

WON SEAT BY COON HUNT.

Congressman Who Got There with the Aid of Roman Candles and Nerve.

The democratic leader on the floor of the national house of representatives, John Sharp Williams, is a man of great originality and versatility, says a Washington report.

The news spread through the county that Maj. Gibbs was a powerful coon hunter, and it was practically conceded that he would carry the county.

Mr. Williams then hid himself away to the city drug store in town, where he purchased a large stock of Roman candles which had been left over from the Christmas season.

GOT INTO WRONG ROOM.

Candidate for Matrimonial Responsibilities Goes Through Extraordinary Examination.

During the excitement of a physical examination of candidates for places on the police force recently in the city hall, a mild-mannered man wandered into the room and somehow got mixed up with the aspirants for places on the force.

"Run around the room," he was commanded, and on a trot, he made the circuit of the room a dozen times.

New Theory of Ether.

The mysterious ether that is supposed to fill all space is the subject of a new theory by Mendeleef, the Russian chemist.

Deep-Sea Animals.

Red and black are the common colors of deep sea animals.

QUARREL ABOUT THE ROBIN

Michigan Fruit Raisers and Club Women at War Over Little Mr. Redbreast.

In Michigan it has been shown that it is a dangerous undertaking for a college professor to get into a controversy with the women about birds, especially songsters.

The resolution did not get further than the table, but the news of the attack on the robins spread all over the state.

It was then that a score or more of doctors, farmers, scientists and big game hunters, who were in the habit of opposing the college men and to stand by the women in their fight for the cherry singer.

WALKS WITH BROKEN LEG.

Device of London Carpenter Permits Use of Limb While Fracture Is Healing.

Modern surgery is constantly devising appliances whereby broken bones may heal properly without the necessity of the muscles becoming weak through disuse during the healing process.

Device of London Carpenter Permits Use of Limb While Fracture Is Healing.

As soon after admission as possible a plaster cast is taken of the thigh, leg and foot. In order to identify the various points on the cast lines are drawn with a copying ink pencil up the whole length of the leg, anteriorly and laterally.

From the fast a model is made in solid plaster, and on this the leather casings are modeled. It is impossible, of course, to mold the dry leather on the plaster so that it will keep its shape.

In order to make sure that these leather casings are strong enough, especially in the case of adults, thin steel bands are imbedded in the leather.

Vatican Army Reformed.

Pope Pius X. is reforming his "army," according to the Tablet. The forces of the holy see at present hardly exceed 400 men, and half of these consist of the citizen soldiers known as the Palatine guard, who are detailed for service in St. Peter's and the Vatican during the great papal functions.

A Natural Sequence.

"I see Brightley's name is being mentioned pretty often in the financial columns of the newspapers these days."

COTTON TREES IN PARAGUAY

Yield Is Greater Than That of Any Given Area of Any Country in the World.

A very interesting exposition of the possibilities of cotton growing in Paraguay has been written by the vice president of that republic, Manuel Dominguez, and received through the consulate of that country in Washington.

Mr. Dominguez then asserts that the cotton yield of Paraguay is greater to a given area than that of any other country in the world.

Referring to the tremendous growth of the cotton raising and manufacturing industry in the United States, he says: "The manufacture of cotton goods in North America is developing, and when that country shall manufacture all its raw products the demand for the latter will increase."

SOME FACTS ABOUT JAPAN.

Peculiarities of the People and the Country Set Forth in a Few Words.

Corruption is declared to be unknown in Japanese politics, says the New York Times.

Among the Japanese one divorce takes place for every four marriages.

The proportionate circulation of newspapers in Japan is about the same as in this country.

A Japanese private soldier is paid 70 cents a month; a major general is paid \$131 a month.

In time of peace the Japanese army, consisting of 421,000 men, cost but \$18,500,000 a year.

Russia has the largest number of soldiers and reserves of any country on earth except Germany.

This is the fourth time Japan has made war on a foreign nation, except for early barbaric expeditions against the Koreans.

The word Japan comes from the Portuguese pronunciation of the Japanese characters, "Ni-Hon," meaning the land of the rising sun.

A Japanese officer who has not reached the rank of major at the age of 48 is compulsorily retired as unworthy of further service.

The emperor of Japan is the direct descendant of the Emperor Jimmu, who ascended the throne 2,564 years ago, making the dynasty older than any other dynasty that exists or ever did exist.

The true name of Korea is "Choson," meaning "land of the morning calm."

Japanese soldiers are fed on rice, salted fish, dried seaweed and pickled plums—a diet that is almost universal in Japan, except in the navy, where rations of meat are served.

The Retort Crushing.

The young man had pleaded eloquently. But the sweet young thing had been obdurate. Again and again he entreated her to give him some room for hope.

The Opposite Was True.

"See," said an irate passenger, looking from the window of his stateroom on the river steamer, "but this is a slow boat. That's the same little village I saw last night when I went to bed."

PESTS DROWNED OUT.

DESTRUCTIVE CREATURES COMPELLED BY FLOODS TO LEAVE.

Kansas Valley Overrun by Rats, Moles, Gophers and Rabbits Freed from the Animals by High Water.

There is never any great disaster without some compensation—some circumstances that in a measure lessen the losses sustained by the sufferers or reconcile them in some measure to those losses.

When the water got into the buildings along the valley, the rats and mice tried to get away. Some of them succeeded, but most of them were drowned.

The driving out of the rats and mice was a blessing, but that was nothing compared to the benefit the farmers along the Kaw valley received by the death of the moles and gophers.

Tracts of land that were honeycombed with gopher and mole holes are now as solid as a piece of land that had been cultivated every year.

It may seem like hunting might be hard for benefits from a disaster, but the relief the farmers have experienced from the absence of the moles and gophers has been of enough importance to cause general comment.

Another thing that the people in the flooded district have to be thankful for is the driving out of the rabbits from the valley.

It would be supposed that the rabbits would have run away from the flood, but they did not. Many of them were drowned. Strange as it may seem, the rabbits did not come back after the flood.

HAVE TRAITS OF YANKEES.

Residents of Argentina Have Qualities That Are Peculiar to New Englanders.

Cold winds come from the south and winter is in July; otherwise the Argentine republic is like Yankee land, says the New York World.

The Parana, the chief river, is far larger than our Mississippi; its annual flow of water is double that of the Ganges—three times that of the St. Lawrence, five times that of the Nile.

Argentina has the longest railway tangent (straight line) in the world, 186 miles. Its wheat plains are like those of our west. The climate is similar.

Argentina's population grows 40 per cent. in ten years; the United States 20 per cent., Germany 16 per cent. Of the 2,000,000 of immigrants received in Argentina in 40 years more than half have been Italians.

In 1867 there were but 335 miles of railway in Argentina; in 1900 there were 10,661 miles, some 12 per cent. belonging to the government. Argentina is ninth among the nations in railway mileage.

Argentina has 120,000,000 sheep, as against 62,000,000 in the United States.

All Argentina suffered from the Baring crash in 1890, but recovery is now complete. Imports during 1899 were \$117,000,000 and exports \$185,000,000.

Montevideo is in area the largest city in the world—three times the size of New York. Buenos Ayres, growing faster than New York, London or Berlin, is the biggest city in the world south of Philadelphia, except possibly the Chinese cities. It will reach the million mark in 1906.

Argentina is building one of the finest dry docks in the world, a model of which will probably be seen at St. Louis.

Dangerous Game.

Polly—I'm tired of work. I believe I'll answer one of these millionaire husband ads.

Dolly—Goodness, 'sposе you got one with a long straggly beard or red side-whiskers.—Indianapolis Journal.

RACE FOR FUR COUNTRY.

How It Was Started by John Jacob Astor and Continued Against All Opposition.

The purchase of Louisiana by the United States had the same effect at the beginning of the nineteenth century that the opening of the new gold fields has to-day. All the restless spirits of the day—such as have pioneered every westward movement of the race—set their faces toward a region as rich in precious furs as Spanish Eldorado was in gold.

From St. Louis and Detroit and Michilimackinac, which were the outermost frontiers of civilization in those days, went forth an army of ragged ratter-demons—white and half-breed and Indian, French, English, Spanish and American—without leader or commander, to conquer an empire the size of half a dozen European kingdoms.

In New York John Jacob Astor had already accumulated a fortune as a buyer of furs from American traders and as a seller to Europe.

Astor was so enamored of his plans that in 1807 he laid them before the shrewd fur merchants of Montreal and proposed a partnership that would remove all rivalry.

For the nor'westers had schemes of their own. The downfall of France in America in 1763 put an end to the favorites of the court. More than 2,000 "voyageurs," couriers des bois, man-agers de land (common raftsmen), famous hunters, traders and trappers were suddenly thrown on their own resources.

The Scotch merchants of Montreal were quick to seize the opportunity. Unit- ing as the Northwest Fur company, they engaged the entire retinue of east- of-Frenchmen, woodcraftsmen who knew every path and stream from Labrador to the Rocky mountains.

On the other hand, when a man begins to take to the trolley car, the steam car and to the carriage in making his daily trips, he loses all that feeling which is necessary as a tonic to the muscular walls of his abdomen and intestines.

It may be thought that my theory is wrong, but I'll give you as one proof of it the fact that there is little appendicitis in the country, while the cities and suburban towns are scourged with it.

Rebuffed at Montreal, Astor turned to the other great fur-trading center of America—St. Louis. St. Louis lay at the gateway of the coveted land.

Rejection had on Astor's purpose the same effect as a blow—it hardened his determination. If his plans roused jealousy or resentment among rivals, they surely were not fatuous.

Here, then, were three powers ready to spring at one another's throats for the possession of an unknown land; one, the power of a single master mind, John Jacob Astor, of New York; the second, Nor'westers, whose partners, swift, indomitable and irresistible, pushed into the fur country; the third, St. Louis traders, who were closer to the coveted ground than their rivals by the width of half a continent.

A Pulse Register.

Watching the pulse aided seriously to the strain upon the surgeon during an operation under chloroform, cocaine or ether. This is done automatically by the new pulse register of Dr. Gartner, of Vienna, which consists of a watch-like box, to be attached to the patient's forearm, the hands upon a graduated dial being made by an elastic spring to register very precisely the pulse and blood pressure vibrations.

Where She Had Felt. "See here!" exclaimed Mr. Clubb, upon discovering next morning that all his "change" was gone, "during your talk to me when I came in late last night I believe you remarked, among other things, that 'woman feels where man thinks.'"

"I did," replied his wife. "You have no feeling, and—"

"Well, I merely want to say you're mistaken if you suppose I do my thinking in my pockets."—Catholic Standard Times.

BRINGS APPENDICITIS

RIDING ON TROLLEY CARS SAID TO BE A PROLIFIC CAUSE.

Weakness and Lack of Exercise Held to Blame for Increasing Number of Victims to the Affection.

"The trolley car is largely responsible for the alarming increase of appendicitis," said Dr. Thomas W. Lantieri, of Morristown, N. J., to a reporter for the N-Y World Tribune.

"You think, perhaps, that when I mention the trolley car as the cause of this disease I am joking, but it is a terrible reality, as I can readily show you. Do not think that electricity or the wires or the trolley wheels have anything to do with the disease. It is not a germ disease, although cases of it have become so numerous recently as to make it appear almost epidemic, but that is impossible, because it is not in any sense of the word contagious.

"Some thousands of ages ago when the human animal was probably an amphibian, living in swamps and marshes along the seacoast, and getting its sustenance from succulent roots and herbs, the digestive economy was much more elaborate than at present, the reason being that the food on which the human animal at that time lived was such that it could not be assimilated as readily as now. It had not gone through any of the various processes which we now give to it."

"We don't know that the human animal ever had more than one stomach, but we are quite sure that the vermiform appendix, which is now a rudimentary organ, was ages ago a large pouch in which much of the food was secreted before being passed into the large intestinal canal."

"It is just at that point in the body where it can make the most trouble, because if the entrance to the vermiform appendix is not kept tightly closed small particles of waste can be forced into it, and there is no means of their being again forced out. That causes appendicitis, but when a man is active in his feet, when he is doing considerable walking, there is no danger of his having appendicitis, for the reason that the abdominal muscles are kept continually active, and so are in good working order all the while. The jolting given to a man's interior economy when he walks causes the muscles of the abdomen and the intestines to continually contract to offset the jar of his step, and thus they are always in perfect condition. When the contractile function of intestinal organs is operative, the entrance to the appendix is always closed, hence the individual has no fear of appendicitis."

"On the other hand, when a man begins to take to the trolley car, the steam car and to the carriage in making his daily trips, he loses all that feeling which is necessary as a tonic to the muscular walls of his abdomen and intestines. So when we see a man begin to get flat belly and potbelly, we immediately say that there is a good subject for appendicitis."

"It may be thought that my theory is wrong, but I'll give you as one proof of it the fact that there is little appendicitis in the country, while the cities and suburban towns are scourged with it. If the human animal wants to conserve his strength and preserve his health, let him walk, and let him be careful to keep the abdominal muscles strong and the intestinal muscles active."

THE FIRST FLYING MACHINE

Noted Chicago Judge Places the Bicycle in That Distinguished Position.

In the midst of the business of his court Judge P. S. Grosscup, United States circuit court of appeals, Chicago, famed almost as widely for his progressive ideas as for his just and dignified rulings, paused long enough to hand down an opinion which will be of great interest to all who are taking note of the progress being made in the acceleration of pace.

"The bicycle is the first effort of the human race to fly. It keeps us as yet close to the ground, but higher flight will come in time. The one who rides the bicycle is out of his nest only a little earlier than the one who does not."

This is a decision as wise and as suggestive as the more pretentious edicts of the bench he so nobly honors, and it is as well worth his while. One does fly when on his wheel, and it is a flight swift enough for all practical purposes, several times swifter and more enduring in its swiftness than he could walk or run, swifter than any horse or sail. It takes little more effort, relatively, than the bird uses in its flight and the cost per mile is so slight as to be inappreciable.

Where Rain Is Always Falling.

There is a group of islands to the south of New Zealand called the Sisters, or Seven Sisters, which are reputed to be subject to a practically constant rainfall. The same may be said of the islands and mainland of Tierra del Fuego, save for the difference that the rain often takes the form of sleet and snow.

On a line running round the world from four to eight or nine degrees, there are patches over which rain seldom ceases to fall. This is called the "zone of constant precipitation," but at the same time there are several localities along with it very little rainfall.