid the use of human flesh to their women. A cannibal is often kind and affectionate and no bad moral results have been discovered from it.

A Glass Railway Possible.

By means of a valuable toughening process recently discovered, glass may now be molded into lengths and used as railway sleepers. Glass rails are also produced by this same toughening process. It is, therefore, possible to have a complete glass railway.

PLASTER CASTS.

With Them Hot Water is Used First to Reduce the Inflammation in Sprains.

"Plaster casts are now entirely relied upon in sprains as far as the limbs are concerned," explained a well-known surgeon to a Washington Star reporter, "as well as in the treatment of fractures. And beyond the cast there is no further treatment necessary. The cast should, however, not be put on until the inflammation in consequence of the injury has disappeared. To reduce the inflammation continuous application of hot water is found to be the most efficacious remedy. When once the inflammation has gone down an antiseptic bandage should be put on the injured part, and on this the plaster, bandages and splints. This incases the hand, arm, foot or leg in a plaster boot, which keeps its place and keeps the injured part intact. The old-time idea that sprains should be treated with embrocations and liniments, which hung on for so long, has about disappeared in the modern method of treatment, and experience has shown that a cast is a much safer way of treating a sprain than by rubbing it with liniments. It is, besides, a much more rapid way of restoring the functions of the injured part. The cast should be kept on as long as possible—at least a week under all circumstances, and in cases of a sprained foot, ankle or leg for ten days longer. In cases of injury caused by a sprain of the ankle or foot the plaster cast should under no circumstances be removed in less than a week, for the greatest care is required in their treatment, otherwise the injury becomes permanent."

FOSSIL TYPES.

A Fresh-Water Lake in Africa Which Contains Interesting Inhabitants.

An expedition is being sent from England to study Lake Tanganyika's museum of ancient types of animal life, says the Baltimore Sun. It is a fresh-water lake which is supposed to have once connected with the ocean. It has the ordinary lake fauna, but it has also a large number of animals of an essentially marine character—fish, mollusks, medusae and sponges whose structure proclaims their relation to oceanic forms. What is still more curious is the fact that its living inhabitants are more closely allied to marine fossils of a remote geologic period than to their congeners now living in the ocean. Tanganyika has the ancestral types, while those now in the ocean are modified forms.

It is inferred that the lake was cut off from the sea at a time when the forms now fossil in Europe existed in the ocean at large and that these forms have been able to adapt themselves to fresh water. Ten years ago a jellyfish like those of the sea was found in Tanganyika, and since then numerous shellfish and sponges belonging to the sea have been found there.

This reads like a scientific fairy tale and excites a great deal of interest. The outgoing expedition will examine Lakes Kivu and Albert Edward, as well as Tanganyika, and hope to find facts tending to solve the puzzle.

VALUABLE TIMEPIECE.

It is an English Watch That Varies Only One-Third of a Second a Day.

A watch of remarkable perfection is described in the London Times, its distinction resting on the fact of its having just gained the Kew certificate of "Class A, especially good," with the extraordinary mark of 68.1 out of a possible 100. To win the latter a watch would have to be absolutely perfect as a timekeeper, a result admitted to be scarcely within the range of practical achievement.

This watch, an all-English pocket chronometer, has a mean variation of daily rate amounting to only one-third of a second, and the mean difference between the extreme gaining and losing rates to four seconds. The makers attribute this result to the use of a revolving escapement, or tourbillon, a device in which the frame that carries the escapement is made to revolve slowly but continuously in the main frame by the action of the watch, thus reducing the error in timekeeping from change of position—a piece of mechanism which does not materially increase the complication of the watch, involving, in fact, the addition of one wheel only.

While the marks of this watch for temperature compensation are not claimed to be unsurpassed—as many as 18.7 having been recorded out of 20—their for smallness in variation in daily rate and for absence of positional errors are unusually good.

Australia's Most Dreadful Crime.

The most dreadful crime in Australian history—the triple murder and outrage at Gatton—still continues to baffle the skill of the Queensland police. That crime, by its scale, completeness and horror, has, according to the Australian Review of Reviews, powerfully affected the Australian imagination, and the desire for the discovery and punishment of its authors has almost the intensity of a passion throughout the colonies. But at present it seems probable that the Gatton murders will be memorable, not merely for their savage cruelty, but for the utter breakdown of the police to discover the perpetrators of the crime.

If the World Was Birdless.

A French naturalist asserts that if the world should become birdless man could not inhabit it after nine years' time, in spite of all the sprays and poisons that could be manufactured for the destruction of insects. The bugs and slugs would simply eat up our orchards and crops.

IN GALICIA.

A Country Where the Men and Boys Are Strikingly Handsome and Picturesque.

The men and boys were strikingly handsome, with straight features, dark eyes and hair cut across the forehead and falling on the neck behind, like a Velasquez portrait, says Blackwood's. The garments they wore, too, were not only comfortable and sanitary, but amazingly satisfying to the eye. The groundwork, so to speak, for both men and women, was rough, homespun linen which lay bleaching in narrow lengths beside the river. The men's trousers were stuffed into high black or yellow boots and their shirts were embroidered on the sleeves in blue and red or black, and confined at the waist by broad leathern girdles, much ornamented with brass. The women wore long garments, like the men's shirts, coming down to their ankles and covered behind and before by a pair of voluminous aprons, made of a ruddy, striped woolen stuff, more or less brilliant in hue.

Both sexes and all ages, down even to babies in arms, have short, sleeveless, sheepskin coats, usually open in front. The skin side is embroidered in varying designs, more or less elaborate, carried out chiefly in red wool and green and red leather. When it is fine the embroidered side is exposed; when it is wet the woolly one appears. These kilt-pants are very light, very warm, and, being sleeveless, they are never stuffy. It is amazing how persistently they are worn, and it is only in the hottest weather that the peasants strip them off when working in the fields.

ORIGIN OF MENU CARDS.

Duke Henry of Brunswick Was the First Person on Record to Use Them.

It was Duke Henry of Brunswick who was first observed, in the intervals of a banquet to scan carefully a long strip of paper by the side of his plate, and when the curious guests ventured to inquire into the nature of his studies he explained that it was a sort of programme of the dishes which he had commanded from the cook; to the intent that if some delicacy which especially appealed to him were marked for a late stage in the repast he might carefully reserve his appetite for it, says the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The simplicity and excellence of the idea instantly appealed to the good duke's guests, and the menu card from that moment became an institution. In its old-fashioned form the bill was usually written large on cards of such dimensions that room for only one could be found at each board. This was in 1500, and this aid to selection must have been a boon. For the medieval dinner was a mine of surprises. It was divided into courses; whereas nowadays the diner has a general idea that fish will follow soup, and that the entree will be succeeded by a roast or its equivalent, there was no knowing what was going to happen at an early English dinner, or in what order it would be served.

QUARTER OF A CENT.

An Estimate Expert, Preeminent in His Department, Commands a Big Salary.

But all the high salaries do not go to managers, says Ainslee's Magazine, in an article on "The Big Salaries of New York." An expert who is preeminent in his own department sometimes earns a salary that seems fabulous. In industries where profits are calculated in fractions of a cent on each pound of a commodity produced, the value of an expert who is as nearly as possible infallible in his calculations can hardly be estimated. In the case of sugar refining this is particularly true. Even though Mr. Havemeyer once said testily to an investigating committee that was questioning him about an increase of a quarter of a cent a pound on sugar: "Who cares for a quarter of a cent?" It is a fact that one of his highest-salaried employees is his expert chemist, J. O. Donner, who is reputed to be able to estimate the value of different methods of refining sugar even unto the third and fourth place of decimals. But the ability to make such estimates is not the sole value of such an expert. In order to command the highest salary he must be able to suggest improvements on existing methods and develop possibilities that would never occur to the ordinary expert who might be his equal in making a quantitative analysis.

QUARRYING EMERY.

It Is Done by the Aid of Great Fires in the Classic Island of Naxos.

Emery comes from the island of Naxos, in the eastern Mediterranean, whence it has been exported for the last two centuries or more. The beds are in the northeast of the island, the deposits descending into some of the neighboring islands, the emery being found in lenticular masses, resting on layers of schist in limestone, almost identical with Parian marble, the finest marble known, which comes from the island of Paros, close by, says Ironmongery.

There are about 300 men engaged in the trade, all of whom have to be married before they are admitted to the fraternity. The material is much too hard to be dug out or even blasted. Great fires are lighted around the blocks till the natural cracks expand with the heat, and levers are then inserted to pry them apart. This system is continued until the blocks are reduced in size to masses of a cubic foot or less, and they are then shipped as if they were coal. There are said to be 20,000,000 tons yet available at Naxos, and the last reported year's export was 2,950 tons. It is one of the hardest substances known.

LONDON'S LAZY CLUB.

Observance of Its Rules Calls for a Good Deal of Determination of Character.

London contains many societies, from the Christmas Goose club to that for the Worshipers of Omar the Tent-maker, but apparently there is another which has hitherto escaped notice, says the London Telegraph. It is called the "Lazy society," and, no doubt, in the metropolis there are many people who are eligible for membership. Idle persons, however, had better not enroll themselves rashly, or they may find that the rules demand too much determination of character. Absolute laziness is a task in itself, and requires a good deal of living up to, besides involving one in unpleasant situations.

Mr. Leason is one of the members of this curious community, and so in earnest is he that he informed Mr. Marsham at Westminster that no punishment would induce him to break stones or pick oakum. He was charged by the master of the workhouse with refusing to do any work, and he even carried his principles so far as to decline to wash or undress himself. He had been punished in every possible way (omnibus phrase), but all to no account. He remained, in spite of all temptation, an obstinate member of the "Lazy society." The jailer asked the defendant to give some explanation and he answered, with great deliberation, that work was too hard and against his principles. The magistrate decided that he must suffer for his convictions, and sentenced him to 21 days' hard labor. The martyr left the dock very quietly and slowly and with a beautiful smile on his face.

COURTING IN CUBA.

This Writer Says There Are No Handsome Middle-Aged Women on the Island.

Apparently the highest social institution of Cienfuegos is the Sunday evening promenade in the plaza, and without it I really do not know how the young people of the aristocracy would manage to mate and marry, says a correspondent of the Philadelphia Record. During all the week seniors of the upper class are kept under rigid restriction, never permitted to walk abroad alone and constantly watched by parents and duennas, as if expected to rush to the bad if allowed the smallest opportunity. This system of eternal vigilance would doubtless become as irksome to the guardians as to the opening buds were it not so soon over.

At the age of 13 a Cuban girl is considered quite old enough to marry, and her parents hunt up a son-in-law without delay—unless, as is more commonly the case, some sub-rosa lover announces himself, or a match, satisfactory to paterfamilias, was arranged for her with the son of a friend while the pair were yet in their cradles.

The beauty and charm of the fair Cubans are as evanescent as irresistible while they last. Like the lovely wild flowers of their islands, they mature very early, but fade as rapidly. The prettiest girl will be plain before she is 30, and a handsome middle-aged woman is not to be found in Cuba—if anywhere outside the temperate zone.

CAR FARE ETIQUETTE.

Rules for Women Who Would Avoid Argument for Themselves and Embarrassment to Others.

Always pay your car fare when you would like others to pay theirs under the same circumstances, advises the Chicago Tribune.

If you are visiting city friends or relatives for more than a day, pay your fare on all occasions. Your hostess will regard it as a direct answer to prayer. If you meet a social or business woman friend as you are about to enter a car, don't offer to pay her fare or permit her to pay yours, and don't argue about it.

A business woman never permits her business men acquaintances to pay her car fare.

The social man friend whom you have met by chance must be dealt with tactfully. By all means offer to pay your own way boldly and briskly, but if the man displays a tendency to argue the question sapiently for blocks, as a matter of self-preservation let him squander the nickel.

When women go forth together for a "Dutch treat" pleasure time each one should meet her own expenses to the last cent, always including car fare.

Schoolgirls should be taught not to accept car fare courtesies from either schoolboy or girl friends.

No Long-Distance Woe.

Rudyard Kipling's maternal grandfather was Rev. George E. Macdonald. It is related of him that in the days when he was courting the lady whom he afterwards married the father-in-law-to-be—an aged Methodist, with extremely strict notions in regard to the proprieties—was injudicious enough on one occasion to enter the parlor without giving any warning of his approach. The consequence was that he found the sweethearts occupying a single chair. Deeply shocked by the spectacle, the old man solemnly said: "Mr. Macdonald, when I was courting Mrs. Brown she sat on one side of the room and I on the other." Macdonald's reply was: "That's what I should have done had I been courting Mrs. Brown."

Tall Bride and Groom.

An eccentric wedding took place recently at St. Peter's church, New York, when an artillery officer named Lulloway was married to a lady named Martha Washington. The happy pair, the bridesmaids, the best man, the pastor, Mr. Roche, and 12 brother officers of the bridegroom, who were present, were over six feet high. In order to preserve the record in its completeness no others were admitted to the ceremony.