

## THE OLDEST RAILWAY

**EXCUSE IS CLAIMED FOR THE "GRANITE LINE."**

VICE President of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Offers Printed-to-Order Evidence of His Contentions.

PROFESSOR R. Todd, vice president of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, recently took a party of 20 railroad men over the company's line on an inspection tour in a special train. Every possible want of the party seemed to be anticipated, and there never was a smoother trip. There were several surprises, and one which the railroad men are now talking about is the way Mr. Todd presented printed-to-order evidence on the disputed question as to the oldest railroad in America.

The question as to which was the oldest road came up soon after the party left New York on their way to the Berkshires where they spent the first night. One of the officials said that the Baltimore & Ohio was the oldest, another said that it was a line between Schenectady and Utica, while Mr. Todd remarked that they would see the oldest railroad before the trip was over.

While they were still talking it over he scribbled off a telegram and the next day each member of the party received a printed card which read:

"Description of the tablet located near West Milton station on the East Quincy branch of the New York New Haven & Hartford railroad, commemorative of the oldest railroad in America."

Then followed the printed explanation:

"The Granite railroad, as the first transportation line on American soil, so-called, was built in the year 1827. It was about three miles long and was primarily intended to be used for the purpose of drawing the stone of which the Bunker Hill monument is built from the quarries in Quincy tide-water, near the mouth of the Neponset river. The original roadbed consisted of blocks of granite, resembling sidewalk edging-stones, placed end to end, to serve as sleepers. On the inside edge of these stones an iron rail about two and one-half inches wide and one-quarter inch thick was placed. The first railroad in America was well constructed of substantial materials. Parts of it have

survived the attacks of the drawing teeth of time for more than three-quarters of a century, and are in serviceable condition to-day."

Mr. Todd had telegraphed to New Haven for the information, and a local grocer along the line struck off the cards of information. They settled the dispute, and the united comment from the party was that it was "just like Todd."

## MANGOSTEEN A RARE FRUIT

Found Only in the Island of Jolo, But Impossible to Ship Because of Its Brittle Skin.

The mangosteen is a rare fruit found in the island of Jolo. It is about the size of an orange, chocolate-colored and has an extremely brittle skin. Inside are four white sections, which contain a colorless fluid. It is said to be the rarest known, and preservation for shipment is impossible. It is said that it is the only fruit which Queen Victoria never tasted.

The durian is another fruit peculiar to the island of Jolo. It is described as about the size of a muskmelon with the outside resembling a chestnut burr. The fruit is white and appears like cheese and Americans have named it the "vegetable hamburger." It has not yet appeared on the New York market.

The breadfruit grows about the size of a grapefruit and is present almost everywhere in the tropics. It forms the staple food of a considerable proportion of the natives of the island of the sea. The pulp is malty but very nourishing, and many people eat scarcely anything else. It is a free fruit and grows in small clusters. When ripe the fruit falls by its own weight.

## TWO LICENSES FOR GIRL.

Elizaveta for the Hand of a Young Spokane, Wash., Belle Each Gets Permit to Wed.

Wooed by a slim man and wooed by a stout man, pretty Alice Patterson, aged 17 years, of Spokane, Wash., with dreamy blue eyes and an irrepressible smile, was wedded to the man of her choice C. P. Vincent, after two distracted parents had spent several hours besieging the county auditor's office to guard the lady fair against the ejected suitor.

The disappointed lover, W. A. S. Thompson is the slim youth. He was engaged to Miss Patterson two months ago when he left for the coast. The pull upon his heart strings brought him back, and in the evening he appeared at the home of Miss Patterson, marriage license in hand.

Miss Patterson's mother disapproved him, however, and sent him dejected from the house without seeing Alice, who had ceased to love him since he left Spokane.

More New Fangled Things.

In one of the country the farmers are beginning to pipe gas for heating and lighting at their homes. Such improvements, added to free rural delivery, remarks the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, will tend to keep the boys on the farm unless they pine for harder work. Just think of a farm without the old reliable woodpile!

Gum Chewing and Insanity.

The gum is said to be good for the mind. Is another case of the curative, ask the Chicago Daily News.

## FALL OF BARRIOS' WIDOW.

Once First Lady of Guatemala Brought Before London Police Magistrate—Confesses Her Identity.

Unhappy Alvarez de Reyne Barrios, once first lady of Guatemala as wife of its president, was arraigned before a London police court magistrate the other day charged with intoxication. It is not the first time that this beautiful ~~ex-first-lady~~ ~~ex-woman~~ has ~~undergone~~ undergone her ~~best~~ ~~weakness~~.

"My husband was president of Guatemala," she told the court. "He was assassinated. I came here to see my daughter who is in a convent."

The court missionary corroborated her statement, adding that she is a confirmed atheist, who has been in the hands of Lady Henry Somerset and of different temperance organizations, but all to no purpose.

It was established that Mme. Barrios is an American woman, the daughter of Mrs. Burton-Brown, and was born in New Orleans about 30 years ago. She married Jose Maria Reina Barrios in New York while he was an exile from Guatemala because of his pronounced connection with the revolutionary party. They lived in San Francisco a time and then returned to Central America. Fortune turned for the former exile and his bride, and in 1885 he found himself dictator. He was poor then, but at the time of his assassination, in February 1898, his wealth was estimated at nearly \$10,000,000. During the later years of her husband's life she attracted world-wide attention by the extravagance of her tastes. Her jewels were magnificent.

The fortune left by her husband was swept away by confiscation and bad investments, and soon after her return to San Francisco she seriously contemplated going on the stage. After Mme. Barrios' story was told to the court she was remanded by the magistrate with a view to sending her back to her mother in New Orleans.

## STRANGE STORY OF A BILL

Reasons Given by Kentucky Judge for Keeping Twenty-Dollar Greenback for Over Twenty Years.

COUNTY JUDGE W. H. Prewitt, of Danville, Ky., has in his possession a \$20 bill which has connected with it a pathetic story of our civil war. While gathering together and arranging his personal effects, in company with several friends the other day, he pulled from an old box a \$20 bill, yellow with age, and remarked: "This must not be spent during my lifetime."

He then related the following story: "Just after the battle of Perryville I found two young confederate soldiers—two boys, about 17 or 18 years of age, lying wounded upon the field. I took them to my home, then in the neighborhood of the battlefield, and took care of them for several weeks until they had almost recovered from their wounds. One morning a company of federal soldiers surrounded my house and took us prisoners to Danville, where they kept us for several days before taking the boys to prison. When the lads were about to be taken away they gave me this \$20 for taking care of them. I refused at first, but then I insisted that I take the money, for it would be taken away from them anyway, and I would just as soon have it as anybody. I finally consented. They gave me the bill and bade me good-by as they went to prison. This was 22 years ago," said the judge, "and I have neither heard nor seen anything of the young soldiers since, but have kept this money. Many times I have been broke and in need of a dollar, but never had a desire to remove his memento decorations ere he could fill the post."

This rule is not nowadays so rigidly enforced, but it still exists in the form of a general understanding that it is the expressed wish of Baroness Burdett-Coutts that employees should keep chins, hips and cheeks nicely devoid of hair.

In not a few businesses similar restrictions are sternly imposed upon employees. For instance in the office of Messrs. Field, Farmer & Co., a New York stock broking firm, short side whiskers commonly known as "mutton-chops" are absolutely forbidden, owing to some unseemliness having arisen at one time through a partner and a clerk wearing similar hideous adornment.

## STEAMSHIP SERVICE

TESTS BEING CARRIED OUT BY STUDENTS OF TECHNOLOGY.

Valuable Investigations to Determine the Efficiency of Marine Engines—Practical Observations Are Taken.

Just now when a government commission is investigating the causes which make the operation of an American merchant marine largely unpredictable the tests being carried on by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a view to determining the efficiency of marine engines, the relation between the cost of producing and applying power and the result obtained from it, the proportion of necessary waste and loss and other items of that kind are especially valuable. And the way in which the institute has combined practical observations taken on a vessel in ordinary active

service with the application of engineering theories and the experimentation of several of its laboratories lends especial interest to the undertaking.

The first of a series of service tests to be conducted by the officers and students of technology operating with the officials of a Boston transportation company has been made on the steamer Nantucket, which plies in the coastwise service between Boston and Baltimore. Although somewhat similar tests have been made in the past no merchant steamer has ever before been so thoroughly examined in actual service, with a full cargo stowed away in her hold and the ordinary everyday life of the ship going forward as usual. The institute party accounted for practically all the coal consumed in a trip from Baltimore to Boston, for the steam generated in the boilers and the proportion of it required for each piece of apparatus, including pumps, winches and cranes, dynamos or what not, and the work done in return for the expenditure, not only in propelling the vessel, but in every mechanical detail of operating the modern steamer in ordinary traffic—illumination, heating, removal of bilge water, the loading and discharging of cargo and so on.

Many of the Nantucket passengers were doubtless unaware that any unusual investigations were in progress and no change was made in the customary routine of the voyage except for the installation of the testing apparatus in the engine-room. Here indicators and registering devices were attached to nearly every pipe and mechanism in the ship's vitals, and the student engineers worked minute by minute and hour by hour from port to port. Now, the data thus gathered is being tabulated and the various problems suggested by what was seen aboard the ship are being worked up in laboratories where pipes and valves have been arranged just as they were in the Nantucket's boiler and engine-rooms, and all the mechanical processes of propelling the vessel at sea are reproduced exactly on land, where they can be kept in continuous operation indefinitely.

QUEER RULES FOR EMPLOYEES

Some Commercial Houses in New York Put Rigid Restrictions on Hair-suits Appendages.

It is a pretty well known fact that there exists in the famous banking house of Coutts & Co. of New York city, a rule that the members of the office staff shall be clean shaven.

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