An Old Question Again Being Agitated-Industrial and Commercial Interests Are Much Interested in the Question.

The abstract question of the political possibility and the industrial and commergial desirability of the annexation of the British West Indies to the United States is nothing new. As a matter of casual discussion, at least, it has been on the cards since 1867, when Gen. Grant developed the scheme for acquiring the Danish islands.

It, however, remained for the American conquest of Cubs and Porto Rico to awaken the English colonists to a full realization of the outlook. The Americanization of those two islands presents a most serious menace to the industrial and commercial prosperity of their British neighbors, and it is only natural that the English colonists should have been attracted by Andrew Carnegie's suggestion to exchange the British West Indies for the Philippines.

As far back as August of last year the question of securing annexation to the United States was mooted in Jamaica. Nothing came of it, however. A plebiscite was suggested in planting circles, and the commercial community was not wanting in sympathy with the proposal. But, on the other hand, the extreme antagonism of the colored population was so marked that the most enthusiastic annexationists realized the then impracticability of a plebiscite. Consequently the matter was speedily shelved.

The continued industrial decadence of the islands under the unfair treatment of the mother country and the ever-growing menace of Cuba and Porto Rico has again brought the question into prominence. In this case it is the island of St. Kitts that has taken the initiative and made some definite move. While Jamaica, on the principle of half a loaf being better than no bread, insists on securing commercial reciprocity with the United States, St. Kitts has come forward with a plebiscite asking for actual annexation.

As might have been expected, the West Indian newspapers, as a whole, being mostly in the hands of colored men, to whom the very word American is obnoxious, have denounced the plebiscite and endeavored to obscure its significance. Under the circumstances, the St. Kitts annexationists have issued a manifesto to the sister colonies setting forth their position and furnishing seven reasons why West Indians should seek admission into the United States. First, on account of unjust treatment on the part of Great Britain. 2. Because of expensive administration. 3. Because of contiguity of the islands to the United States. 4. Because of growing population of United States and their increased consumption of sugar. 5. Because they would be assured of full political liberty. 6. Because at any time change of tariff laws of United States may discriminate against them. 7. Because of an assured and protected market in the United States for their sugar.

LOANED BABY FOUND AT LAST.

Mother and Child Remnited After a Separation of Twenty Years.

Mrs. Mary Williams has returned to Muncie, Ind., from the quest of her daughter, who has been lost for 20 years, having found her and paid her a visit. A score of years ago Mrs. Williams loaned her child, then scarcely more than a baby, to a theatrical company which needed a child of that age. The time for the child to be returned came, but the baby did not appear. No trace was discovered of the child until about two months ago, when there came a letter from a close personal friend of Mrs. Williams, who stated that while traveling through a little Pennsylvania town she had discovered a young woman whose history tallied closely with that of the missing child. Mrs. Williams did not have the neceseary funds, but, assisted by the Muncie police, a sum sufficient was soon raised, and about a month ago she went in search of her daughter. Absolute proof of the child's identity was discovered. The mother has returned to Muncie and is making preparations to return to her daughter's home to reside.

STOPS DIGESTION.

Gat Under the X-Ray Teaches an Important Lesson to Mankind-Den't Worry.

The cat has served to teach mankind an all-important lesson concerning the working of the stomach. The X rays directed upon a cat's stomach have demonstrated that any irritation or disagreeable nervous excitement arrests the process of digestion. Dr. Fritz Lange, of Munich, who makes a special study of the stomach, performed a series of experiments which resulted in this interesting discovery. After the eat had eaten, the X rays were turned en, and Dr. Lange watched the animal's stomach through a fluorescent screen. Then he irritated the cat by placing a live mouse just beyond its reach. Dr." Lange was able to observe that digestion was absolutely interrupted by the irritation of the animal. Briefly stated. the lesson for man is: Don't let anything bother or interrupt your dinner.

One Cause of France's Troubles. While the population of France has increased only ten per cent. in the last years, says the New York Sun, the imber of state officials, according to M. Turquan, shows an increase of 120 per cent.

FLOWERS FOR OLD STAMPS.

How the Women of St. Mark's Epis. copal Church in Chicago Get Altar Decorations.

One shurch congregation in Unicago collects 25,000 canceled postage stamps every week, and 1,300,000 in a year. This is St. Mark's Episcopal church, corner Cottage Grove avenue and Thirty-sixth street. These stamps are sold to a florist for eight cents a thousand, and in return lie furnishes flowers for the altar every Sunday. For a long time the committee of ladies in charge of the church decoration were dismayed at the scant appropriation for the purchase of flowems. At last one of them hit upon the plan of selling old postage stamps. Enthusiasm was communicated to the Sunday school pupils. They visited offices of vestrymen and prominent church members downtown and got them to save the postage stamps on their correspondence. Ladies of the church began to carry on a correspondence with long-neglected friends for the sake of accumulating canceled postage stamps, and the habit is now fixed, says the Inter Ocean.

"Why, I'd as soon think of throwing away car fare as to waste old postage stamps," said one.

The stamps at first were counted, but now an arrangement has been made with the florist to take them by weight. It is said that they are purchased by foreign paper mills. Owing to the fine quality of the material used by Uncle Sam for stamps they make over into an excellent brand of paper.

SHE IS GROWING RICH.

Chicago Woman's Hands Bring Her About \$3,000 Yearly-She Is a Masseuse.

Half the world is as ignorant of how the other half makes its money as of how it lives. There is a Chicago woman, for instance, who earns with her hands yearly sums that would make the average brain worker envious. She does not print, nor write, nor design, nor make dresses, nor do any of the things that one usually picks out as woman's work. She earns all this money by giving massage to women.

She is not in any way an impressive woman. She is of medium size and middle age. She gives one the idea of being in perfect health and of being kindly and sympathetic. Otherwise there is nothing noticeable about her. But her patrons consider her a wonderful

wonian. Most of her work is done at the homes of her patrons, though they may come to her establishment at about half the home rate. She rubs a woman an hour at each visit, and her patrons are positive that she imparts to them a tremendous amount of vitality.

Of course, there are many women engaged in massage. The only remarkable thing about this particular woman is the amount of money she earns. Her monthly receipts run from \$200 to \$300, every dollar of which she earns person-

GOTHAM'S INFAMOUS CAFES.

A Glance at the Interior of a Noterious One That Was Raided by the Police.

Through one of the most infamous of the cafes a Leslie's Weekly writer went recently, just after the police had raided it with axes. The entire ground floor was a drinking hell of tawdry elegance. On the second floor was a gambling room reached by devious passages through heavily barred gates. The upper floors were loding-rooms of almost unimaginable dinginess and squalor. Throughout the entire establishment was a series of signal bells, peep holes, falling bars and special locks, and ready exit was given by no less than four specially constructed and supposably secret passages. The rickety old tenement had been made into a veritable labyrinth of pseudomysterious precautions against the police. When the police did come the warning was given by a man stationed in the street for that purpose-called appropriately enough a "lighthouse" the signal bells clanged, the burs fell, the special locks slid into place, eyes blinked at the peep holes and at the last moment the aroused inmates scurried through the secret passages into the arms of the officers who were waiting for them there. That cafe went out of existence, but others are still doing a cautious business.

EELS IN CAPTIVITY.

They Keep Their Appetite and Grow Fat and Appear to Get Along !! Very Well.

Eels appear to be pretty hardy in captivity. There are in a tank at the aquarium a number of eels that have thrived and grown fat there, although they must there content themselves with a gravel bottom instead of one of mud, which they would seek in nature, says the New York Sun. The eel in captivity is rather susceptible to fungus, but the disease responds readily to treatment, and the eef never loses its appetite. All the eels in this tank have increased materially in size and weight there. The cel that has been in the tank the longest time came from Cold Spring Harbor and has now been in the tank about three years. One of the eels was caught about a year and a half ago right in the aquarium; taken from the valve of a pump which had become choked up. The cel was got out substantially uninjured. It has about doubled its weight since then,

The cels are fed on chapped-up clams, with occasionally some live killies, which they are easily able to catch and which they like. Killies, in fact, make a good bait in fishing for eels, with the killie hooked through the back in such a way as not to kill or deprive it of the

QUEER POSTAL SERVICE.

That of Havana When the United States Took Charge of Its System.

Under the Spanish system the letter carriers received their pay by charging from three to five cents, and sometimes more, for every letter they delivered. It took only a day or two to have that system abolished in Hanvana, much to the relief of the merchants. The earriers were put on salaries equivalent to that which they were supposed to earn by the assessment method they were permitted to use under the former regime.

The carriers under the Spanish system not only charged for the delivery of mail matter, but they rifled letters freely, and made money by stealing stamps from mail matter and selling them. The letters and other grades of mail matter would be forwarded without stamps, and the carrier at the other end of the route would collect not only for delivery, but for the stamps that had been stolen. There was simply an unparalleled looseness in the conduct of post office business, and every man seemed to have license to steal wherever he could. Eyen newspapers would be stolen from bundles and sold for whatever could be got for them.

Another form of corruption was evident when the salary lists were examined. There was no scale of salaries. In one city a postmaster would receive twice the salary that the postmaster of a larger city received. Salaries seemed. to be arranged on the "pull" plan, with the possibilities of division with the appointing power afterward. Places that under the liberal payment of the United States would rate at \$1,500 a year were worth frequently as much as \$3,000 a year.-Harper's Weekly.

THE REPORTORIAL SCOOP.

How It Was Worked on a St. Louis Scribe by a Conscienceless Contemporary.

A reporter named Jones on a daily in St. Louis was detailed to interview the governor of another state, who had slipped into the city on a secret political mission, says the San Francisco Argonaut. He learned to his disgust that Jackson, the star reporter of a rival sheet, also proposed to call in an hour. Acting on inspiration, he sent up a card bearing Jackson's name and was promptly admitted. When he had learned all he wanted he asked, with gross intentional impudence, whether the information was really true.

The governor turned purple. question my word?" he asked. "Oh, don't get gay!" replied Jones airily; "common governors cut no ice

with my office." The old man foamed at the mouth. "You insolent scoundrel," he roared, "get out of my room!" That was ex-

actly what Joses wanted and he went. Presently Jackson showed up. "Here, boy," he said, pompously, "take my card to the governor." When the old man looked at the pasteboard he nearly expired. "The blankety-blanked infamous villain!" he spluttered. never heard of such blankety-blanked effronery in my life! Tell that miscreant if he or anybody else from his infernal paper comes up here I'll kill 'em!" The word was carried to Jackson, who went away raving. Next day the paper intimated the governor was in town on a bender. Jones' paper had

a capital interview and a big "scoop." FIRE SERVICE IN ENGLAND.

The Force Employed in London la Only Haif as Large as That of Paris.

The British towns seem to have the smallest number of paid firemen of any cities in Europe and America, says Municipal Affairs. The London fire brigade has about 800 men, about the same number as Berlin, which has only a fourth of the population, and less than one-half the size of the Paris corps. Glasgow has but 100 men to 800,000 population; Leeds but 33 to 400,000 people, and Sheffield 22 men to a population of 350,000. Liverpool, Bristol, Cardiff, Norwich, Bromley and other towns have no separately organized fire department, the work of suppressing fires being performed by the regular police force. The expenditures for fire protection are on a similarly unimportant scale. Thus Leeds spends less than \$5,000 a year, and Sheffield less than \$10,000 a year; Preston, with a population of 113,000, reports only \$1,500 spent for its fire brigade, and Norwich, with 100,000 population, only \$750 a year. A few towns, however, show a somewhat larger range of expenditures. Glasgow and Liverpool each annually expend in the neighborhood of \$75,000—about ten cents per capita—and proportionate amounts are expended by Edinburgh, Dublin, Belfast and Salford. The London brigade costs about \$950,000, or 20 cents per capita. But even these exceptional instances are below the per capita expenditures for fire protection in other European cities of the same size.

A Faithful Dog.

The Paris Figaro relates a touching souvenir of the poet de Musset, as mentioned by the poet's governess, Mme. Adele Colin Martellet, who has just published her memoirs. The poet had a small dog named Marzo. After the poet died, the dog, supposing him absent, continued to await his return at the same hour every evening for a period of seven years, when it also died. Mme. Martellet's husband took the dog to Auteuil to be buried, and found some workmen engaged in digging out a new street. The faithful dog was buried by the men, and the street in which the animal's remains were laid is called the Rue de Musset.

Invention by the Marquis of Lorne. The marquis of Lorne has taken out a patent for a brake to be applied to the back wheel of a bicycle.

A LION AT LARGE.

Causes Great Excitement on the Streets of Indianapolis.

Finds His Way to a Butcher Shop and Helps Himself to a Good Square Meal - Captured After a Fight.

Brutus, the largest cub in the lion family of the trained animal show exhibiting at Illinois and Pratt streets, Indianapolis, Ind., escaped from his cage the other day and gave the residents of North Illinois street and vicinity the worst scare they have received in some time. After stealing out of the circus grounds, he started out to view the city.

Brutus is a well-developed Nubian lion cub, and his appearance bounding down the pavement on Illinois street caused every one in sight to give him the right of way. Horses broke loose and ran before him, and the residents barred their doors and hid. The whole neighborhood resounded with a series of awful roars. Upon reaching the grocery of E. L. Hauk his attention was attracted by some strawberries. Bounding upon the sidewalk, he began to sample all in sight. He smelled meat, and, with a savage growl, the lion bounded through the massive plate-

glass window. Upon discovering that he was sole master of the store, Brutus tasted of all the meat in the meat market. His exact course could not be ascertained, for the reason that the neighborhood was vacated for some distance on all sides. The interior of the store presented

proof of the mood of Brutus. Attracted by his growls, his trainers found him in the meat market, and erected a wall of boxes and barrels around him. Mounting on these, after working an hour, a noose was slipped over his head, and he was choked into aubmission. He was strapped in an iron cage and sent on to Chicago. In the capture Trainer Ricardo had his left hand severely bitten:

MISHAPS AT A WEDDING.

Peculiar Circumstances Attend a Ceremony on Board a Steambont.

J. A. Carson and Miss Maud Cranston, s young couple residing on Kootenai lake, Washington, were married the other day under circumstances seldom paralleled in fiction. The bridal couple and relatives boarded the steamer Klondike on her trip down the Columbia river to Bonner's ferry, Idaho, having decided to be married there. In passing the officiating preacher's ranch he was found a prisoner on the roof of his submerged residence and was rescued and taken aboard. The steamer made a brief stop at Racine landing and two passengers came aboard with a coffin containing the corpse of James Carter. A bulldog also accompanied the men. When the preacher came on deck, wearing a suit of Capt. Newman's clothes, the bridal couple announced that they would have the wedding take place then and there.

The ceremony had proceeded almost to the point where the preacher was about to pronounce them husband and wife when Capt. Newman's dog and the bulldog got into a fight. In the midst of it they upset the coffin, which had on heer kegs. As it struck the deck the casket burst, spilling out the corpse. One glance at the dead man's features and the bride gave a scream and swooned away in the arms of the groom, for the corpse was that of a former lover to whom she had been

NAVY INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Proven to Be on a Sound Basis and It is Not Likely to Be Discontinued.

Naval officers who have been a good deal exercised over the proposition to abolish their mutual insurance assocition are greatly relieved to know that a majority of the communications so far received express a desire to continue with the organization on its present basis. A Philadelphia insurance company made an attempt to have the list of members of the Naval Mutual Aid association transferred to its own books on the ground that the organization was on an unsound basis. This caused some consternation among the naval officers, but an inquiry has proven that the association is in good condition and that it is prosperous. The Philadelphia company's proposition is not likely to be accepted.

MEDALS FOR DEWEY'S MEN.

Navy Department Is Ready to Distribute the Bronze Rewards.

The navy department has received the 1,700 bronze medals authorized by congress for the officers and men who participated in the battle of Manila bay. The bureau of navigation will see to the distribution of the medals, those for the officers and men of the Olympic and Raleigh being given to them in this country, while those on the ships still at Manila will be forwarded. The medals are handsome products of the jeweler's art, one face showing a bas-relief of Admiral Dewey, while the reverse shows the idealized head of the American sailor.

Why Icciand Wants a Cable. The Chicago Record auggests that the people of Iceland would like to be connected with the rest of the world by cable, so that they might call down occasionally through the summer and innocently ask if it is hot enough for us.

Big Australian Sheep Parms. It is said that some of the sheep farms in Australia are as large as the whole of

WILL SHOW A COLUMN OF GOLD

Plans for Ozzaling American Attractions at the Paris Exposition.

A meeting of Commissioner Peck and the members of the staff of the New York office of the United States commissioners to the Paris exposition of 1900, was held at New York the other day to discuss the allotment of space to exhibitors.

E. W. Runyon, the California state commissioner, said that California had appropriated \$100,000 for the exhibition already, the largest amount given by any state, and would put up \$100,000 more if assurances were given that adequate returns would be got for the money.

Commissioner Peck suggested that if California would contribute a certain amount to the general fund it would be given a special room in the national building. He said that this offer would be good to every state in the union. No state buildings will be permitted. Commissioner Peck said it was planned to have five star American attractions at the Paris exposition. One of these is to be an exhibit of the gold mining of this country, being a gold column containing \$1,000,000 in gold. Another will be an American trolley line six miles long from the American landing to the national building down the Seine. A third will be a pier landing, where Americans will take steamers carrying the American flag for the Vincennes woods.

TO MUMMIFY HER BODY.

Little Eskimo Girl Who Died at Mount Vernon to Be Given_ to Scientists.

Little Aitmathoke, the Eskimo girl. who smiled, bowed, danced and said "Aliana mik" instead of "good by," sc prettily at lectures in the public schools at New York last winter, died at Mount Vernon on Saturday. Men of science are to make a mummy of her.

She died of the heat and of consumption. She was in Dr. Walton's sanitarium, The physicians there say that she was a free patient in the interest of science. She was brought into this country in 1895 by Miner W. Bruce, to meet her twin sister, Zacksriner, who had been in the west for three years. The father and mother of the twins were dead.

Columbia university is to have the body of Aitmarboke. The men of science there are to send her to the Museum of Natural History, to be exhibited munimified, as are the Pharaohs. It is an opportunity to show that we know how to make mummies.

Miner W. Bruce is in Seattle, Wash. Zacksriner is in charge of a friend of Bruce here.

AN ODD REQUEST.

Kanana Governor Asked to Pay a Dog Tax by an Impecunious Old Maid.

An old mald in Kansas City, Kan., with an unusual amount of faith in men, has written to Gov. Stanley asking him to pay her dog tax. She explains that she is poor and that her dog is the only comfort she has in the world. She asks the governor to go over to the state auditor's office and look over the list of dog tax due. If he finds there the name of "Grant," with two dollars due for taxes, he will know that the dog is hers and can pay

the money. The governor turned the letter over to Private Secretary Alien with instructions to assess the members of the state committee for the necessary amount to may the tax. Chairman Albaugh heard the letter read and agreed to pay the tax if the governor would tell him the name of the oman. This Gov. Stanley refused to do. It is probable that Grant will be assessed and taxed in the regular manner by the Kansas City (Kan.) authorities.

MAY REORGANIZE.

Report Revived That the Standard Oll Company Will be Capitalized at \$500,000,000.

The report has been revived that the Standard Oil company will be organized in the shape of a giant corporation under the taws of New Jersey, and the present trust features abandoned en-

At present the concern is in the hands of the liquidating trustees. The stock which the trust holds in the subsidiary companies (a majority interest in each case) has been taken up and liquidating certificates issued. These certificates, whose par value is \$100 are quoted in Wall street at 456@458, an increase of about 100 points within the year.

There are said to be \$96,000,000 of these outstanding, and, according to report, it is the plan to call in these certificates and to issue in exchange for each one five shares of stock in the new corporation whose par value shall be \$100. Thus the present certificate holders will receive \$500 for \$456. The capitalization of the new company is to be

Real Game Preserve One of the most curious sporting estates in the whole of the British Isles is that of Arnold F. Hills, Redleaf, in the county of Kent. There no shooting or fishing is permitted. This nevel experiment in game preservation is due to the principles of the proprietor, who, as a strict and consistent vegetarian, holds that man has no right to slay the lower animals either for food, profit or pleasure. As he is rich, Mr. Hills is thus enabled to put to a practical test the oft-debated question as to what would become of the animals if all the world turned vegetarian.

Fiji Currency. Whales' teeth form the currency of the Fiji islands.

FISH, BIRD AND SNAKE YARNS

Trout and Hawk Caught on the Same Hook - A Voracious Snake.

A farmer residing near Middletown, N. Y., recently noticed a remarkable falling off in the production of eggs at his hennery, which he was unable to account for. He concluded that an egg thief was at work, and established a. strict watch. The eggs continued to disappear, and no clew to the thief was: obtained until a day or two ago, while working near the hennery, the farmer came across a large blacksnake, which he quickly dispatched. As the snake lay on the ground the farmer noticed a lump in the reptile's circumference, and with his knife cut from the sucke's stomach a large china egg. It is argued that the snake's appetite for eggs increased at a more rapid rate than the. yield of the hennery, and that it resorted to the china eggs in the absence of the genuine article.

Edwin Robinson, a respected resident: of Pawling, is credited with capturing a fine trout and a bird resembling a henhawk with the same bait. On a recent fishing trip he dropped his book in a ripple, and the current carried it down under some overhanging trees, where a large trout struck it. There was no opportunity to play for the trout, and Mr. Robinson gave his pole a smartjerk, hoping to land his prize on the bank. Both trout and line went sailing upward, and the line caught fast in a tree. The trout tore away from the hook and flopped back into the water. Mr. Robinson had dropped his pole to save his fish, and when he picked it up again felt something tugging at it. Looking upward, he discovered that he had another bite. This time he landed his prize, which proved to be a large bird, hooked through the lower side of

SOUTHERN NEGROES.

Suggestion of Col. Dancan B. Harrison, of chicago. . r Supplying Army for Philippines.

"If it becomes necessary to send volunteers to the Philippines," said Col. Dunean B. Harrison, of Chicago, "I would suggest negro soldiers without hesitation. My regiment of colored menin Cuba taught me a lesson of what the race is capable of. They are more amenable to discipline than white men, fight less among themselves, and with proper treatment follow their officers anywhere. I know that before mustering out 80 per cent. of my regiment voted to reenlist for two years if wanted. I would take the volunteers for the Philippines from the southern negroes. They would have no politicians or demagogue governors howling about them and their comforts, but, on the contrary, it would be a relief to people of the south to have them employed in the army.

"The colored troops are greatly benefited by army service. They learn a great deal, acquire personal dignity, discover there is something in sanitation, and go back to civil life better than when they came into the army. The colored soldier is a grim, determined fighter, and a good bushwhack-He will put up uncomplainingly with more discomforts than the white soldier, and undoubtedly is better fitted for campaigns in tropical countries. than seasoned white men. Colored troops from the south need no acclimatto speak of. They know what heat is. I believe 20,000 volunteers could be raised among the colored people of the south within 60 days."

FORCED TO EAT LOVE LETTER.

Serious Consequences of a New Jersey Mun's Joke on a Married Friend.

Albert Waugh, of Paterson, N. J., harbors in his stomach a lump of desiccated note paper, flavored with violet ink. In its original form Waugh's meal was a high-flown love letter written by himself in a feminine hand, unsigned, and addressed to his comrade, and neighbor, John Watkins, a young married man. Inclosed in the envelope was the photograph of an attractive girl. Waugh did not know who she was, 4 for the picture had fallen into his hands by chance. Across the back he. wrote: "To the only one I love."

Mrs. Watkins found the letter in her husband's coat and it caused a temporary separation. Waugh then acknowledged that it was all his work.

This confession reunited Watkins and his wife, but the husband vowed to have vengeance. Encountering Waugh he produced the letter and photograph and commanded the practical joker to eat them, drawing a pistol to enforce the demand. Waugh obeyed meekiy enough so far as the latter was concerned, but when it came to the photograph his stomach revolted.

FIRE IN A COFFIN. Cigarette Fiend Comes Near Making

Feigned Death the Real Thing. Carl Atheno's performance of suspended animation at Fall River, Mass.,

came near ending in cremation, the fire in his coffin being discovered justein, time. Atheno went to sleep on Monday night and intended to wake up on Saturday night-An electric light inside the coffin

showed the face of the sleeper when anyone peeked down a wooden tube. It is believed that a eigarette was thrown down on the sleeper in order tolearn whether the sleep was a real one. His clothes were badly burned. He did

not awaken. Dandellons.

The market gardeners around Paris cultivate the dandelion on a large scale and sell it for good prices in the mar-

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