

Current Topics

Seven-Year Wonder.

At one of the interesting "five o'clocks" of the enterprising Paris Figaro a little 7-year-old violin virtuoso from Hungary was on the program, who promises to be the musical sensation of the world for some time to come. There is only one objection to the youthful artist, and that is his very unmelodious name—Kun Arpad, which is not a name de theater. Still, it has a familiar gypsy sound, not by any means as unpronounceable as Bjornstjerne Bjornson and the names of other men who have become famous despite their patronymics.

Kun Arpad is a juvenile virtuoso par excellence. His repertoire embraces some of the most classical pieces of renowned composers, and he plays with wonderful feeling. The musical critic of the Figaro says that during some of the pathetic selections there was not a dry eye in the audience. The little fellow seems transformed into a celestial being while playing, and when away from the stage and romping with his little companions he is as mundanely mischievous as anyurchin of his age. He will make a tour of Europe and America with that excellent Viennese musician, Rodolphe Berger, who will accompany him on the piano. Kun Arpad's forte at the Figaro "five o'clock" was a "Romance," by Mendelssohn, and "Le Mouvement Perpetuelle" of Paganini, which the little violinist executes with wonderful alacrity, not losing a note and beating time with his feet. I predict from what I have read in the Paris papers that Chicago will go wild over the diminutive chap during his season here.

Choate's New Secretary.

William Woodward of New York has been appointed private secretary to Joseph H. Choate at London. He is a law student at Harvard and has made an exceedingly creditable record both in studies and athletics. He will graduate in June.

From the time he entered the university Woodward became one of the most prominent figures in his class. His brilliant intellectual attainments won for him the respect of all his associates, while his skill and enthusiasm in the realm of sports evoked their admiration and caused him to be looked upon generally as one of the best "all-round men" at Harvard. He played right guard on his freshman football eleven and his sophomore year was substitute on the "varsity. In 1897 he managed the "varsity crew. He was equally prominent in social affairs, being a member of the leading clubs and secret societies. He graduated with the degree of A. B., and the next year took the degree of A. M. He was



WILLIAM WOODWARD.

electd chairman of his class, a great honor. Upon his graduation he entered the law school.

The retirement of the ambassador's present private secretary, William Bayard Cutting, Jr., is due to the fact that he will shortly marry Sybil Cuffe, daughter of the Earl of Desart, England.

Postal Savings Banks.

In the last issue of the North American Review certain alleged dangers of the postal system are pointed out by Henry A. Castle, auditor of the postoffice department. Among other things, Mr. Castle strongly opposes postal savings banks. While he freely admits certain advantages in the system, such as the stimulating of thrift and the affording of a safe place where working people could deposit their small savings, he holds that it would involve a heavy loss to the government, and would be a serious injury to the postal service. Some of his arguments throw new and interesting light upon the subject.

The problem of finding a secure investment with adequate interest for these savings seems to be extremely difficult. The English government has not been able to solve this problem. It pays its postal depositors 2 1/2 per cent and invests the money in 2 1/2 per cent consols, which in the past have been bought in at a rate ranging from 110 to 114. All this premium, as well as the entire cost of accounting, is a dead loss. Yet no ministry dares to suggest a reduction in interest, as the wrath of several million voters would

fall upon any statesman who attempted to put the system on a business basis, says Chicago Tribune.

The only solution for England is the abolition of interest altogether and the substitution of a purely savings institution. The people who want to save are generally of the working class. They do not want interest. As a matter of fact, the gravest statesmen of the British empire see that interest must be prohibited by law for England's good.

When the government takes charge of the work of the individual by keeping money in a safe place, argue these British economists, the government should make a charge for its work. And any individual, except he be a person who is a professional money-lender, would be willing to pay a small per cent. Except under a purely socialistic form of government the loaning of such money invites financial chaos. This is what Great Britain is now enjoying.

Has Captured Washington.

Miss Alice Roosevelt, the charming young daughter of the vice-president, has captured the hearts of all Washington. She is tall and slender, with a profusion of golden hair, blue eyes



ALICE ROOSEVELT.

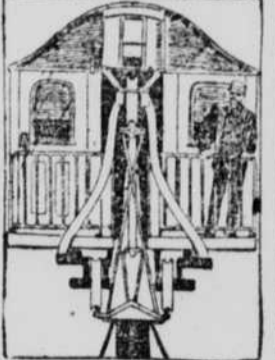
and pink and white complexion. She dresses with exquisite taste but so simply that the mode is remarkable. She made her first formal appearance in society last year, but this can scarcely be considered a conventional debut. One of the first functions at the home of the vice president will be the coming out party of this attractive young girl. It is not difficult to foresee that she will be the reigning belle of McKinley's second administration. Miss Alice is the daughter of the vice president by his first wife, who was Miss Alice Lee, of New York. Her mother died at her birth. She has inherited from her mother and other relatives quite a large fortune, and the vice president laughingly says that he always keeps on the good side of Alice, as she is the only one of his family who has any money. She has been carefully educated and is in every way equipped for the high place which she will occupy in official society.

Another Bellamy Colony.

Undaunted by the experience of so many Bellamy colonies which have flourished for a brief season and then collapsed, another one will be launched shortly among the hills of New Hampshire. The promoters are sanguine this one will succeed, as they will introduce some improvements on the original Bellamy system. No ministers, for instance, will be allowed within the limits of the colony, members desiring "the benefit of clergy" having to go outside for it. Lawyers also will be barred out, the promoters having no faith in their honesty as a class. Every one in the colony will be forced to work for a uniform rate of wages and those who are lazy or prove themselves morally unfit will be expelled.

Novel Elevated Railway.

The invention illustrated in the cut comprises a novel form of elevated or surface railway, which should be both speedy and cheap to build. The cars are slotted through the center, and are provided with wheels in sets of three each, which run on the main elevated rail and the two auxiliary rails underneath the center.



In the case of individual cars the power is applied to the upper wheel but if a whole train is made up a special engine is provided, with the driving wheels mounted near the top. With this pattern of railroad a high speed can be obtained, and there is small danger of an accident on curves. When the road used is an elevated one the rails are mounted on the top of a single post, which is braced at the curves, but not necessarily so on the straight track. The seats are arranged with the backs toward the center, affording a view through the windows along the sides, the entrance doors being at either end of the car. The inventor's patent also makes provision for a turntable, which is necessary where two tracks cross each other, as the three sets of rails have to be aligned with one track or the other.

SAYINGS and DOINGS

Savage Soon to Be Chief.

Lieut.-Gov. Savage will be inaugurated as governor of Nebraska probably within the month. Governor Dietrich has given his promise to vacate at an early date and qualify as United States senator.

In 1880 Mr. Savage lived in a sod house on the plains of Chester county. The new governor is a typical westerner. He was born at Connersville, Ind., in 1842, and was left at the age of ten the sole support of his mother and the family of little brothers and sisters left without protection by the death of their father. Young Savage worked hard on farms and in no other occupa-



EZRA P. SAVAGE.

tions, meanwhile managing to pass through high school and college. He studied law, removed to Iowa, made some money in land speculation, and then removed to Nebraska. He was the first mayor of South Omaha, laid out the town of Sargent and grew rich when the railroad was built through the town. He won distinction as a soldier and scout for Grant and Sherman during the civil war.

Doctor May Refuse Services.

Recent decisions of the higher courts in cases affecting the practice of medicine are interesting to the general public as tending to settle questions that have always been more or less controversial.

It has always been contended that a physician is morally bound to attend any patient for whom he is called. Failure to respond when called is generally regarded as a violation of medical ethics. It is well known, however, that many physicians do not assent to this view and reserve the right to refuse attendance even in cases of serious emergency. Deaths have been caused by the refusal of physicians to render medical assistance at a critical time when other physicians could not be found. Whatever may be the moral obligation the Indiana Supreme court has just rendered an opinion in a test case to the effect that a physician is not legally bound to attend a patient for whom he is called, no matter how urgent or desperate may be the case. An Indianapolis doctor was summoned three times to attend the wife of a prominent citizen. He refused to go, and was finally importuned by the sick woman's pastor, who offered to pay the fees in advance. The physician remained obdurate and the patient died.

World's Fair Mayor.

Rollo Wells, newly elected mayor of St. Louis, whose term of office will extend over the world's fair of 1903, is generally regarded as the visible evidence of the political power of for-



ROLLO WELLS.

mer Governor David R. Francis. Mr. Wells and Mr. Francis have known each other almost from boyhood, and have similar opinions as to what constitutes democracy. The election of Wells is taken as having a national significance, the more so when it is considered that Mr. Francis' connection with the world's fair will give him the advantage of close contact with the big men of the south. The new mayor is the head of a steel foundry, which employs upwards of 2,000 men. He is 45 years old, a native of St. Louis. This is his first plunge into politics, and his great success is due, not alone to his strong backing, but to his personal popularity. Mr. Wells is a typical Democrat of the silk-stocking school, but he is well known to the people through his early connection, as manager, with one of the big traction lines, which was owned by his father.

DESTRUCTION OF GRASSHOPPERS.

Prof. Brunner Issues a Bulletin Regarding the Matter.

LINCOLN, Neb., April 15.—Prof. Lawrence Brunner, entomologist at the University of Nebraska, has issued a bulletin in which he discusses various plans for destroying grasshoppers. It begins with a general description of the insects, this outline includes a statement of their life history, habits and relations to other insect forms, as well as the effects of climate, latitude, altitude and diseases in keeping them within certain limits. Much stress is laid on the past carelessness in the efforts of farmers of the state for permitting native locusts to become sufficiently numerous to cause trouble.

Among the artificial remedies which are suggested and described in this bulletin the most important is that of "discing" in early spring alfalfa fields and other grounds containing the eggs of these insects. This discing can be done at any time after the frost is out of the ground, but the best time seems to be early in April. Instead of injuring the alfalfa numerous experiments in Kansas and Nebraska have shown that by running the disc over the fields the yield is greatly increased. This stirring of the soil breaks up the egg masses and exposes them to the drying influences of the air and the keen eyes of the birds.

NEW FISH AND GAME LAW.

No Effort to Enforce It Until After the First of July.

LINCOLN, Neb., April 15.—It is officially announced at the state house that no attempt will be made by state officers to enforce the new fish and game law before July 1, that being the time when all laws passed without an emergency clause by the last legislature will become effective. An emergency clause was attached to the enrolled copy of the bill through error and without authority, but, although it was signed by the presiding officers of the legislature and by the governor, it cannot be enforced, for the reason that it was defeated in the house of representatives. The official journal of the house shows that the bill was ordered for third reading on March 13 and that on roll call it failed to receive the constitutional two-thirds vote necessary for an emergency clause thus leaving it subject to a motion to strike out the clause. Such a motion was made by Coppoc of Holt county and adopted, as the record shows. The roll was then called on the bill without the emergency clause and as it received the requisite number of votes it was declared passed.

Senator Millard's Private Secretary.

OMAHA, Neb., April 15.—Senator Millard has selected James B. Haynes as his private secretary and has sent the name to Washington. Mr. Haynes, the new secretary, has been a resident of Omaha for many years. In 1881 he did his first newspaper work in this city, reporting the session of the legislature for the Bee. From 1882 to 1885 he was stenographer in the office of the general passenger agent of the Union Pacific railroad and in 1887 was stenographer in Judge Hopewell's court.

Will Move For Acquittal.

FRANKFORT, Ky., April 13.—The prosecution in the Ripley conspiracy case will conclude its testimony tomorrow. The defense will move for instructions for a verdict of acquittal. Lawyers for the prosecution do not believe this will be sustained in view of the ruling of the court permitting the introduction of evidence as to the conspiracy. They assert that the evidence of ex-Governor Bradley and Judge Yost connects Ripley with the case.

Burns Herself to Death.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., April 15.—Mrs. Kinkead, 82 years of age, who had been living with her son, went into the cow house of Mrs. Seidenstrober, a neighbor, and after partially disrobing, set fire to her underclothing and started for the house. A physician was called, but she died. She said she was tired of living and begged the doctor to give her chloroform. She had been in poor health.

Fixes Date of Reunion.

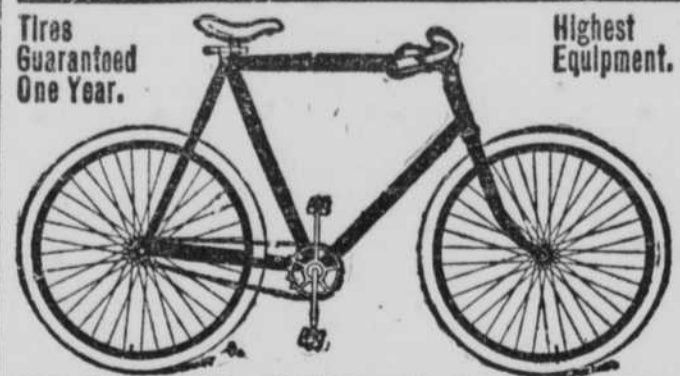
PLAINVIEW, Neb., April 15.—The Grand Army of the Republic committee of northeast Nebraska met to locate the next reunion. Neligh was chosen as the place, the reunion to begin the second week in July. A campfire was held at the opera house.

Lieutenant Mapes' Friends Active.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., April 15.—Lieutenant William Mapes of the Twenty-third United States infantry, who has won such honors by capturing insurgent officers at Manila and some \$40,000 of their funds, was born and raised in this county. He was formerly major of the Second regiment of the Nebraska National Guards. His friends here will ask for his advancement as a reward for his services in the Philippines.

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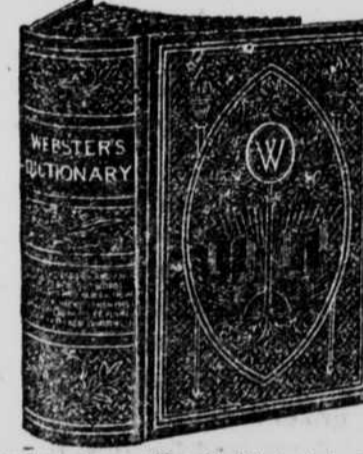
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