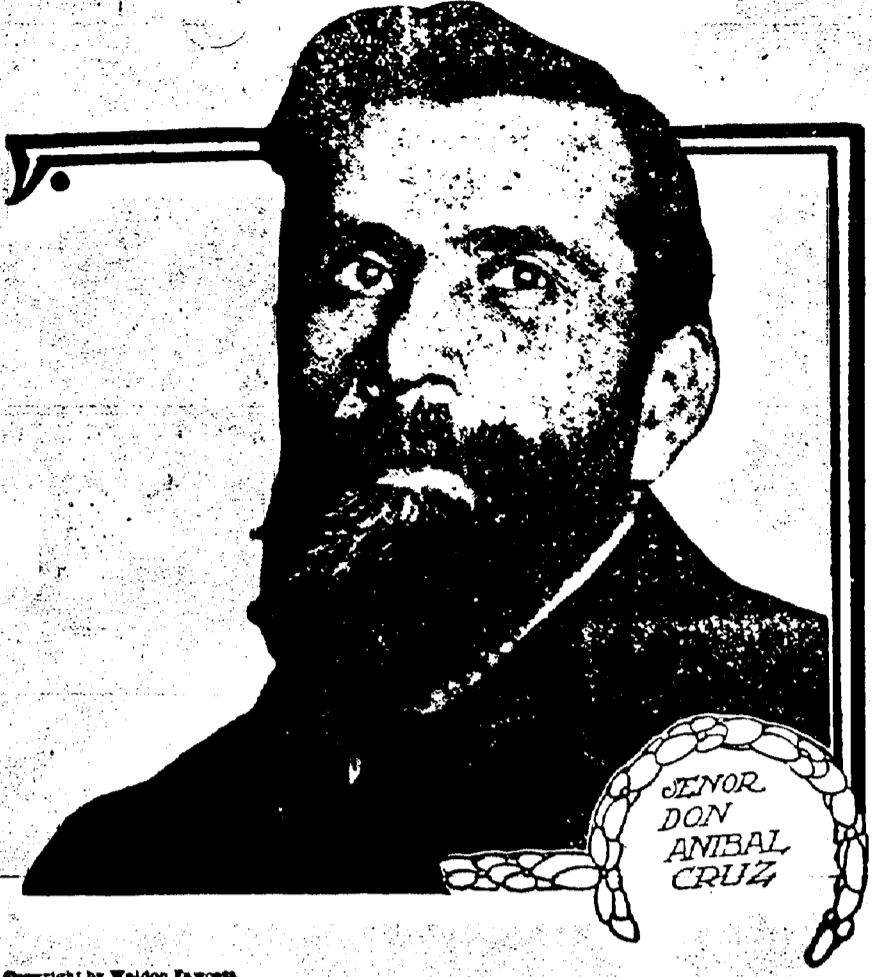


SOUTH AMERICAN DIPLOMAT



Don Anibal Cruz, New Minister of Chile to the United States.

LOVE NOTES IN TREE

OLD ROMANCE REVEALED BY FINDING OF LETTERS.

Are Dated 1881 and Squirrels Probably Were Responsible for the Unhappiness of a Man and a Woman.

New York.—In the hollow of an old tree which they chopped down in a field near Richfield, N. J., the other day workmen found two letters. The first was in a woman's hand. It said: "Dear Jim: I got your letter all right the day after it was left there—our little post office—but it is only now that I have had a chance to leave a reply. I think you meant what you said, although at times I have believed that you were untrue. I have been watched since your letter came, and had a long wait before the opportunity arrived for me to slip out with the reply. I want to meet you some night—say, next Thursday—and we will both go away together. I will be ready, and if you are not on hand and the letter is gone I'll be convinced that you don't want me. Then I'll go away myself, and you'll never again hear from me. Good-by.—Alice."

This was dated Wednesday, June 10, 1881. The other letter, written in a man's hand, was dated ten days later. It read thus: "Dear Alice: I have waited so long for a reply that I have begun to think that you have gone back on me. I have come to the tree many times, and looked in vain for an answer. Night and day I have thought of you, wondering if it could be possible that you had forsaken me. I have heard all about the other fellow, but cannot make myself believe that you care for him. I will wait five days more. Then if I don't hear from you I will be convinced that I am not wanted. After that I will leave you alone to enjoy the happiness which you may find with him. I'll go far away from here and try to forget.—Jim."

There was a small opening in the tree about seven feet from the ground. From this opening the hollow, bored out by squirrels, ran clear to the ground. The woodchoppers believe that the missives fell or were dragged clear to the ground after they had been deposited in the "post office." "Alice" and "Jim" were probably in the habit of leaving letters in the aperture, which could be taken out with the hand until the squirrels had bored up to the bottom and reached the point where the letters lay soon after the girl left her last message there. Both letters were crumpled and eaten away at the edges, giving rise to the belief that they were probably dragged down into the hollow trunk by the squirrels.

SENT TO PRISON FOR MINUTE.

Seattle Man Released Before Sentence Expires on Good Behavior.

Seattle, Wash.—What is regarded as the shortest sentence ever imposed in this country on a person charged with crime was fixed by Judge Frater in the criminal department of the superior court when he sentenced Garfield Long to serve one minute on a charge of petty larceny. Sentence was suspended during good behavior.

Long was arrested several days ago on information accusing him of having stolen five dollars from the purse of Miss Miss Fletcher, his landlady. When arraigned Long entered a plea of guilty. Many persons appeared and entered pleas for clemency on the ground of the young man's previous good conduct and his evident intention of leading a better life.

Swallows Pencil, But Lives. Rhinelauder, Wis.—Surgeons removed a lead pencil seven inches long from the body of August Peterson, who swallowed it two months ago. Having recovered his pencil, Peterson now is recovering his health.

KISSES HALT U. S. MARSHAL.

Henkel Has to Wait for Goldman to Deal Them Out to Nine.

Philadelphia.—"I'm only going up the street a few doors with this gentleman," said Louis Goldman to his wife the other afternoon. "I'll be back shortly." Goldman's nine little children were to be kissed, as was their custom when their father departed. One by one he took them up in his arms. When it came to the sixth he turned to the caller and hoped he wasn't in a hurry.

"Oh, no," replied the caller. "I have ten at home myself, and am with Mr. Roosevelt on the home question—and in several other things also."

Then Mr. Goldman departed with his caller, United States Marshal Henkel, and they went up the street a few doors to the Ludlow street jail, where Goldman expects to remain some time. The marshal locked him up on an order signed by Judge Hough in the United States district court for contempt of court for having failed to turn over to his trustee in bankruptcy the sum of \$9,768, and also possession of a saloon in Brooklyn, which Goldman formerly owned.

It is claimed that the bankrupt concealed and withheld from his creditors the money and property. Failing to obey the injunction of the court and turn them over to Trustee Olivet, Judge Hough ordered him locked up until he pays it. Then, and then only, will he be "back shortly."

TOWN HAS 200 WIDOWS.

"Relicts" of Vinton, Ia., Propose to Make Hay in Leap Year.

Des Moines, Ia.—Vinton, Ia., is said to have more widows than any other town of 3,000 population. But that is not all. For the widows have issued public notice through the Vinton papers that they propose to make the most of leap year. All widowers and bachelors in Vinton are warned to be on their guard.

This is the way the widows first gave notice of what they intend to do:

"Dear Editor: Did you know that Vinton is full of handsome widows? And some of them are well to do. This is leap year, and the widows intend to get out and look for men. We have a few widowers, but they are afraid to look at a woman for fear people will talk."

This open letter appeared in a Vinton paper. The editor began an investigation. He discovered, he says, that there are more than 200 widows in Vinton. It is said that they are holding meetings and that they intend to plan a campaign such as was never known before and which will result in a wholesale thinning out of the lonely ones.

There are no reports as yet that any of the Vinton widowers have taken to the woods.

Curses Kissing Peddler.

York, Pa.—A stout foreign peddler called at the home of D. Curwin Conway, Dallastown, to offer tinware for the house, said:

"What a fine-looking woman you are. I'd like to kiss you!"

As the peddler attempted to embrace her Mrs. Conway threw the door shut in such a manner that his head was caught between its edge and the jamb. The peddler, choked almost to death, screamed and bellowed for mercy till men came and hustled him out of town.

Potatoes for Bluejackets.

Washington.—The chances are that the battleship fleet will run short of potatoes before reaching San Francisco. To meet this situation the navy department has arranged for transport several hundred tons of potatoes from San Francisco to Magdalena bay on one of the colliers attached to the fleet. The supply is to be on hand when the battleships arrive.

FREES SWEETHEART

NEBRASKA MAN OWES PARDON TO FAITHFUL WOMAN.

Her Unceasing Efforts to Have Lover Released from Prison Are Finally Successful—Couple Go from Cell to Altar.

Lincoln, Neb.—"I can take him and make a man of him, governor!" declared Inga Andersen.

And Gov. Sheldon, looking at the strong young Swede-girl's determined face, suddenly decided that she probably could. So after six weeks of consideration he signed a commutation and Inga Andersen and John Martin were married on St. Valentine's night at Beatrice, Neb.

It was the week before Christmas that Inga Andersen, fortified by the gold she had wrung from the hard Alaskan soil, reached Lincoln and began her battle for her sweetheart's freedom. Her sweetheart was John Martin and he was serving the third year of a five-year penitentiary sentence for working the old "padlock game" on rural visitors to the Nebraska state fair.

Some little time before this escapade Martin had lost his job on the railroad and was trying to get together enough money to take him to Idaho, where Inga, to whom he was engaged, was working as a cook for a mining camp.

Not long after Martin's sentence Inga, whose fame as a cook had spread, was offered a position as cook for a mining party going at once to Alaska. The excellent wages attracted her and she decided to go. Her party located about 100 miles from Dawson City, and each man staked out a claim for himself. One by one they "struck it rich." Suddenly Inga decided that she, too, would have a claim, and staked out one not far from the camp. She took to rising between three and four o'clock in the morning to perform miracles of cooking. Between meals she worked at placer mining. Presently she also "struck it rich." She worked diligently until she had accumulated a sack of gold dust "as big as a Paris hat." Then, to the dismay of the camp, to whom the loss of their paragon cook was a real tragedy, she announced her intention of returning to Nebraska "to free John." She arranged for the working of her claim on shares and took the next boat for Seattle.

She went straight to Gov. Sheldon's office from the railway station when she reached Lincoln. Decided annoyance was expressed by her at the delay of two weeks, which she there found was necessary owing to the law which now makes it obligatory to advertise a pardon hearing for that length of time. However, she lost no time in advertising it. No lawyers were engaged by Miss Andersen.

"I will plead my own case," she said. "I know more about the case than any lawyer, and I have the outcome more at heart."

And plead it she did, both in and out of season. One day Gov. Sheldon was sitting quietly in his inner office meditating on weighty matters when he was amazed to have the door burst violently open and to see Inga swooping down upon him. She flung herself on her knees at his feet and with the tears raining down her face besought the chief executive to give her back her sweetheart. As soon as the governor could disengage his knees he called Miss Kany, his stenographer, to the aid of the weeping woman, but he was soon taking long steps toward the executive mansion, where he was quite positive there was something he had forgotten.

At last, however, he decided to sign the commutation, and it was a happy young woman who gayly set out in an open carriage for the penitentiary on the morning of St. Valentine's day. She had arrayed herself in her wedding gown, a lacy, filmy affair from New York; a light wrap and long kid gloves. She did the driving herself. The morning was crisp, clear and cold. Miss Andersen, used to the rigors of an Alaskan winter, had forgotten that Nebraska weather in the winter time is occasionally colder than it looks. By the time she reached the penitentiary she was nearly frozen and was so stiff that she had to be assisted out of the carriage and into the building. For the drive back into town she bought a man's overcoat from one of the guards and put it on over her finery.

The two drove back to Lincoln just in time to take the Burlington train for Beatrice. They were married there that night.

Weds to Set Example.

Vineland, N. J.—William Dawson, one of Vineland's pioneers, and who is "82 years young," surprised the town with the announcement of his wedding. The bride is Mrs. Mary Curley. The wedding was a home affair, the ceremony being performed by Borough Recorder Browns. The venerable bridegroom does not believe it good for man to be alone and married to "set the young men a good example."

Nine Children at Four Births.

London.—Mrs. Howell, Bridgenorth road, Wolverhampton, has given birth to triplets, two boys and a girl, and all are doing well. Application is to be made for the king's bounty. Mrs. Howell has given birth to twins on three occasions. She has, therefore, had nine children at four births.

SMOKING DOES NOT HARM.

Average Columbia Student Who Indulges is Stronger Than Others.

New York.—Smokers need no longer take to heart the advice of their physicians to give up the use of tobacco, because from statistics just compiled by Dr. George L. Meylan, the gymnasium director at Columbia university, it is shown that the average college student or Columbia student at any rate, who smokes, is healthier and stronger physically than the average non-smoker.

Dr. Meylan began making tests two years ago and since that time he has examined 687 men, most of them freshmen. His tests were intended to determine the effect not only of tobacco, but also of alcoholic beverages on the average college man.

Dr. Meylan believed that the results of the tests would bear out the results of the work of Dr. Seaver of Yale, who found that smoking and drinking, as practiced at the New Haven university, tended to stunt the growth and impair the physical fitness of the students. But much to his surprise Dr. Meylan found that Columbia men thrive on tobacco—and may be alcoholic beverages, too—and that their general physical condition, which takes into account their height, weight, lung capacity, and the total strength, is relatively greater than that of the students who do not smoke.

ANTIQUES BOUGHT FOR SONG.

Scores of Colonial Relics of All Kinds Sold for Few Cents.

Hartford, Conn.—Notwithstanding the industry of searchers for old furniture and old china of the colonial period for years past, finds of antiques are still made occasionally on Connecticut farms.

The other day a book agent who knew about old furniture and crockery happened to call about dinner time at a farmhouse a few miles out of Hartford. The owner of the farm was a widower of 70, the sole remaining descendant of a noted lawyer of the latter part of the eighteenth century. The farmhouse had been the homestead of the family since 1730, and when the visitor was shown into the front parlor he found a dozen Chippendale chairs there.

Although the oaken ceiling of the dining room showed the dust of generations and the floor was warped, in one corner stood a Hepplewhite sideboard propped up on three legs. A mahogany block front desk, carved tables and colonial mirrors were a few of the treasures that the attic disclosed, all of which the owner was glad to exchange for the money that would buy her modern luxuries.

It is leaked out later that a traveling collector has unearched in a neighboring house and carried away for 15 cents a Crown Derby cup and saucer that he sold later for \$30.

JUDGE REFEREES FIGHT.

Declares Owner of Dog Can Protect His Property.

Spokane, Wash.—Declaring the shepherd dog killed the bulldog in self-defense and that its owner merely exercised his right in protecting the animal, Police Judge Hinkle dismissed the charge of cruelty to animals laid against George Hepton by Robert Clark, following a long-drawn-out trial at which scores of witnesses were summoned on both sides to testify as to the biting ability and the character of the canines.

This is the first time that the presiding officer of a court of record in eastern Washington has been called upon to referee a dog fight which he did not witness. The evidence showed that the bulldog was the aggressor, attacking the shepherd dog, which was sunning itself on the porch of the Hepton home. Experts on "dogology" were called by the court to testify to the fighting qualities of the two breeds, also which was able to sustain its grip the longer. Opinions varied, but the court held, in a lengthy decision, that neither of the dogs had the advantage until after Hepton intervened, when the bulldog turned tail and fell dead in its tracks, adding: "But for this defendant cannot be held responsible."

Chicken Stealing a Felony.

Jefferson City, Mo.—The law making chicken stealing at any hour of the day or night a felony was held to be valid by an opinion written by Judge Gantt.

Formerly the law was that it was felony only to loot a hen roost during the hours of the night. Then it was amended, making it a felony to lift the proud Missouri hen at any hour. The case came from Boone county, and the defendants were two white men, Burch Johnson and Richard Estes, who were fined \$25 each for stealing some fine pullets that belonged to their neighbors. Judge Gantt says the law is valid and constitutional.

Pay \$40 Apiece for Pennies.

New York.—Record prices were obtained for several rare coins at the sale of the collection of the late Dudley R. Child of Boston. Three penny pieces struck by John Higley of Granby, Conn., in 1737, bearing the motto, "Follow me as you please; I cut my way through," brought \$40 each. Massachusetts Pine Tree money dated 1652 ranged from \$7.50 to \$21 apiece.

A silver dollar dated 1851 was sold for \$56. A gold piece known as the "Stella," issued as a pattern in 1879, brought \$66.50, the previous high price being \$60.

WAR TO BE SILENT

NOISELESS GUN IS INVENTED BY SIR HIRAM MAXIM'S SON.

Possibilities of Such a Weapon So Dreadful That Authorities Believe Manufacture Should Be Regulated by Government.

New York.—Hiram Percy Maxim, son of Sir Hiram Maxim, inventor of the machine gun which bears his name, has secured patents for a silent firearm. It is announced that by the use of the device patented the discharge of any firearm from the smallest pistol to the largest gun is rendered practically noiseless. The invention consists of the use of a device similar to the "muffler" used on motor cars to deaden the noise of the constant explosions by which the gasoline engine is operated. It is in the shape of a muffler attached to the muzzle of the firearm through which the gases which drive out the bullet or shell are allowed to escape gradually without the effect of an explosion.

By this device which does not alter the appearance of any weapon except for a small crosspiece in the barrel a short distance from the muzzle, the escape of the gases following the discharge of the explosive is shut off just as the bullet emerges from the muzzle. This result is obtained by means of a piston valve sliding across the bore of the barrel immediately after the bullet passes. This valve is governed entirely by the pressure of the gases themselves and is not operated by any intricate mechanical device.

Preventing the gases from escaping suddenly and provoking a consequent loud report, this valve allows them to issue gradually through a series of small holes, thus obviating all noise except a slight hissing sound. The valve then resumes an open position and a safety device prevents the firing of another cartridge unless the valve is in its proper place.

Military experts, apprised of the new invention, assert that it holds the power to force revolution of modern methods of warfare. By use of this noiseless weapon skirmishers could work along an enemy's front and shoot down pickets without their presence being noted except upon the discernment of the slain. Sharpshooters would be enabled to pick off their victims without reports of weapons betraying their positions.

In the world of sport it is held by the inventor that the new weapon would render it possible for a man properly concealed to kill at his leisure probably every deer in a surprised herd, as no alarm would be sounded. From his cover on shore a man armed with this noiseless gun might pick off every bird in a flock without alarming the lessening number to flight.

Because of its dreadful possibilities in the world of crime many police officials have already insisted that the manufacture and disposal of the new device should be safeguarded by law. Armed with such a weapon a policeman might be enabled to disable every member of a band of lawbreakers should he surprise them at work. On the other hand, it would be equally dangerous in the possession of a desperate criminal. The assassin, by its use, would be enabled to pick off his victim and find opportunity of escaping.

CHURCH ORGAN STARTS ROW.

"Devil's Music Box" Now Chained to Floor.

Diamond Grove, Mo.—With wife opposing husband and children taking sides against parents—thrilling times and possible criminal court proceedings are in store for the congregation of the Diamond Grove Christian church.

Diamond Grove is a small mining settlement several miles east of Joplin. An organ was the cause of it all. The organ was purchased recently on the installment plan by the Ladies' Aid society of the church. The faction which later became known as the "antiprogessives" demanded that the "devil's music box" be removed. The "progressives" consulted a Joplin lawyer, after which they informed the "ants" that the organ must remain.

Soon after this declaration the organ was found in a woodshed back of the church, and suspicion fell on the anti chiefly because several members of this faction were seen to carry the instrument from the church. That night a band of husky progressives reinstated the organ and chained it to the floor.

Threats have been made that arrests will follow if the anti attempt to carry out their avowed intentions "to lambast the devil out of the contraption with axes."

Vassar Girls Study Boys.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—The students at Vassar college have joined with the city court officers in an effort to solve the problem of truancy in the public schools.

Miss Inez Mulholland, president of the junior class at Vassar, with several other students, visited Chief of Police McCabe and received permission to study the system of probation which is in vogue.

MAUD'S VALUE GROWING.

Litigation Over a \$35 Horse Costs Hundreds of Dollars.

Watertown, S. D.—Whoever wants a horse can have one cheap in Codington county, just now, if they apply at the right place, for a particularly sightless sorrel raw-boned mare named Maud is causing three prominent farmers of the west end of the county so much trouble that it is thought they even will pay something to be rid of the "critter." In fact, the animal has cost them nearly \$200 already and bids fair to be worth \$1,000 (to the lawyers) before she is disposed of.

Thomas Kiley started the trouble by buying Maud for \$35, believing her to be worth that. This was at an auction, and when he inspected his purchase after she had passed out from under the auctioneer's hammer he says he promptly discovered that she was not worth 30 cents and so refused to pay what he had bid. Suit was instituted in justice court to compel him to pay and he lost. He then appealed the case to the circuit court where he lost again.

He then secured a transcript of the evidence; had his attorney draw a bill of exceptions and asked Judge Marquis for a new trial. This was granted and at the May term of circuit court Maud once more will be put in jeopardy as to who her owner is.

And all the time she is getting more valuable, for to begin with, so it is alleged, she was not worth a red cent, but she since has cost \$35 purchase price, \$50 justice trial fees, \$100 circuit court trial, \$100 attorney fees and other costs for appeal—and there is yet the May retrial to pay for.

ARMY ROMANCE'S HAPPY END.

Soldier, Supposed to Be Dead, Returns to His Sweetheart.

Beverly, N. J.—An army romance underlies the marriage of James F. Cannon and Miss Clara Poole, daughter of John T. Poole of Jacksonville, near here, who were united in wedlock by Justice of the Peace Stevenson.

Ten years ago Cannon left his mother and sweetheart to fight for his country. Fate sent him to the Philippine islands, where he remained during the war. When he returned to his native land he was a physical wreck, and was confined in a hospital at San Francisco for nearly a year. Reports were received here that he had died, but his aged mother comforted the sweetheart with the hope that he was not dead, and would some time return.

Like a message from the grave a year ago came a letter from Cannon, saying he had recovered and, expecting to strike it rich in California, had not written to them, believing he could return with a grander surprise. He added that his dreams of wealth had faded; that he had re-enlisted in the army, and was making efforts to be transferred to the east. Two weeks ago he succeeded in being transferred to Fort Mott, N. J.

PUZZLE OVER MERCURY.

Professor Says There Are No Planets Between It and Sun.

San Francisco.—That there are no planets between the sun and Mercury and that scientists must find another theory to explain why Mercury does not move in the regular orbit described for it are the conclusions Prof. W. W. Campbell, head of the Lick Observatory, has reached from the development of photographic plates taken at Flint Island several months ago. The plates show the complete absence of any planet between the sun and Mercury.

For 50 years astronomers have been puzzled by the problem that Mercury does not follow the path which should be its natural course, and which mathematical astronomy has outlined for it. That there was a force pulling it from its orbit and that this force was the attraction of planets between it and the sun was the general theory.

Prof. Campbell said: "These photographic plates dispose of this theory, and mathematicians will have to look elsewhere for forces. While the plates have not received their final development, they make the absence of planets certain."

Yarn of a Duck's Crop.

Lawrenceburg, Ind.—While Mrs. Michael Brennen, living on the farm of Edward D. Hayes, a prominent real estate broker of this city, was dressing a duck which had been presented to her husband by Mr. Hayes as a birthday gift, she found lodged in the crop of the fowl a 1 1/4-carat diamond. Mrs. Brennen was much elated over her find until she remembered hearing Mrs. Hayes say that she had lost a stone from a valuable brooch several days before, and, rightly conjecturing that she had found the missing gem, she hastened to this city, where the stone was identified as being the one lost by Mrs. Hayes. Mrs. Brennen was liberally rewarded.

R. E. Peary Buys Sixteen Islands.

Lawrenceburg, Me.—Lieut. Robert E. Peary has sprung a surprise on the real estate dealers by quietly buying up the titles to 16 of the islands in Casco bay which are near his summer home on Eagle Island. On some of these islands Lieut. Peary will breed Eskimo dogs. In fact, he has already begun to do so, owning 50 of the finest of these animals. The pups find a ready sale at \$50 each. For one of his dogs, a pure white specimen, he has been offered an enormous price, but refused to sell.