PRANKS OF COMPASS

FAITH IN NEEDLE HAS BROUGHT WOE TO MANY LAKE SHIPS.

Vessels to the Number of 217 Struck
Bottom Last Year—Steel Hulks
and Magnetic Cargoes
Make Trouble.

Chicago.—Faith in the popular superstition that the needle of the compass points to the north was the cause of 217 unpremeditated encounters between lake steamers and the lake bot-

tom last year.

Compass point north, indeed! Why, as long ago as Columbus time it was discovered that the needle was willful, and America came near not being discovered for a century or two more in consequence. But it has remained for modern mariners to discover the true pranks of the magnetic bit of

When they boxed the compass on the United States battleship Maine II. it was found that the supposedly trustworthy needle pointed southeast. If the helmsman had laid out a course for Greenland by that compass he might have brought up all standing on the Cape of Good Hope.

The perversion of the magnet was explained by the undue attraction of a couple of steel turrets and a 12-inch gun. The mariner thereupon made allowance for this untoward influence and salled the seas with entire precision.

The growth of the merchant marine on the great lakes, the introduction of steel hulls and the hugeness of such cargoes as are carried in ore, usually magnetic, has disturbed the accuracy of the compasses on these inland waters, hence the increasing number of bumps on the subaqueous landscape.

A chart of the strandings for the last year has been forwarded from Washington to the local hydrographic office. It shows that groundings occur most frequently in the straits, the narrows where Lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron growneighborty. White Fish point, in Lake Superior, has witnessed more than its share of strandings at that

ings at that.

The south end of Lake Michigan has been rather free from these unseemly happenings, though one boat went hard aground in the north branch of the Chicago river and a couple touched bottom with more or less violence near Indiana harbor during the

The 217 instances noted by the government cartographers were all of a serious nature. Only two strandings were accompanied by loss of life, but all of them occasioned damage of some measure of costliness.

Ignorance of the compass is given as the direct cause of these difficulties. It is pointed out that loss of life and money, not to mention unwarranted delays, would be saved yearly if the seamen knew of a few more of the fine points about the deviation of the compass from the magnetic

The Chicago hydrographicoffice now is given credit for doing more than any other for the training of seamen. Large numbers are given instruction every winter, and the office already has an enviable record for turning out competent shipmasters.

BIG HORN FOR ROOSEVELT.

Unearthly Toots Sure to Put Any Rhinoceros Into Trance.

Waterbury, Conn.—Residents of this town who have passed sleepless nights recently trying to fathom unearthly tooting sounds emanating from a factory here have been relieved to learn that the weird toots were merely the rehearsal efforts of a bugle inventor who has built a 17-inch hunting horn, supposedly for President Roosevelt's use on his African trip.

The horn is formed like a clarinet and has five keys which, when properly manipulated, produce a musical melange guaranteed to put a white rhinoceros into a trance. Inhabitants who have heard the horn say it can make a noise that would frighten at trust magnate.

The man who discovered the combination of reeds that produce the musical melange stowed away in the horn is said to be "Tody" Hamilton. The report is that he discovered it while trying to find some musical combination that would keep order in a circus menagerie. Whether this is true or not, the horn can certainly emit the strangest and most terrifying bunch of notes that ever gave a music lover the "hypos."

Maine Socks for Teddy.

Boston.—When Theodore Roosevelt starts on his African journey he will take with him a pair of the warmest of Maine hose—Aroostook county knit socks. They were made from yarn carded and spun in an Aroostook county mill, and one of the two women who worked on the knitting is bilind

The president has sent a personal letter of thanks, with his photograph to Mrs. Flavilla E. Caldwell of Sherman Mills.

Weed Caused "Rheumatism."
Richmond, Ind.—After suffering with what she thought was rheumatism for five years. Miss Mabel Hunicutt of Economy learned the affiction in her wrist was due to a piece of ragweed that had imbedded itself there. Five years ago Miss Hunnicutt was playing basket-ball in an open field, at which time her hand was injured, but the presence of the ragweed was not discovered.

THE HOBO'S WORKING CARD.

Alexander Law, Champion of Unemployed, Gives Them Out.

Washington. — Alexander Law of New York, who says he is national chairman of the Brotherhood. Welfare Association and the Unemployed, visited the White House, the capitol and many newspaper offices the other day distributing the literature of the organization and giving out what is known as "the hobo's working card," or card of membership. Law did not see the president. The hobo working card states the object of the order as

follows:
1. To bring together the unorganized workers.

To utilize unused land, tools and men.
 3. To be true to the religion of

labor.

Mr. Law has many schemes for the amelioration of men, and he talked about them to many persons. The big thing, he says, is the perfecting of a world-wide organization of the unemployed. There are many tramps, he says, who are not tramps from choice, but would work if they had the opportunity; but he would not have them work more than eight hours a day. Mr. Law is also president of the Eight Hour league. He and his colleagues are engaged in securing the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to be known as "Article XVI.-The Right to Work." This proposed

article reads as follows:

The opportunity to work shall be guaranteed to all citizens of the United States, regardless of creed, color or sex, and the government failing to provide the same shall provide proper means of support to those unable to find work.

The congress shall have power to enforce the provisions of this article by appropri-

PLAY FOR DINNER GUESTS.

ate legislation.

John Borden of Chicago Bought Out

Chicago.—Merely as an incident to a dinner party which they gave to a few friends the other night, Mr. and Mrs. John Borden closed a downtown theater and moved the company out to their Bellevue place mansion.

The theater closed for the night in order that the Borden guests might be regaled with the Great Northern show. The performers engaged were the Williams and Walker Comedy company. Mr. Borden bought out the house and when the company was taken to the Borden home the members found that the drawing room had been transformed into a theater and a stage with elaborate and ingenious lighting effects had been contrived. It was an unprecedented thing in Chicago theatrical circles and when this fact was called to the attention of Mr. Borden

he replied, with a wave of his hand:
"Nothing out of the ordinary at all.
Just a little entertainment for our
guests. There's really nothing extraordinary about it, I assure you. I'm
sure it has been done quite often be-

Nevertheless, some very wealthy men and women who attended the dinner were staggered by the Borden's magnificent idea of "a little entertainment," and they have seen about all that is lavish in the way of entertainment recently.

WOW! PURPLE DRESS SUIT!

Wall Street Broker Appears in Gorgeous Evening Clothes.

New York.—Louis F. Newman, a Wall street broker, appeared in the main dining-room of the Plaza at the dinner hour the other night, wearing evening clothes of purple hue. Until his appearance nobody at the Plaza had ever seen a suit of purple evening clothes.

Mr. Newman was accompanied by his wife. To the friends who visited them at their table, both Mr. and Mrs. Newman said they thought it likely that it may not be long before other men are wearing evening clothes the color of which will be something other than the conventional black.

With Mr. Newman's symphony in purple the owner wears a white ribbon attached to his eyeglasses and patent leather shoes with white tops.

patent leather shoes with white tops.
"I wear purple," he said, "because black is tiresome. I think men should wear more color in their clothing, anyway. Color brightens up the world, and that is what we are all here for."

Vest Button in Heart.

Denver.—An autopsy performed on the body of Fred Pomplitz, who was 67 years old, revealed a black vest button embedded in the beart over the right auricle. Dr. W. G. Mudd and Dr.—J.—P. Hamill made the autopsy. This was not all, for they found in the spleen of the same person a piece of rock two inches in diameter, one aighth of an inch thick and an eighth of an inch wide.

The doctor's theory is that he swallowed the button by accident, that it stuck in the bronchial tubes and by a process of ulceration was carried into the vena cava. The "rock" in the spleen was caused by salt concretion from the blood.

Clew to Lost Napoleon Mask.

New Orleans. La.—Information is said to have been received here that may lead to the recovery of the death mask of Napoleon, which disappeared

from the city hall in the early '70's.

The cast was presented to the city in 1834 by Dr. Antommachi, who attended Napoleon during his imprison-

ment on the Island of St. Helena.

A woman, whose name is not made public, has notified the mayor that she believes she can point out the whereabouts of the missing relic.

PLANS DEATH FIGHT

YALE MAN WOULD ADD THIRD TO SPAN OF LIFE.

Dr. Fisher Urges Insurance Companies
to Educate People in Hygienic
Conditions for This
Purpose.

New York.—The span of human life may be increased one-third by the application of reforms now known to modern hygiene.

The statement was made the other day by Dr. Irving Fisher, professor of political economy at Yale and president of the committee of one hundred on national health.

Dr. Fisher proposed the expenditure of money by life insurance companies in a campaign of education to improve hygienic conditions throughout the United States. He gave as his justification for this suggestion the fact that practical application of all the reforms now known to modern hygiene would increase the average length of life in America more than 15 years—or over one-third.

This decreased mortality, he said, would so lessen the cost of insurance that the returns to policyholders would be many times more than the original expenditure. Then, too, there would be a vast economic gain to the country in general by reason of the prolongation of the lives of trained, efficient men.

Dr. Fisher made these statements to a meeting of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents which was attended by company executives, medical directors and actuaries, as well as physicians and others prominent in the present anti-tuberculosis crusade.

"The insurance men whom I have consulted as to whether it would pay life insurance companies to engage in the saving of lives have been unanimous in their belief that the step would be a profitable one," said Dr.

"A fall of the death rate always promptly follows sanitation. Col. Goergas cut the death rate in Havana in two, bringing it down to between 20 and 24. The New York death rate responded at once to Col. Waring's clean streets and that of Rochester to Dr. Goler's milk crusade. And now it is announced that the death rate of New York is 16.5, the lowest on roc-

"Tuberculosis is known to be preventable. In my table, it is entered as 75 per cent. preventable; pneumonia as 45 per cent. preventable; typhoid as 85 per cent.; diphtheria 70 per cent.

"According to the plans which I have in mind, the money which the life insurance companies would invest in life saving would not be in hospitals or sanatoria, but in the education of the public, and especially their policyholders, in health matters and the joining in every legitimate way to improve the public health offices and services in the municipalities, wasters and the federal government.

states and the federal government. "Just as fire insurance companies endeavor to secure in municipalities adequate fire protection, so life insurance companies might properly endeavor to secure adequate municipal health protection, and they might likewise bring their influence to bear to secure the passage of model health laws by our states in respect to slaughter houses, pure food, and other health reforms. It is agreed by all competent judges that there is now a great and needless waste of human life, and it is obvious that the financial weight of this waste falls largely on the policyholders."

Dr. Fisher suggested the committee of one hundred on national health as an agency through which the education for hygienic reforms could be conducted. He is president of that organization, which is carrying on an extensive movement throughout the country to improve living conditions. Dr. Fisher has been professor of political economy at Yale since 1908.

WIRELESS OPERATOR IS BURNED.

Strange Figures Left on Man's Fiesh After California Storm.

San Francisco.—A lightning flash, intercepted by the electric waves of a message being thrown from a wireless mast to a steamer at sea and deflected down the wires to the operating room of the wireless station, badly burned William J. Smith, the operator. The accident occurred while an electrical storm swept over the city. Smith was senseless for ten minutes and on recovering found that fantastic designs had been burned on his flesh by the current.

Smith was communicating with the steamer Lurline, which left port towing the bark Mohican to Honolulu. Suddenly a blaze of light broke from the instruments in front of Smith and he was hurled from his chair half way across the room by the shock of the high tension current which had been caught by the message waves. Only his position and the fact that the force of the current was spread both ways along the message waves, it is said, saved him from instant death.

Hen Coming Into Her Own.

Madison, Wis.—The university would now teach the farmer something about the hen. In the growth of the agricultural department numerous branches have been added relating to special studies of grains, sheep, horses and cows, but the hen was forgotten. Assemblyman Kindlin has introduced a bill to establish a poultry department at the university—a chair of henology—and an appropriation of \$26,000 is asked.

FAMOUS ENGINE IS RETIRED.

Old "999" Now Doing Half Service

New York .- What was probably the most famous locomotive in the world has been retired on half service. The engine in question is the famous "999," which 15 years ago hauled the Empire State Express and established a speed record at the rate of 112 miles an hour. Among the exhibits in the Transportation building at the world's fair in Chicago it probably attracted the greatest attention, not only because of the speed records which it had established, but because of its size, its 61/2-foot driving wheels being at that time the largest ever used. After a year of service it was sent to the Chicago exposition, with its original gold, silver and nickel trimmings and mahogany woodwork.

To-day all this glory has departed. The once famous, but now almost forgotten locomotive is still in service, but without its fancy trimmings. It is hauling a combination milk and passenger train in the northern part of the state on a short run. Even its driving wheels, once the cause of wonder because of their size, have been supplanted with smaller ones, and the former speed king is merely a railroad plug. A few years more probably will see it forgotten, doing service on a breach line.

branch line.

Although this best known of the world's locomotives has retrograded, its former driver, "Charlie" Hogan, has advanced. From a locomotive engineer in 1892, whose driving of the engine brought his work to the notice of officials, he has been promoted to the position of division superintendent of motive power. So far as old "999" is concerned, however, i's doubtful if she could to-day make half the speed which nearly two decades ago established a new world's record and made her famous throughout the country.

PET DUCK SWALLOWS RING.

Owner Recovers Circlet When Fowl Is Roasted.

Hoboken, N. J.—Six years ago Mrs. Clara Heinze lost a diamond ring. The other day she had roast duck for dinner and she recovered the gem. Then she remembered how she had lost her ring. She was spooning with her sweetheart. They were sitting on a log that ran out into a duck pond back of her father's house. The ring must have slipped off and fallen into the water.

But for the diving duck she never would have recovered it. The duck was a pet of her little elster, and when father said the time had arrived for it to die the little girl wept. She was so fond of watching the duck dive in the pond. Father, however, was determined, and the duck was duly executed. Little Nellie averred she would not eat a morsel of that sacred duck, so father said: "All right, take it over to Clara."

Clara."
Clara, now married, lived close by.
Nellie took the duck over to her sister,
and sister cooked it. When she and
her husband sat down to eat Mrs.
Heinze felt something crunching in
her teeth. It was the diamond ring.
It had been picked up by the duck in
one of its dives, and had gradually
worked its way into the breast.

WOULD MAKE VAGRANTS LABOR.

Only Those Who Will Not Work Fill Bread Lines of Greater New York.

New York.—Robert W. Hebberd, commissioner of charities of New York, takes the stand with Special Agent Powderly of the United States department of immigration that a majority of the men in the bread lines of the city are professional tramps, undeserving of aid. He declared before the Y. M. C. A. the tramp and vagrant are a menace to civilization and urged stringent treatment to regulate them. He indorsed the movement for the establishment of colonies by the state where such men can be put to work.

"A conservative estimate of the number of unemployed in New York city to-day," he said, "is 100,000. Perhans 80,000 of these are union men temporarily out of work. They generally have money saved to tide them over the hard times. For that reason the men who frequent the bread line and the municipal lodging houses are not fair samples of the unemployed. A farm colony for vagrants has been tried in Germany and Switzerland with great success, and we should, have the power to keep these men at work in a colony for two years if necessary."

DOCTOR GIVES HIM NEW NOSE.

Ironworker's Forehead Covering is used to Make Nasai Organ.

Philadelphia.—Badly disfigured by the absence of a nose and often hampered in obtaining employment by his misfortune, Arthur Meyer, an ironworker, underwent an operation at the Samaritan hospital as a result of which he will in two weeks be discharged with a real flesh and blood nose made from his own skin and

Dr. Wayne laid back from each side of the face the skin covering the spot where the old nose had been and pulled down the remaining portion of the old nasal bone to form a bridge.

Two incisions were made in the forehead, there being a space of about three-quarters of an inch between the cuts. The outer surface of skin was "denuded," so that when pulled down over the artificially formed bridge what had been the outer surface of the forehead presented a surface that will adhere and grow to the bridge formation.

ROBS GUNS OF NOISE

INVENTOR GIVES TEST OF "SI-LENCER" IN NEW YORK.

Device of Hiram P. Maxim Slows
Down Escaping Gases Prior to Atmospheric Impact—Fits on
Muzzle of Rifle.

New York.—A merry party opening many bordes of champagne was what Hiram Percy Maxim's demonstration of his new gun silencer sounded like the other afternoon at the Potter building in Park row.

Now and again, however, there came a report several degrees louder than

the puffy pops, and the audience understood Maxim was just showing the difference between the old and the new way.

But for the most part it was just that little puff-popping, and Maxim said most of the noise came from the

impact of the bullets against the sand in the target.

It was the first public demonstration which the inventor has given of the silent gun, which, with smokeless powder, leaves the marksman inaudible as well as invisible. He held it in the offices of his attorneys, and in the next room a typewriter kept pounding keys just in line with the course of the bullets. But Maxim's

target did not let any of them pass.

The guns which he used ranged all the way from the little .22 repeating rifle to the new .30 army weapons, and took in the high power Mausers and Mannlichers.

The silencer is a little black tube which screws on at the muzzle of the gun and has about twice the diameter of the barrel. The size and weight very according to the caliber and power of the arm. For a .22 caliber rifle the tube is about four inches long and less than an inch and a half in diameter. For a .30 rifle the silencer is two inches longer, but has the same diameter. The weight is from six to nine ounces.

First Maxim snapped his little repeating rifle at the target without the tube on the end. The noise wasn't pleasant to hear. Then he put on a silencer. The listener heard the hammer come hard against the cartridge, he saw a little puff, and that was all. Maxim tried short and long rifle cartridges, and the noise was not appreciably different.

Then he worked up to high power guns. He let a .30 rifle go without the little black tube on the end, and after that everybody held his ears when time came for a shot without the silencer. With it in place, the noise was just the same as a champagne bottle popping.

Finally he picked up a United States army rifle, which he described as the best in the world. The built has an initial velocity of about 2,700 feet a second, and when one hears it started on its course under normal conditions the impact upon the eardrum is severe. Yet with that little black tube in place the sound is scarcely audible.

The theory upon which the silencer works Maxim described as being identical with that of the negative turbine. The gunpowder gases, as soon as they enter the silencer from the barrel of the gun, meet the spiral chambers in the interior of the tube and are set to whirling. The tendency of whirling bodies is to fly out from the center, and inasmuch as the only means of exit from the silencer is near the center the gases are unable to escape until they have slowed down.

UNCLE SAM WANTS 3,000 GOATS.

Back-Alley Animals Sought to Clear
California Forests.

Washington—"Wanted—By the Uni-

Washington.—"Wanted—By the United States government, 3,000 Angora goats, able to eat anything from a red shirt or a circus poster to the bushy chaparral of the national forest; back-alley goats of Jersey City, Hoboken and Harlem especially desired."

This is the advertisement which

may be looked for in the next few days, when the government has completed a scheme now being formed of herding out 3,000 Angora goats on the bush-covered foothille of California to eat away the bushy growth and thereby protect the forests.

The goats will be properly scattered over an area and then guided so as to eat away lanes in the forests.

The idea was made public by the

eat away lanes in the forests.

The idea was made public by the bureau of forestry in a report showing the advantages of the plan.

Governor Saws Own Firewood.

Jefferson City, Mo.—Gov. Hadley of
Missouri saws his own firewood in the
cellar of the executive mansion.

"It is one of the best forms of exercise that I know of," declares the governor, "and I have been doing it at the mansion these disagreeable mornings when the weather prevents my daily horseback ride or long walk."

Sawing wood has been the governor's exercise for years. Before oc-

cupying the executive mansion he cut the wood used in his residence.

Sixty Skeletons Under Hut.

North Sydney, N. S.—A discovery of 60 human skeletons buried beneath the

North Sydney, N. S.—A discovery of 60 human skeletons buried beneath the hut of a fisherman at Anseallumets, on the island of Thierre, has startled and mystified the people of that little French fishing colony, according to advices received here from St. Pierre, Miquelon. A suggestion advanced as the possible solution of the mystery is that the skeletons are those of the passengers and crew of the ill-fated packet ship Clarisse, which foundered near that point in 1846.

NEW OCEAN-RIVER VESSEL

Steamer Could Take Cargo from St., Louis to Mexico and South America.

St. Louis, Mo.—John F. Cahill of this city declares he has perfected an ocean-river type of steamship by which freight may be transported, without breaking bulk, from St. Louis to points in Mexico and Central and South America. Plans for the boat have been designed by Walfrid Sylven of Stockholm, consulting architect to the Swedish navy, who formerly was connected with the American navy, and Mr. Cahill is desirous to organize a company and obtain capital.

ompany and obtain capital.

Mr. Cahill said that the importance of the Latin-American trade had been impressed on his mind by an article in the Republic on steamship facilities from St. Louis and the gulf ports to the Latin-American countries. The present is the time, he said, for St. Louis to get this commerce.

For equipping two steel boats, with adjustable keels, \$300,000 will be required. The ship will be 250 feet long with a 45-foot beam, and will measure. 20 feet from the rail to the hull.

It will be so constructed that its cargo can be increased as it proceeds down the river. Immersed eight feet it will carry a load of 1,000 tons and immersed twelve feet it will carry 2,000 tons.

The first patent was obtained in 1875. Since then the plan has been improved. 'new patent was taken out in 1899.

Mr. Cahill was consul for Mexico at St. Louis for 20 years. For a time he was general manager of the Mexican and Spanish American exchange and editor and publisher of El Commercio del Valle, at St. Louis. He said he has valuable concessions for his ocean-river steamship company in Argentina and Venezuela.

WOMAN COACH AND REFEREE.

Washington School Teacher Officiates at Gridiron Contests.

Kalama, Wash.—As far as is known Miss Lillian Merrell, a school teacher of Kalama, is the only woman who has the distinction of naving refereed a football game or a basket hall game

played by men.

The other day high school teams representing Kalama and Castlerock played in the former town and Miss Merrell was the referee. Her work was entirely satisfactory to both teams. More than this, Miss Merrell coaches basket ball and football in the Kalama schools. She is well versed in the rules of both games and when in college was a star basket ball player

herself.

While refereeing a game she wears short skirts and is fast enough to be on hand to pass on any close play. Every one knows that the play shifts rapidly from one goal to another, and it seems almost impossible that a woman would be equal to the task of acting as referee. But Miss Merrell declares she has little difficulty seeing all the plays and that she has studied the rules until she knows them by

RUTH BRYAN A SPRINTER.

Says She is Glad One Member of Fam-

Mason City, Ia.—A new story that has never yet found print, comes to this city, from Lincoln, Neb., the home of William Jennings Bryan.

Mrs. Ruth Bryan-Leavitt was leaving the Lincoln home the other day to visit a friend outside the state. She was a little late in getting started, and when she reached the depot the train was just pulling out.

She yelled for the conductor to stop.

and the crowd contributed their abundance of noise to attract the attention of the train crew. Finally one succeeded and the brake was applied, but not until Mrs. Leavitt had publicly demonstrated that she was quite fleet on foot. She reached the rear of the train with little breath left.

"Well," spoke up the conductor, "I am glad you caught the train, after such a hard run."

"So am I," quickly responded Mrs.
Leavitt. "I am glad there is one memper of the Bryan family who can get

what she runs after." Barmaid Dances in Lion's Den. London.-Large crowds were drawn to Fun City by the announcement that Miss Carrie Baker, a Fulham barmaid, would attempt to win the \$250 offered to any woman who would dance in costume for five minutes in the den of Brutus, a ferocious African lion. Miss Baker, 21 years of age, was selected out of 457 who had offered themselves. The performance took place between six and seven o'clock. Miss Baker was a little nervous, but encouraged by the trainer, Macao, she danced a Highland fling for five minutes. Brutus took but a languid interest in the dance beyond occasionally pricking up

Poor Boy Inherits Fortune. San Sebastian, Spain.—A poor fisher boy of San Sebastian named Lejabeita recently inherite? a fortune under the most romantic circumstances. Upon returning from a cruise in a fishing schooner he was met on the wharf here by two strangers who asked him if he knew who his parents were. The boy replied that he had been brought up by the parish and was ignorant of his origin. The twostrangers then informed him that they were the executors of the will of his mother, an American woman, who died a few weeks ago in the village of Mundaca, near Bilbon, leaving him \$600,-

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

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