

Items of Interest.



The beard of the average man grows six inches a year.

Norway banks hold more specie in their safes than they issue.

Sugar can be made from the sap of nearly 200 different kinds of trees.

Great Britain derives \$40,000,000 yearly revenue from the Chinese opium trade.

Americans excel all other nations in electrical engineering and photography.

The Baroness Burdett-Couts has recently celebrated her eighty-eighth birthday.

Cremation has been placed under the ban by the Roman Catholic archbishop of Montreal.

The only surviving pensioner of the war of 1812 is Hiram Cronk of Herkimer county, New York.

The Romans knew how to build good roads. Many roads built by them are yet in good condition.

The Wisconsin legislature refused to enact a law prohibiting marriage between whites and negroes.

Iceland has no millionaires. The people are all poor, but there are no almshouses and no dependents.

The earliest mention of shoes is found in an Egyptian papyrus, written nearly 2,200 years before Christ.

Chicago Hebrews have established a theatre for the presentation of dramas that appeal to the Jewish taste.

Richwood, N. J., is suffering from a plague of cats. The cats were turned loose on the town by practical jokers.

The United States produces 775,000,000 pounds of tobacco yearly. One-half this amount is consumed at home.

In 1832 Buffalo had only 8,000 inhabitants. Now it has 352,000 and is now the second city in New York state.

The British Museum library has thirty-one miles of shelves. The French Imperial library has but eighteen.

Silk worms thrive best on a diet of mulberry leaves. Ten pounds of mulberry leaves yield one ounce of raw silk.

The gold of Australia and California could be made into a mass twenty feet square at each end and forty feet long.

The fir timber of the North Pacific coast has wonderful strength and bridge builders are using it more and more every year.

A university exclusively for women is nearing completion in Tokio, Japan. Three rich Japanese merchants furnished the funds.

Gustavus Adolphus originated the idea of "running the gauntlet." He used it to punish thieves in the ranks of his armies.

There are now 175,000 children of school age in Cuba. Of this number 132,000 are in the public schools. One thousand school houses are in daily use.

Black walnut is becoming more valuable than mahogany. Fifty years ago it was plentiful in Ohio, but extravagant waste has denuded the forests.

At one month a boy baby has an equal chance of living forty-four years. Five years later he has an equal chance of living fifty-one years and six months.

There were 162 complete engines on the battleship Maine. It is believed that most of these engines were uninjured by the explosion that wrecked the ship and brought on the war between the United States and Spain.

Honolulu, June 7.—Via San Francisco, June 13.—Dr. Sen Vet Sen, the Chinese reformer, left on the American Maru June 5 for China for the purpose of starting a revolution. His intention is to overthrow the empress dowager and the mandarins. His idea is to have China ruled by a president on lines after the government of America. He says that there will be a strong force at his back, and he has the support of many prominent white men of China, as well as thousands of natives. This is the third revolution which he has attempted in China, and he is confident that this attempt will prove successful. Dr. Sen would not state where he intended to land in China, or give the details of his plans. There will be bloodshed very soon, he declared.

Philadelphia, Pa., June 13.—Mayor Ashbridge late tonight signed the ordinances passed by the city council yesterday granting franchises for city railways, surface, elevated and underground. Ex-Postmaster General John Wannamaker sent a letter to Mayor Ashbridge today offering to pay the city \$2,500,000 for these franchises.

The ordinances give to a number of capitalists who are friendly to the dominant faction in the republican party in the state, the right to construct underground and elevated railways on streets now occupied by surface railways and to build surface roads on the streets not so occupied.

Mr. Wannamaker urged the mayor to veto the ordinances before him in order that new ordinances might be drafted conferring the franchise in question only upon the payment of a sum of money into the public treasury commensurate to the value of the grant. Mayor Ashbridge refused to talk about Mr. Wannamaker's protest against his signing the bills.

Scientific American: Document No. 384 of second session of the Fifty-sixth congress, dealing with the damage to property at Pomeroy, Ohio. The secretary of war states that he has the honor to transmit a letter from the chief of engineers, U. S. A., submitting certain facts relative to the claim of Mrs. B. N. Reuter, amounting to \$1, for damages to a window and curtain in her residence, caused by a fragment of rock thrown by a blast by government employes while removing rock from the river bed and banks of the Ohio river, at Pomeroy, O. The chief engineer considers that damages inflicted by the torts of the government officers or agents are in the nature of unliquidated damages which no executive officer has authority to settle. He therefore recommended that congress be asked to insert the following amount in the next general deficiency bill:

Pomeroy, Ohio, Nov. 5, 1900.
U. S. Government to Mrs. B. N. Reuter, Dr.
To one 14x32 double-strength glass.....\$.50
Glazing same......25
One curtain damaged......25

Total\$1.00

St. Paul Pioneer-Press Special Service.—Washington, June 11. William E. Chandler today inclosed to Senator Lodge his check for \$100, the reward offered by him to the person who placed in the financial plank of the republican platform of 1896 after the reference to international bimetallism the words: "Which we pledge ourselves to promote." The delay since 1896 has been occasioned by the claims of various persons that they conceived and wrote the words, and in this connection have been mentioned the names of Frank S. Streeter of Concord, N. H., United States Senator Hansbrough and Former Representative D. K. Watson of Columbus, O. It has taken Mr. Chandler all this time to settle the conflict of claims. Very lately Senator Foraker found the final draft of the platform, and it appears from this that the words, "which we pledge ourselves to promote" were interlined in pencil above typewritten matter, and that the written words are in the handwriting of Senator Lodge. The correspondence between Mr. Chandler and Senator Foraker, Mr. Watson and Senator Lodge is voluminous and interest-

ing. Mr. Chandler closes his letter to Senator Lodge as follows: "By reason of the premises you should without hesitancy accept the \$100 as rightfully your money. All wise men know that McKinley and Hobart would not have been elected if the platform had not, while declaring opposition to the free coinage of silver except as the result of an international agreement, also declared that the republican party favored such an international agreement, if it could be secured. If McKinley and Hobart had not been elected in 1896, Mr. McKinley would not have been re-elected in 1900. Therefore, those six words were of priceless value, and I trust that when all the facts are known my humble offering of \$100 will be supplemented by such generous donations, not only from many members of the republican party, but as well from democrats who have so much trembled at every prospect of the election of Mr. Bryan as to adequately recognize the sagacity and courage which led you not merely to conceive, but to actually insert into the platform of 1896 concerning bimetallism the words, 'which we pledge ourselves to promote.' That immortal declaration twice made Mr. McKinley president, and the fidelity with which the pledge has been fulfilled the world knows."

Special Cablegram to the Globe-Democrat.—Manila, June 11.—There was a sensation yesterday in the court-martial of Capt. Michael Spellman, Lieut. Delbert R. Jones and Surgeon Dudley Welch, of the 43d volunteer infantry, in Southern Leyte, on the charge of trading in permits to ship hemp from closed ports. Surgeon Dudley Welch turned state's evidence and gave testimony incriminating Captain Spellman and Lieutenant Jones, who will probably receive terms of imprisonment. Welch, who appears to have been a tool of the others, has returned \$1,000, his share of the spoils, to the government. The evidence disclosed that the value of the hemp cleared from Maasin was about five hundred thousand dollars in the last six months. The officers indicated levied half a peso on each picul of rice entering insurgent territory, while steamships, schooners and bancas trading with closed ports in Malitbog Bay paid from 30 pesos to 500 pesos, according to their tonnage. The presidente of Maasin and a go-between who is connected with a Spanish firm, have also been arrested. Spellman was formerly a major in the 69th New York regiment. The 43d infantry was stationed in the Island of Leyte, and the accused officers were detailed for duty in the port of Massin. The trial began about the middle of last month, and evidence was brought out showing that hemp steamships calling at Maasin had paid as much as \$500 for the privilege of going in and coming out. Captain Spellman was well known as a national guard officer. He enlisted as a private in company G, 22d regiment, national guard of the state of New York, on January 17, 1888. He was promoted to be a sergeant in 1891, and two years later he left the 22d to be a first lieutenant of company I, 69th regiment. In July, 1895, he was elected captain of company G, and was chosen second senior major of the regiment on July 23, 1896. He served with that rank while his regiment was in the service of the United States during the Spanish-American war. Later Major Spellman applied for a commission in one of the volunteer regiments then recruiting, and was successful, obtaining a commission as captain, through the influence, it was said, of Lieut.-Col. Putnam B. Strong, then of the 69th. While in the 69th regiment Captain Spellman was a staunch partisan of Colonel Duffy, a loyalty which gained for Spellman quite as many enemies as friends. He is unmarried and is about 35 years old. He has a father and two sisters living in New York city. Surgeon Welch was an appointee at large in the volunteer army. Lieutenant Jones was appointed from Connecticut, having served in the Spanish war as first lieutenant of the 1st Connecticut infantry.