LEAP YEAE PROPOSALS.

Many Happy Marriages Where Women "Popped the Question." H's lonp year! Shall the women prothere are women in every profession, in every trade, in every corner of the world, sharing daugers and duties with men, demanding and sometimes getting suffrage with them, is there any reason in the world why they should not take advantage of the time-honored custom of leap year and ask the men pute with the Gotham cab driver eithof their desire to wed with them? Why

not?

When a woman can go out and support the family as she has to do in se many cases nowadays, why shouldn't taximeter cab, which vehicle is providshe at least have the privilege of pick. ed with a recording instrument on the ing out the man she wants to take dial of which is shown the exact fare care of?

If she sees that she can support two on her salary and has really decided taximeter, which instrument, housed that she will be much happier doing in small metal box a foot long, half a it, why should she hesitute at a mere foot wide and four or five inches deep, convention when she might share the performs the manifold duty of reckonhappiness with some natural protector ing the fare the cab earns while travprevents him from requesting her to front of the club or department store, take him in on the deal? . while carrying extras such as trunks

promaignted the doctrine that it was the woman who chose, anyhow, Why, then, should a woman spoil the game for herself by coming right out with a proposal, when by patience and a little ose? In these enlightened days when | tact she could tense one out of a man? Leap year has its possibilities, but it will be a brave girl who will announce her engagement this year .-- William

Wesley, in Chicago Journal. Cab Charges Its Own Fare. The day when it is necessary to dis-

or before the starting of the trip or at the conclusion of it regarding the fare charged is nearing its end, thanks to the taxicab, or more properly the

or tariff due. A German inventor, a couple of years ago, perfected the first of womankind whose inherent modesty eling on the street, while waiting in aid of any outside agency. It is quite

BALLOON SHARPS DIFFER.

One Thinks Airships, Like Autos, Will Seon Be Common Enough. Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge, U. S. A., who recently made an ascension from Baddeck, Cape Breton, in Prof. Alexandar Graham Bell's new tetrabedral kite Cygnet, is of the opinion that in

time airships will excite no more interest than automobiles de to-day. He says that the first experiment with Pref. Bell's creation was a success. The lieutenant declared he had complete control of the ship during every moment of its flight and speke with enthusiasm of its dirigible qualities and the case with which it was manipulated. His experimental ascent is believed to have furnished data that will be of great value for future trials of the aeroplane. "By taking into consideration the

pull on the figing line, the velocity of the wind and the angle of flight, we, now know," said Lieut. Setfridge, "the power that will be required of a motor, to keep the airship in flight without the practicable to construct a motor suited to the conditions of sarial mavigation If she knows that her own judgment and miscellaneous luggage, and in ad- and capable of farmining the neces-



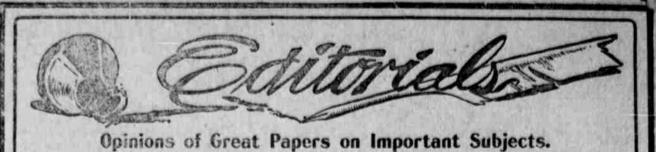
GREAT FLOOD OF LAW.

New Decisions and Statutes Make

Hard Wor'; for the Student. The mass of printed legal decisions. gathered into volumes in the United States every year is so great-100,000 pages-that a lawyer, to keep up with them all, would have to read nearly eleven and a half large, closely written pages an hour for 24 hours of all the 365 days in the year. He would not have time to eat or sleep, much less attend to his practice. And even if he were physically able to keep driving through the legal literature at this inhuman rate, he would find at the end of the year that he had not had time to glance at a single one of the 25,000 pages of American statute law that had been added to the libraries in that time. Few laymen realize the great volume of these constant additions to the literature of the law. But with courts in 50 jurisdictions (counting the four branches of Federal courts) constantly grinding out new decisions the total can be easily appreciated.

One would think that, under the growing burden of legal tomes, the task of the law student would become yearly more difficult and complex. To the layman, the student would seem to have an almost insuperable task of optical digestion, And the contention that the task of learning the law is becoming harder would seem to be borne out by the fact that the New York Univeraity Law School, which has the largest number of students of any university law school in the country (over eight hundred students this year), has just announced that, beginning with the fall of 1909, his morning, afternoon and evening courses in law will be increased from two to three years. The university authorities have found it increasingly difficult to train a young man for the law in two years of study. According to excellent authorities, however, the law is not necessarily getting more complex from mere volume, Its increasing complexity comes rather from new taws covering subjects new to civilization. Chemistry has brought to the industrial field many things that have made necessary new laws. An Increasing number of laws cluster about the telephone and its use. The skyscrapers, underground rallways, wireless telegraphy, patent foods-things like these all bring into being an attendant host of new laws, which are really only the application of old legal principles to new conditions. Twentyfive years ago there was practically no law on the subject of electricity. Today there are volumes. Teu years ago automobile law was unknown. To-day there are many cases, a book or two and any number of statutes. Ten years from now the law of the airship may be an established factor in our legal literature,

Though the law is no harder to learn in New York than in other States, admission to the bar in New York now rests upon a comprehensive knowledge of the law. A lawyer must follow the progress of the law in his own State and the United States law, too, and it is apparent from this that the conscientious New York lawyer has a reasonably hard time. Two thick volumes of statutes show that New York, with its population of \$,000,000, got 1,950 pages of new laws in 1906. England, with a population of 40,000,000, had new statutes amounting to only 438 pages in this period. In New York there were about 10,500 pages of reported decisions, while all England showed only 4,200 pages. In the big library of the University Law School, with its 21,000 volumes, eight little shelf sections in a corner gallery serve to contain a double set of all the volumes of decisions handed down in En glish courts since 1865.



LOSSES ON THE CATTLE PANGES.



SPECIAL cummissioner of the American Humane Association has just made a report of his investigations, extending over a year, into the condition of live stock on the ranges in the West. His report has been prepared for the purpose of "arousing the American people to the necessity for

action to stop this wanton slaughter of thousands of domestic animals each year." Government reports are cited to show that for the year ending March 31, 1905, there was a lors of 2.057.627 cattle on the Western ranges, due largely to starvation and exposure. The commissioner asserts that the losses each year are at least 2,500,000 animals, representing an estimated value of \$24,000,000. The burden of the commissioner's conclusions is that cattle ranging is cruel and inhuman business and should be suppressed by law.

Without quarreling with the tigures quoted, although most reports of stock losses on the ranges are greatly exaggerated, the Ilumane Association is apparently working on a false premise and starting a crusade against an evil that is rapidly curing itself. The crusade urged against stockmen is apparently based on the theory that there is malice and design back of his treatment of the stock on the ranges. The fact is that stockmen, while counting anomally upon losses of cattle from various causes, do everything in their power to lessen the loss, just as men in other business take every possible precaution against losses.

The day of the ranger is fast passing. The meat supply of the future will be furnished by stock growers who keep smaller herds, and, by making proper provision for their care during the winter, reap larger returns than are possible under the range system.-Omaha

THE DEARTH OF TEACHERS.



LEVEN HUNDRED vacancies existed in the tenching force in the schools of the city of New York host month, but therewere only plac handred eligible candidates, It is estimated that three thousand new tenders are needed in the schools of the city every year. The supply never equals

the demand. A similar dearth of teachers is noted in other cities, and even in the samiler towns. Boards of education and school superindendents are struggling with the problem. It has been explained that the standard of qualifications has been made such that it is not easy for candidates to pass the necessary examinations, and that the pay offered is so low that it does not attract capable men and worsen to the profession.

The charge that teachers are underpaid is unfortunately true. A committee of the National Educational

Association reported, two years ago, that a woman principal in a certain city received only \$240 a year, and that a man teacher in another part of the country was paid only \$250. These are extreme cases, but there are many others almost as bad. In cities where living expenses are high, the salary of \$500 or \$600 paid to the lower-grade teachers is sometimes surpassed by the wages of street-sweepers or of city hall scrubwomen. The people of the cities are awake to the need of treating the teachers better, for efforts arc making in some of them to find money to increase their pay.

As to the question of qualifications, it is surprising that so many thoroughly trained men and women are willing to work for the pay offered; but if it should appear that in any city appointment was denied to experienced teachers from other places, because of inability to pass technical examinations in subjects of which they need only a general knowledge, then the examination system ought to be revised .- Youth's Companion.

WAR ON RATS INTERNATIONAL.



HETHER snakes or rats are the more detested by human kind is immaterial. Rats are just now a special object of attack. As carriers of disease a heavy indictment is brought against them. The bubonic plague was probably imported to California and other States of the coast by Oriental rats

coming across the Pacific Ocean on ships. Mr. Morley, Secretary of State for India, in his recent address to his constituents at Arbroath, referred to the rats of India as the great distributers and reminded his hearers that the difficulties of the Indian government in checking the ravages of the disease were enormously increased by the religious objections of the Hindus to destroying animal life. Altogether the rat situation in India is remarkable, and the British government's problem of rat extermination promises to be a long time in reaching a solution.

Hitherto in the world's history these animals have been hunted and killed by man chiefly because of their depredations. Human beings also have an instinctive aversion to them, and "ratting" in former times was a sport in recognized standing. Nowadays we are more dignified and do not travel miles to see the rats killed when an old barn is torn down. It is, however, the modern discovery that rats carry disease that will renew the war with a thoroughness that never before was observed. Even if they perform some good service as scavengers, which must be greatly minimized and even extinguished in communities and abodes where modern sanitary ideas are understood and practiced, the evil they do far outweighs it. Rats and house flies should be granted no quarter-such is the decree of medical science. And from that decree there is evidently no appeal.-Springfield Republican.

BUIN FROM BANK FAILURE.



is a great deal better than that of the dition keeps a record of the driver's sary power, and it will be only a matman who is preferring some girl who actions by registering the number of ter of time when the Cygnet, or an imwould not be able to keep him in the trips the cab makes each day, counting little luxuries to which he has been up the total mileage of the day and accustomed, why should she stand back the exact mileage of each trip, and when she might show him the way to finally making a record of mileage and comfort and contentment? fares for the benefit of the cab owner.

If she understands him better than In brief, the taxicab comes as a dehe understands biniself and appre- tective prodigy between the cab ownclates fully that he will be so flattered at her good judgment in picking him and between the cab driver and the out of all her possible acquaintances traveling public on the other hand. that he will forgive any mere departure from custom, why should she not

propose? A New York woman, Mrs. Belle de

Rivera, president of the New York City Federation of Woman's Clubs, believes that women should share men's prerogative. "They have a right to propose not only in leap year, but whenever they choose," she says. "Suppose a girl is rich and a man is poor. He loves her and she knows it; he in his modesty dare not propose. She loves him, too. Should she not propose?"

There are historic instances of where women have proposed. Queen Victoria has been the leading example. She might not have informed her choice, Prince Albert, in so many words that she desired him to wed her, but she chose him from the other suitors presented to her for approbation and let him know it. And besides that, it was a love match and surely resulted happily if ever a royal gammer did.

Queen Willishning of Holland thought the example of Queon Victoria good enough for her to follow, and she proposed to the present prince consort. Mme, de Stael, who was clever their proper numerical order.

enough and attractive enough to have enough that attractive brough to have ple who went crazy in valu efforts to the same. Many of our foremost genif she had really wanted him, wasted furn the trick. When a whole family, erals and admirals have eyes of this no time on getifice or subterfuge, but leach member absorbed in a fifteen puzasked the man, the accepted with the was grouped around the evening we remember that the number of peopleasure and they were married, though lamp, the silence was so intense you ple who have gray eyes is small comshe kept the marriage secret for a long could drive nails in it. time.

"Therature has had using example of women taking the infinite in making the momentous quotion. There was Resultant, who had to fead Orlardo on to the point, and Prizellis, who tool the hashful J. On Ablen in hand when be asked for his rival. "Why don't you speak for pointed, John?" was as clever a proposal not 'nuy gart could make. Then there is the heroirs of second. "We won't quarrel over a lit- grown gray in the service and indeed' George Bernard Show's 'Man and Sn. The tiding Die that,"-Nos Loisira. permany whose pursuit of the here Was so energive.

of 67, married William Ashmend Bart- anthing ro helpless as the man who lett, an American thirty years har fong ago, and who contracted a backtill ber design.

Thacheray and third may woman could make a set of all in large with a hump out the back. Dermand Shaw one

er and the cab driver on the one hand

FADS OF THE PAST. 14 13 5 11 2 8

THE FIFTEEN PUZZLE It was a good old puzzle, the fifteen

puzzle, but it got its 23 long ago. It job. was about the most fascinating thing in that line over on the market, and the retain a certain amount of discretion heavity of it was that you could some and remember that a brutal assault on times work it after trying about a the police is a very serious offense. week. Some puzzles seem impossible to But the man with the gray eyes,

The fifteen device was simply a pasteboard hox about four inches ance, forgets all about that when his square with fifteen numbered blocks an blood is up. He thinks of only one inch square and a space where a six- thing, and that is to win the fight. resuth block would fit. This one space was to be utilized in moving the blocks the gray ere denotes the fighter. I about without taking them from the have observed the same thing among box, null the fitteen numbers were in professional pugilists, an enormous pro-

There were actual instances of peo-

A French Joke.

Two doctors were called to attend a nan who had suffered an accident to he bund. "We simil have to amputate three

"fingers," sold one.

"No, two," said the other, "Three," maintained the first. "Oh, well, three, then." replied the profession very slowly, though he has

ft was a chemp philosopher who said

Baron-s linguist counts at the age knowledge is power. There is really hair, knows all about things that happened baid?" ing cough while acquiring his knowleifere.

A nivi who has a mustified is as think, if you had had men stepping her unless the war squart eved and had benefity alout it as a boy who hasn't over your head for years in the way I

Feeding the Flower.

"Come and see me feed my flower pets," he said.

. And he led the way, bearing some chopped raw fish in a saucer to a huge aquarium. The bottom of the aquarium was covered with flowers. In the silent submarine garden clumps of beautiful bright growths, yellow, white, pink, blue, swayed gently in the clear water.

"Watch," he said, and he thrust down a small morsel of fish on a rod. Immediately a white flower like a daisy drew towards the fish, bending on its stalk ; it wrapped its petals, like

slim white fingers, about the food, "Another," he said, and this time a yellow flower bent forward and took country with slate penells a great many

a morsel. "Isnt it wonderful?" he cried. "Liv- ments are made annually. In fact, in How West Virginia Stock Raisers a portrait with which he was familiar ing, thinking flowers! Before they addition to the domestic output, no knew me they would turn away, they fewer than 20,000,000 imported ones are would shut all their petals fight when used up in a twelve-months, nearly all West Virginia the bears are greatly on discovered that the portrait was de-

year. Among the cryptographic ad- to which they are needled. This kind On the Black Mountain run one man London, Queen Victoria," which was him, -T. P.'s London Woekly,

Tund Slept Towney Years.

A remarkable case of a toad sleep ing for twenty years is reported from Stone, in Staffordshire. Twenty years ngo George Lewis built bouses in front of which were large stone steps. This week the steps were removed, and imprisoned in the stonework a toad was found in a committee state, but it soon became active when removed into the sunshine. There can be no doubt that the toad had lived twenty years in a hermetically sealed clamber, as all around, in perfect condition, was a foot thickness of stone and cement, and the toad was in the conter of the cavity .- Kansas City Journal.

There are so many things you car do without and want.



The illustration, by Max Cowper, pictures a scene in front of a suspended bank during the terror of financial panic which threatened New York. All ranks of society felt the imminence of the stringency, which meant ruin alike for the man of wealth and for those of humble means, who found themselves on the same dire level of poverty.

so-called slate pencils of soapstone,

which is a kind of tale with a soapy

"feel," but they are inferior in qual-

BEAR IN THEIR FARMS.

Protect Their Sheep.

MILLIONS OF SLATE PENCILS.

Germany the Greatest Producer and Almost Supplies the World. To supply the school children of this

millions of these little writing instru-

I tried to feed them. But they are of them from Germany,

ticles are not visible to the naked eye. called Beaver Dam, which has all but portrait was that of a famous actor by

115%

dresses submitted for decipherment to of stone is largely silien and its black | columned to have identified the signs of the postoffice expert were "Obanyl- color is due to the carbon it contains. 117 bears in one day's hunt. That doch," which being interpreted is "Hol- Germany supplies all the world with scenes a good many bears, but I've horn Vinduct," and "Hilewite," which state penells, producing nearly 100,600,- hunted and fished so long and told stands more obviously for "Isle of con annually. They are obtained from about my advantures at so many camp-Wight." These were easy of decipher- quarries in the netwiderhood of Stein- fires that I cannot consistently deny mont compared with a letter addressed sch, in Meningen. Nearly all the work anything. Nevertheless, every now and "Haselfeach in no famptshere," which is done by hand, and is so poorly paid thou a lainter runs on to a bear and nevertheless was duly forwarded to that 12 marks (\$2.57) we sty is conside tills it. Premoditated killing of bears "Hazebeach, Northamptonshire," and east fair wages for a man, who, in is carely known, as this wisest of the with another thus superscribed, "To order to earn this amount, must call forest animals knows well how to the Cectery of Wors, Chelsey Oslittle, upon his wife and children to help avoid men. A rabbit is courageous compared to a black bear. This shows

duly delivered to the secretary of war. The agh wares are so much bigher in the superior infelligence of Bruin. the United States, date pend's are Abool twenty years upo an unarmed monufactured here to connect with the followman fulled a bear with a large incoursed article by the help of machine, show at the fiel Hole. He was resting erv. The reach stone is never late As the top of a precipitous bank of places of a certain size, rach of which, Match Chunk, sinte when a bear, when real through a muchtum globbs, chosed by dogs, came to the river and thy pencils of shamined length-five and parced at the feet of the hank. The

a half locked. They entry out in collies from ensual large stone down upon it. drived shaps and are p-inted by how on and sommed it so that he was able to errory wheels. Finally they are particul, will U. It will a two-year-old. The

the class of 10.006, withing for SE.75, or occurrence is well antienticated, along the above even. The starped Diers are generally the figuret beam of them all and are very trons a many in policiterity, where Tasy devery other a field without a the main dyn fits which gives income a complete circuit to see the tree constant ships for elition if a cone into proceed the forme. If he d sense in get three compressions they then they buildness," One abcen

initia his bloothearth of a wholl deer lighted inform diene his farm. the line is sent to the this leaved the trains to have his flock set of woman who used to say, "Well, if main threat, game been a cit frain.

Joys of a Collector.

Collecting will always have its romances. I know of one that occurred at the sale at Christle's of the effects of the late Sir Henry Irving. Some one I knew had been to see the collection before the sale. He came across because he had seen it thirty years In the Williams river country of before. On consulting his catalogue he the increase, according to Recreation, scribed as being that of a man un-The state used for pencils is a kind and there is a blue grass settlement known, and, further, the artist was of schist, of so fine a grain that its par- about the extreme head of the river also unknown. Now, he knew that the auction with very little hope. The Whistler and the Sargent were sold. and then it was the turn of this picture. Nobody recognized it. Finally he had to start the bidding himself, and this he did. Only one man bid against him, but he soon stopped, discouraged, and then the pleture was knocked down to the man who had never expected to get it. He hurried to the desk to pay the small amount and to carry off his prize. "Do you" happen to know anything about that portrait?" the auctioncer asked him as a porter took it down to a cab. "I know it very well," said the new ownor, conscious that it was now safely his property. "It is a portrait of Buckstone, the actor, by Daniel Macline, There is an engraving of it in the Mac-Has portrait gallery,"-Mrs. John Lane, lu Pearson's Magazine.

The Sights.

The Englishman-Oh, yes! America s a wonderful country.

The American Girl-What did you co there?

The Englishman-Ningara Falls, the Turkish toom at the Waldorf and the 'Chicago stock yards .- American Spectator.

What has become of the old-fashion-I'm crazy, I have lots of company !"

"The moral is that when you are dealing with a gray eyed man you should be cautious in provoking him." London Auswers. A Buildheaded Reply. A naval other, very well and favorably known in Londou, has for some unknown reason been advanced in his

inmentably hald. Recently one of his juniors was bold enough to question him as to his remarkable absence of

"How comes it that you are so very

proved machine of her type, soaring on

high in absolute control, will occasion

no more comment to watchers from be-

low than an automobile does to-day

threading its course through a business

It is interesting to note in this con-

nection that Count de la Vaula, one of

the most intelligent and enterprising of

the French aeronauts, does not believe

that either Santos-Dumont or Farman

will win the Deutsch prize of \$10,000

for the first airship that sails a circu-

lar kilometer. He takes little stock in

the future of flying machines, either,

but pins his faith on the possibilities of

The Gray Eyed Man.

"I always feel a bit nervous," re-

marked a sergeant of police, "when I

have to arrest a man with gray eyes,

for I know that he is a born fighter

and that I am likely to have a tough

"Most men when they are fighting

though he may in his calmer moments

be quite aware of the folly of resist-

"It isn't smong criminals only that

"With soldiers and sallors it is just

color. It is the more remarkable when

portion of whom have gray eyes.

pared with other shades.

thoroughfare."

the steerable balloon.

The officer replied promptly and with much vindictiveness: "You, man, you would be bald, I

have."-London Punish.

my friends now, these sea anemones." Postoffice "Derelicts." On an average no less than 130,000 Occasionally impurities are necounta- been driven out of the sheep business a famous English painter. He longed letters are posted annually without any ble for "scratchy" slate pencils, which, by bears. This is a hardship to small to buy it, but decided that it would address, some of them containing mon- instead of making a soft, delible mark, instowners whose farms lie at too go at too high a price. He went to the ey which amounts to about 26,000 a are liable to score the smooth surface great an elevation to raise grain.