

HAD PAPER IN 1604

Was Published Earlier Than Boston News Letter.

Periodical in Manuscript Form, Called "Master William," Issued 300 Years Ago by French on St. Croix Island, Me.

New York.—An industrious digger into the depths of the past has brought to light the interesting fact that America's first newspaper was published a full century earlier than the date commonly ascribed. If it was not a newspaper in the later acceptance of the term it was at least a periodical prepared and published with more or less regularity for the eager perusal of the little community which it served.

In short it was on St. Croix Island, a few miles below the present city of Calais, that the Master William was published during the winter of 1604-05 by the members of the French expedition under DeMonts and Champlain, who were seeking to establish there the capital of the vast and vague empire claimed by France in America. They were the first Europeans to pass a winter on these northern shores of the new world since the days of the legendary Northmen centuries before; and at that time they were the only Europeans in America north of the Spaniards in Florida.

Samuel Champlain himself, later the founder of Quebec and the father of New France, was the chronicler of the expedition, and in his vivid story of that winter on St. Croix Island he makes express mention of the Master William, the significance of which appears to have been overlooked by historians generally. He relates that the paper was prepared from time to time "by the bright spirits of the party" to while away the tedium of the long and severe winter. It was passed around in written, not printed, form; but among a few score men, all deadhead subscribers, that was a wholly satisfactory method of publication.

Christmas day, 1604, was celebrated by the colony with special zest—it was the first Christmas observance, by the way, in what is now New England—and after the religious exercises of the morning and before the feasting and drinking and general merry-making became too boisterous a special Christmas issue of the Master William was read to the company by the editors. So early did the idea of the "extra" and the "holiday number" take root in American journalism! It is a great pity that the chronicler did not include a copy of the Master William in his record, or something more about it than the bare mention of its occasional appearance.

It was not until 1704, a full century later, that the Boston News Letter was established, commonly spoken of as the first newspaper in America, and continuing for fifteen years to be the only one. An attempt was made to publish a newspaper in Boston in 1690, but only one issue was put forth. It was called Public Occurrences, and the watchful authorities promptly snuffed it out "for uttering reflection of a very high order." How successfully have most newspapers of later years steered clear of any such danger!

But we are wandering far from the enterprising young adventurers of St. Croix Island and their newspaper of 1604. Their effort was a small one and the results were transient; but there is a certain sentiment which attaches to great things, and in historical matters a certain importance also. The Master William deserves its rescue from oblivion and should not again be neglected when the story of the feeble beginning of new world journalism is told. But what an opportunity was missed by the publishers of the Calais Times or the Eastport Sentinel when they failed to take the name of the pioneer sheet and to put forth the claim of being its direct successor.

MIXES POETS AND PULLETS

Japanese Sent to Study Poultry Is Told to Read Longfellow and Others.

Tacoma, Wash.—K. Sato, en route to Boston, carries in his note book the names of Longfellow, Emerson and Lowell as American authorities on the subject the Japanese government sent him to this country to study—the science of raising poultry.

On his way across the Pacific on the Mexico Maru, K. Sato confided to American passengers that he had come over officially to study American "poetry" and asked to what city it would be best to go. Boston and Indianapolis were recommended as centers of American poetry and Sato chose Boston.

Just before leaving for the east, Sato read a newspaper item concerning his mission to America and discovered the mistake.

His Cork Leg Stolen.

Vancouver, B. C.—The climax of promiscuous thievery going on here for the past month was reached recently when a miscreant broke into the room occupied by J. Barton of Dunsmuir street and stole his cork leg. The leg was attached to Barton's trousers and the thief made off with the trousers, leg, watch and a small sum of money. Barton is in bed.

WILL MEET WIFE IN CITY

Hotel Men Have Unique Plan for Keeping Salesmen Over Sunday.

Springfield, Mass.—"Meet your wife in Springfield," the newest slogan among commercial travelers, attracted to this city hundreds of drummers and their wives, not to mention children. The Springfield Hotel Men's association, comprising the six largest hostleries in the city, is sponsor for the undertaking, which traveling men say is unique. Conspicuously displayed in the lobby of the hotels is this notice:

"The hotels and merchants of Springfield are united in a friendly endeavor to make our city the most popular in New England as a place for traveling men to stay in over Sunday."

Nearly 500 men and women attended the entertainment at Cooley's hotel. "We stand for a dignified Sunday and the programs we shall give will in no way be vaudeville shows," said Henry E. Marsh, proprietor of the hotel, to the correspondent. He is also president of the Hotel Men's association. He has been in the business nearly half a century and is said to know more commercial travelers than any other boniface in the United States.

"The drummers' receptions," as many call the Sunday affairs, caused a protest from the churches, and in order that they shall not interfere with the evening worship they will begin at eight o'clock hereafter instead of 7:30 p. m. Musical numbers include selections by an orchestra and vocal solos by members of a Hartford church choir.

"We've got the right idea and are going to push it through," said a hotel man. "The drummer who tells his wife that he can't be home over Sunday can at least meet her here. If not, he can enjoy wholesome recreation by himself. Without intending it as such, we've planted the nucleus of a great reform movement. Who knows but the hotel men of Springfield may go down in history with Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison and other men who had ideas and the courage of their convictions."

ASKS PROBE OF ODD HOSTS

Yale Professor Attacks Idle Rich as a Body of Parasites Which Preys on Society.

Washington.—Declaring the "parasitic rich" in America must be controlled before the advance of socialism and anarchy can be checked, Prof. Henry W. Farnham of Yale, president of the American Economic society, announced himself in favor of a scientific investigation into the remarkable class that has instituted monkey dinners in Newport and all-night snake dances in New York.

In an address before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Professor Farnham said:

"It is a matter of common observation that wealthy families in our country often contain a number of parasitic members—members who derive a large income from society without rendering any appreciable economic or public service in return.

"These general and obvious facts need, however, to be examined historically and statistically in order to enable us to judge correctly of the reaction of prosperity on the human mind.

"Many of this class walk our streets, eloquent, but unconscious arguments for socialism, terrible examples for the moralist, living texts for sermons, rich material for these problem novelists, but still comparatively neglected by the economists, the sociologists and the statistician."

PROFIT IN MUSKRAT FARM

Woman Enlarging Her Bank Account in Novel Manner—Owns 400 Acres of Marsh Lands.

Newark, Del.—Running a muskrat farm may be a queer business, but that it is profitable Mrs. John Fox can vouch. Mrs. Fox owns four hundred acres of marsh land between Silver Run and Appoquinimink river, in the lower part of New Castle county, on which nothing whatever can be raised except muskrats, yet she will clear in the four months from November 15 to March 15 more money than any wheat or corn grower in the state will in a year on a farm of the same size.

The muskrat crop this year is unusually good and as a consequence Mrs. Fox is fattening her bank account. In the past 15 days men employed by her have trapped 1,700 muskrats. The pelts are worth 45 cents apiece and the bodies five cents, making the market price 50 cents for each animal.

During the entire season it is expected that ten thousand muskrats will be trapped on her marsh land, which will bring in \$5,000, and of that amount at least three thousand dollars will be profit.

Saved a Thousand Dimes. Denver, Colo.—Deluged with letters and postal cards and gifts coming in goodly numbers, Miss Ivy Cole, a waitress in a local cafe, who saved up 1,000 dimes received in tips within the year to buy a fur coat, is amazed at the attention her frugality has attracted.

She had received letters and postal cards from many parts of the country and proposals of marriage from east, west, north and south.

Miss Cole began saving all of the dime tips she received a year ago last Thanksgiving day. She has saved exactly \$100, or 1,000 dimes.

FLEES FROM PRISON

Convict, Who Escaped, Tells How He Did It.

Prisoner at Sing Sing Used Iron Bars and Blanket—Walked Only Three Miles When Police Chief Nabbed Him.

Ossining.—Francesco Doliano, a convict serving an indeterminate sentence of from two years and six months to five years for assault in the second degree, escaped from Sing Sing prison at about two o'clock in the morning and was captured and brought back after eleven hours of freedom. He has served one year and three months of his sentence.

The escape was not discovered until the officers made their morning count at 7:30. Keeper Murphy then discovered that the cell was vacant, and a hole in the roof told the story of the escape. The whistle was blown and Warden Kennedy had a description of the prisoner telephoned to all the neighboring police stations. About 12:40 in the afternoon Doliano was captured at Briarcliff by Chief of Police Keator of that village. Doliano made no resistance and was brought back to the prison.

After wandering about for eleven hours Doliano was only three miles from the prison. He was on the state road, headed for New York. He was familiar with the village, having been employed for two years on the estate of David Rousseau, owner of the Rousseau Electrical works at Ossining.

When questioned as to the manner of his escape Doliano said that he had secured two pointed-iron bars from the foundry of the prison, where he was assigned to work. With these he removed a stone from the roof of his cell, on the top tier, and taking his blanket and the two iron bars he drew himself through the aperture into the space above. This was at 10:30 o'clock on Friday evening. Using the same tools, he made a hole through the roof of the building and found himself in the open air. Near the edge of the roof he found fastened on a beam to which the telephone wires leading to the building were attached. He broke off several of these wires and twisted his blanket and the wires into a cord and then lowered himself half way down, from which point he descended to the ground by means of the window bars. The jobs must have been finished between 1:15 a. m. and 7:15 a. m., because the telephone wires were used at 1:15 a. m. and at 7:15 a. m., when the operator called up the guard post to which they lead he could not get connection.

When captured Doliano was dressed in convict garb with the exception of his cap and gloves, but he had covered the telltale buttons of his prison suit with black cloth. He is a powerfully built man, five feet nine inches tall and weighs about 170 pounds. The hole in the roof seemed hardly large enough for a child to get through. His hands were torn and bleeding.

Doliano's punishment will probably be a forfeiture of the short time allowed for good behavior.

TOM PAINE HOUSE IS MUSEUM

Home the State Gave American Patriot Now Owned by the Huguenot Association.

New Rochelle, N. Y.—H. M. Lester, president of the Huguenot Association of New Rochelle, turned over to the trustees of the association the house that was given by the state to Thomas Paine after the revolution in recognition of his patriotic services. With the house goes the acre of ground on which it stands on North avenue, known as Devereux park. House and ground are valued at \$10,000. The board of trustees elected, James S. Hayland president, Charles Pryor secretary and George F. Mandraux treasurer.

Mr. Lester bought the house three years ago, moved it to its present site and restored it. It is now known as the Devereux house, renamed for its original owner, a Tory who fled at the outbreak of the revolution. It is the headquarters of the Huguenot association and is used as a public museum of Huguenot and Westchester county relics.

DEFY DEATH IN GOLD RUSH

Race to New Fields, 130 Miles From Dawson, Being Made With Temperature at 40 Below Zero.

Dawson, Y. T.—Two hundred men with dog teams and prospecting outfits are making a six days' race to the new gold field at the head of Sixty Mile river, 130 miles from Dawson. The temperature was about zero when the rush began, but has since dropped to 40 degrees below.

Deaf Mute a Preacher.

Washington.—Herbert C. Merrill, a deaf mute, has been ordained a deacon of the Episcopal church by Bishop Harding of the Washington diocese. The Rev. Dr. Chamberlain of New York conducted part of the ordination service in the sign language and the Rev. G. R. Whilden, a deaf mute, preached the sermon in the sign language. Mr. Merrill will conduct a service for deaf mutes at the Church of the Good Shepherd every Sunday.

MAY NOT ASK WOMEN'S AGES

California Legislature May Pass Law for Their Benefit.

Los Angeles, Cal.—According to the ideas of County Clerk Lelande women will not be required to give their exact age when registering again. The present register terminates in January and every voter must register again for the coming two years. Lelande is preparing new blanks and asserts they will not require a woman to do more than state her age is twenty-one or more. He is anticipating the passage of such a law by the legislature now in special session, as the present law requires the exact age of every person who registers.

It will be news to many women that they will have to go through the registration process again within sixty days. But the law requires all eligible to register in the even-numbered years or be disqualified at the polls. Earl next month it is expected the supervisors will send out canvassers to take registrations so there will be no stampede as there was last month.

There will be no further purging of the great register of "dead timber" and fraudulent names, because of a new one after January 1. County Clerk Lelande said he expects to make this new one the most complete and accurate in the political history of the city and county.

To accomplish that, the proposed great register will contain several innovations for Los Angeles. A new affidavit blank, which Lelande thinks is a decided improvement over the one now in use, will be used.

There will be a receipt coupon, which goes to the person making the affidavit. This receipt will show that the person named has registered, and gives the name of the deputy registering him.

DUCK LOCATES GOLD MINE

Bird Dies and Gives Secret to World When Nugget Size of a Pea is Found in Crop.

San Francisco.—Pure, glittering gold, in nuggets as big as peas, lies in the beds of the streams of the San Mateo foothills. After man has tramped over these hills for years and their wooded slopes have become the estates of the wealthy, a poor, simple duck detected the presence of the yellow metal and had to die to give the secret to the world.

While preparing a duck which she had purchased from A. Dombrosky, a poultry man of San Carlos, Mrs. John Tibbet of Redwood City found in its crop several pieces of gravel and a nugget of pure gold as large as a pea. Dombrosky had recently covered his poultry yard where the duck had been feeding with gravel from the bed of San Carlos creek. The gravel was taken from where the creek passes through the country estate of Col. N. J. Brittan, a San Francisco capitalist. During the summer months the stream is dry and many loads of gravel are extracted, but the presence of gold was never suspected.

Following the sensational discovery of the duck, which now ranks almost with the goose that laid the golden egg, the sluice will be applied to the sands of the many San Mateo creeks which wind through the foothills on their way to the bay, and the lawns and gardens of the country homes of the peninsula may be laid out in placer claims.

CREW CRAZY FOR TOBACCO

Lack of Weed Almost Causes Mutiny on Board Schooner Clancy Brown.

Galveston, Texas.—The schooner Clancy Brown, with a cargo of coal, thirty-three days out from Baltimore, had an unusual experience when its crew of 12 men became mutinous because of a tobacco famine. Captain Swenten says his sailors went insane when the supply of tobacco gave out on the twenty-first day.

The schooner was blown out of its course and the absence of chewing and smoking tobacco made the men nervous wrecks. They refused to obey orders, quarreled and several times threatened to take the vessel and land somewhere in quest of the coveted weed.

Their behavior delayed the ship three or four days longer on its voyage, the captain says.

When the pilot boat met the schooner on the Texas coast the crew hugged the pilots when they dumped their tobacco boxes and plugs on deck.

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Macedonian Slaves for Coveted Filling to Win Girl—Makes Fortune and Seeks Sweetheart.

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The woman, Frau Heia Czabo, widow of a Hungarian official, was found dead from heart disease in her flat. She left a will bequeathing all her possessions, including \$5,000 ready cash, to her pet dog, which had a luxurious private room in the flat, with mirrors and silk brocaded furniture, and was fed on seasonal delicacies, from partridges to spring chickens. Relatives of Frau Czabo intend to contest the will and have taken possession of the dog until its claims to the estate have been settled.

SOCIALIST BILL HIT

Plan to Establish Municipal Shops in France Doomed.

Trades People and Politicians of Republic Fight Government Measure That Would Lower Living Cost for Consumer.

Paris.—The government's proposal to reduce the present high cost of living by the establishment of municipal bakers' and butchers' shops throughout the country is meeting with determined opposition from various quarters.

It was of course foreseen that the trades people, whose business would be subject to competition, would raise an outcry, but it has come as a great surprise that many politicians, who might have been expected to back it heartily, are either maintaining a neutral position or supporting the opposition.

In nearly all cases the radical socialists have criticized the project severely as unworkable and inefficient and the very few—that is the collectivists—who have felt bound for the sake of consistency to favor the bill, are doing so with very little enthusiasm.

An excellent indication of the strong feeling against the bill has just been given by the debate and vote of the Paris municipal council on a resolution presented by Councillor Robiglia, protesting against the creation of co-operative shops. At the meeting of the council, which was exceptionally well attended, forty members voted for the resolution and thirteen against it. All the latter were avowed collectivists, but a number of extreme "lefts" or radical members abstained from voting altogether.

In accordance with the large majority of votes a protest, strongly worded, has been forwarded to the prime minister. Thus this extremely important experiment in municipal trading, supported by the government, has been rejected by the greatest municipal body in France.

The feeling among the public is correspondingly strong. It is pointed out that co-operative shops not being obliged to make a profit and being backed by the funds of the municipality will be able to retail goods at low prices and thus badly damage, if not ruin, the business of private trades people.

At the same time the probable raising of taxes and the various notorious instances of mismanagement by the state when it has tried to compete in trade or commerce are pointed to as proof of the unsoundness of the measure.

The bill has caused the greatest consternation among the small shopkeepers of the country, who see themselves threatened with ruin. Their unions are prepared to defend themselves to the utmost against the favored competitor.

In view of the almost universal disapproval of the government's proposed plunge into socialism it seems probable that the bill will quietly be dropped.

TRUTHFUL; SHE FAILS TO WED

Young Woman Wouldn't Swear to Age of Which She Was Doubtful.

St. Louis.—Truth was stronger than Cupid at Clayton, the St. Louis county Greta Green, the other day.

Miss Ida Lorenz and John F. Osborn, both of O'Fallon, Ill., went there to get a marriage license. Both seemed to be of legal age, and Deputy Recorder Ahlers filed out the papers.

"Now, as a matter of form, you will have to swear to your ages," said he.

The young woman seemed embarrassed. "I can't swear that I am eighteen, though I believe I am," she said. "My parents died when I was a baby and I have no birth certificate."

Though Osborn pleaded with her, Miss Lorenz could not be induced even to swear that to the best of her knowledge and belief she was of legal age. She and Osborn departed without the license.

MOTHER WAS HIS NEMESIS

Unrelenting California Woman Finally Obtained Conviction of Her Son's Slayer.

Redding, Cal.—A mother's implacable determination to avenge the death of her son resulted in the conviction of Daniel Fleming, formerly a Southern Pacific railroad policeman, for the murder of George Vallier, a youth of Tacoma, Wash. Fleming was found guilty of manslaughter after the jury had been out more than twelve hours.

Vallier and a companion, Harry Goble, were found unconscious on the roof of a sleeping car of a Southern Pacific train that drew into Redding from the north in August of last year. Both had been badly injured on the head. Vallier died on the way to a hospital, and Goble, after several weeks in a hospital, they were assaulted by Fleming for stealing a ride.

NOTED FRENCH CAFE ENDS

Boulanger's Downfall Began La Durand-Zola's "I Accuse" Letter Written There.

Paris.—Another famous Paris shrine where gourmets from all over the world ate, drank and made merry is gone. The doors of Durand's restaurant, near the Madeleine, closed a few days ago. For half a century the place had been celebrated for its viands and its good cooking. It had been the steady resort of many of the most distinguished residents of the French capital, and it sustained until the very end of its existence its time-honored reputation.

Prospective changes in the buildings on the block have caused the closing of Durand's. The proprietors announce they will seek another location. One has not yet been found. Meantime there is to be a little Durand restaurant inaugurated in the fashionable Etoule quarter.

The restaurant that has just gone out of existence was the scene of an incident that nearly changed the history of modern France. General Boulanger, "the man on horseback," was dining there one day when his admirers, who had plotted a coup d'etat, came to lead him to the Elysee palace to proclaim him marist-president. But Boulanger, after starting, weakened and turned back.

His star declined from that single moment of indecision, and since then the French government has never been seriously threatened with overthrow.

It was at a table in Durand's restaurant also that Emile Zola, the novelist, signed his noted letter entitled, "I accuse," the letter which marked the beginning of the end in the Dreyfus case, forcing the authorities to grant justice to the soldier who was imprisoned on Devil's Island as a spy.

SLAIN GOOSE BRINGS JOY

Gander That Wanders in Front of Machine Makes a Feast—Autolot Buys Bird.

Darby, Pa.—A fat old gander that waddled too slowly across the Westchester pike in front of the automobile of Richard Purdy of Darby, with the usual result, brought belated but none the less appreciated holiday cheer to a poor family in Darby, exemplifying the old adage that it is an ill wind that blows good to nobody.

Purdy, with a couple of his friends, was spinning out Westchester pike, near Manao, when a flock of geese crossed ahead of the machine. After the last one had passed the gander, which had remained back, suddenly decided to follow, and waddled directly in front of the machine, on which Purdy had now put on full speed.

The late owner of the bird appeared just in time to see it struck and demanded payment. Insisting that the goose weighed 20 pounds, at 25 cents a pound, he demanded \$5 for it, but after he learned that Purdy was a butcher, he dropped the price to 14 cents, wholesale, and on second judgment said that he thought the bird might weigh a little under 20 pounds. Purdy guessed the weight at 15 pounds, and paid the farmer \$2.10.

The farmer was walking away with both the goose and the money, when Purdy called him back and reminded him that the goose was not his property any longer, took it, had one of his companions bleed it and on his arrival in Darby presented it with his best wishes to a deserving family, who accepted it with profuse thanks.

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