

Handles President's Mail.



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William Loeb, secretary to the President, is one of the busiest men in the national capital, having charge of the enormous correspondence of Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Loeb was a New York newspaper man before his appointment as the president's assistant. According to a recent rumor he will retire to accept the presidency of a large railway and electric concern.

A SEA OF ELECTRICITY.

MEANS BEING SOUGHT TO CURB STRAY WIRELESS VOLTS.

Fearing That Telegraph Station at Brooklyn Navy Yard Will Make Trouble in a Variety of Ways for Neighbors.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—A vast electrical sea will be formed in the environs of the new wireless telegraph station at the Brooklyn navy yard, when the apparatus is put into operation, receiving and transmitting messages.

Anywhere from half a million to a million volts of electrical fluid will be let loose in the atmosphere and everything in the vicinity of the new augmented station that has any electrical affinity whatever for electricity will be discharged.

When the old station was in operation, M. L. Newman, in charge of the

GETS WATCH AFTER YEARS.

Civil War Veteran Recovers Time-piece Lost with Woman in 1862. Denver, Col.—Seeking the aid of two representatives to find the owner of a watch which was lost in the civil war, A. C. Kogole, of Denver, has at last been successful, and Capt. Charles Alfred Edmonds, a veteran of the war, will soon get back the precious time-piece.

At the battle of South Battle mountain in Maryland in 1862 Capt. Edmonds was wounded. He was taken to the home of Mr. Kogole's sister in Middletown, Md. Capt. Edmonds gave his watch to the woman to keep for him, and after recovering enough to travel was sent home. He forgot his watch and long ago gave up any hope of ever seeing it.

When Mr. Kogole wrote to the Michigan congressman, asking for aid in finding the captain, they had the letter published in the newspapers of Michigan, and Capt. Edmonds soon got a clipping sent by an old friend in Coldwater, Mich. Mr. Kogole is expected to return to Denver soon, and then the treasured old timepiece will be returned to its owner.

Harmless Duels Fad in Paris. Paris—Pistol duelling clubs are the latest fad of French sporting clubs. When Dr. Devillers last year introduced the harmless bullet to Parisians it immediately "caught on." Now there are several clubs, and a tournament is being arranged this month in the Tuilleries Gardens. Madrid and Berlin seem likely to follow suit. The Devillers bullet can be used in any pistol. It carries wonderfully well. The duellists wear masks and gauntlets, but otherwise the conditions are those of the real duel.

Baden's Physique on Wane. Berlin—Curious statistics were gleaned in southern Baden in the recent enrollment of recruits. In the Lindau and Aligan districts out of 604 young men liable to service only 20 were found to be up to the physical standard of the military authorities. The peasantry of those districts were at one time among the most robust in the empire, but owing to the dearth of meat and milk their physique has sunk to a dangerously low level.

A Natural Barometer.

Stone That a St. Louis Man Says Foretells the Weather.

St. Louis.—A storekeeper on South Broadway has a piece of stone about as large as a man's fist in which he places more confidence as a weather indicator than he does in all the weather bureaus of the country.

He brought it with him from Germany when he came to St. Louis many years ago, and although his German neighbors told him that the stone would not work in America he finds that it operates about as well in Missouri as it did in the old country. He says there is a mine of it in Saxony, and that in parts of both countries near to the mines many country people provide themselves with lumps of the stone for use as family barometers. It is composed of limestone, almost as soft as chalk, with nitre, clay and rock salt.

When the air is dry the stone is a light gray, with white spots of salt

tion is devised, the energy from the station will seriously affect the operation of trolley cars. When the thousands of volts are released upon the wings of the air, many of them are expected to rush straightway to the trolley wires and trolley poles, to the old cannon decorations of the gate, and even to the bayonets and metallic insignia on the hats of the marine guard stationed at the gate. These volts will hover about these attractive cents like bees in a swarm. Each and every minute electron will be striving to reach the earth and to return to the generators in the power house by the path of least resistance, such as a metallic gas pipe, or a conduit or a trolley wire.

Last summer at times when atmosphere was surcharged with natural electricity, as well as with manufactured energy from the wireless station, the marine guard at the Sands street gate were perceptibly affected by the fluid. They absorbed it into their systems so that their hair stood out on end. The metallic insignia on their caps was tarnished and whenever they came in contact with or even near an old cannon or a trolley pole there was a snapping sound as of electricity rushing from their sheathed bayonets to the trolley pole or cannon.

The trolley wire on Navy street will be freighted with the electrical fluid this summer. And when a trolley car comes along there may be brilliant displays of electrical flame. The switch in the top of the forward platform of the car may slam back; there may be disturbances in the car motors. It is to ward off contingencies of this kind that Newman and the other electricians of the department are adding their pates for ideas.

MAKES COPPER IN LABORATORY.

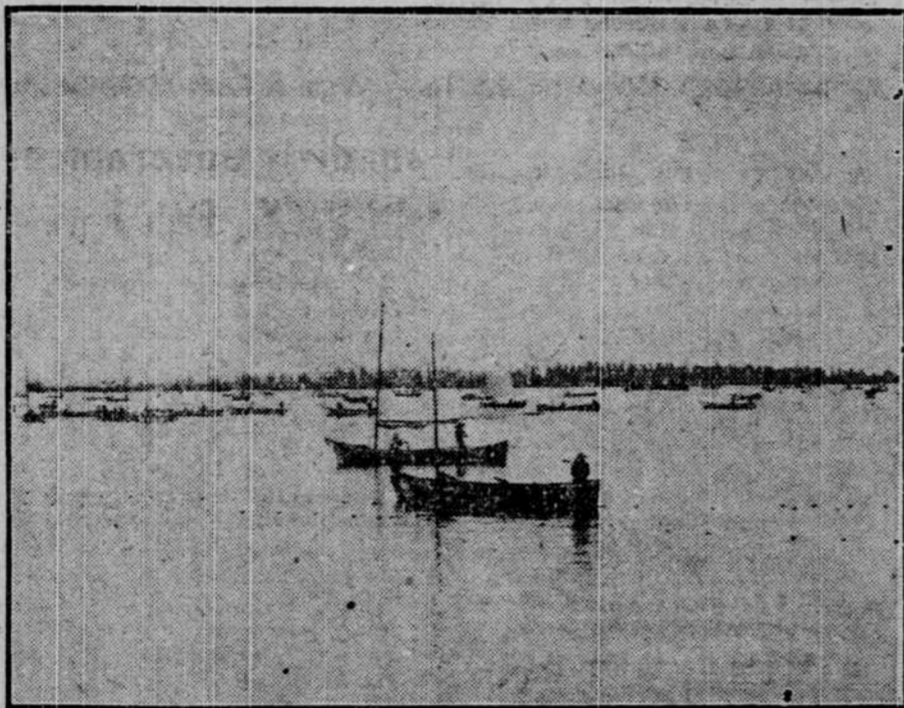
English Chemist Discovers New Method of Producing the Metal.

Baltimore.—Dr. Ira Remsen, president of Johns Hopkins university, is authority for the statement that Sir William Ramsay, a famous chemist of Cambridge university, has discovered the method of making artificial copper, and the great discovery will be made known to science when Sir William will read a paper on the subject before the Royal Chemical society at Great Britain.

Prof. Remsen, who is prominent as a chemist, has a private letter from the famous Englishman stating that Sir William has succeeded in accomplishing the production of copper by the synthetic or combining process from the elements, sodium, lithium and potassium.

A combination of these elements treated with radium vapor, gives as a product copper sulphate, which is readily broken down into copper.

The Salmon Industry.



The salmon industry is easily the largest in the north Pacific coast country; thousands of persons are annually employed in catching and preparing the fish for market. The product is sent over the entire world. The accompanying picture shows a portion of the salmon fishing fleet at Steveston, British Columbia.

Has Only One Bricklayer.

Lone Student in School Founded by Andrew Carnegie.

Pittsburg, Pa.—The School of Bricklaying, intended to be one of the most important departments of the great \$10,000,000 technical schools which Andrew Carnegie founded here, has one scholar. The daily routine which the future knight of the trowel goes through and the staff of instructors maintained solely for him is causing much comment.

When Mr. Carnegie founded the technical schools he insisted that the departments first opened must be those for the purpose of teaching young men to become expert artisans. Bricklaying looked as if it might be popular here, and the school of bricklaying was the first in commission. While other departments were quickly filled up with scholars the brick-

laying game didn't seem to appeal to Pittsburg's young men, but finally one student appeared.

After passing the necessary examination Daniel Chisholm was enrolled and began his studies at the school after paying his fee of \$20 a year. To teach prospective bricklayers there had been engaged by the school a professor at a salary of \$15 a day and an expert bricklayer, who receives six dollars, or the union wage.

When Lieut. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, who already has been virtually placed on the inactive list, shall be retired by the operation of law within the next 18 months, Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood will be the ranking officer of the army for 16 years, barring accidents. He is now the senior major general and will not reach the age of retirement until 1924.

FRENCH PRIESTS EARN LIVING.

Forced by the Separation Act to Support Selves in Business.

Paris.—The separation act, which deprived the French Roman Catholic clergy of official position and stipends, has led many to adopt curious forms of co-operation, with a view to earning their living in Paris. The priests have formed a syndicate, the chief object of which is to procure coal and provisions at wholesale prices. There is also a federation of clerics who do manual labor.

Many priests who are capable gardeners and carpenters find employment from Roman Catholics through this federation. Its members undertake to copy the celebrated Socialist division of the day by giving eight hours to manual work, eight to clerical and eight to rest.

In the department of Cher priests have formed a beekeepers' association and make as a yearly income from the sale of honey about \$150, almost as much as their former stipends.

Washington Day by Day

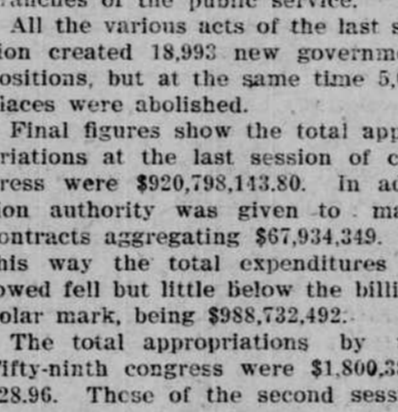
News Gathered Here and There at the National Capital

CAPTAIN HOBSON TO TRY NEW POLITICAL SCHEME

WASHINGTON.—Capt. Richmond Pearson Hobson, of Merrimack fame, is going to play some practical politics for a change. The former naval officer and advance agent of a billion-dollar navy is thought by many to have become a rather astute politician. His latest is the development of a scheme that promises to make no end of trouble for the scientific departments of the government.

The captain has borrowed from the agricultural department an expert on road building, one on soils, one on cotton growing and one on forestry. From the post office department he has obtained the loan of a rural free delivery expert.

With this menage and accompanied by his wife, the captain is going to make a month's tour of his Alabama district. There will be a careful booking of the aggregation and where people wish its advice they will get lectures and practical demonstrations



CARNEGIE LABORATORY TO BUILD VOLCANO FACTORY

THE most dangerous thing in Washington is, the new geophysical laboratory constructed with funds of the Carnegie institution. It is dedicated to making rocks, and for this purpose it proposes to reproduce pent-up volcanoes, and the frightful pressures and heat of the earth's interior. It is the only building in the world devoted exclusively to high pressures and temperatures.

"We don't know just what we will be able to do," said Prof. Arthur L. Day. "We shall have to deal in very high temperatures and pressures, and it may end by our all being blown up. But if we avoid that we hope to discover some interesting things about the crust of the earth."

The new geophysical laboratory has been located at a safe distance from residential Washington. It is 1,000 feet from the nearest car line,



"PETE," the famous bull terrier of the White House, has at last been vanquished. He met his Waterloo the other morning in the jaws of an unknown white bulldog, who made a meal of Pete's front leg and shoulder with a good bite out of his ear for a chaser.

The secretary of the interior will resume his pathmaking across the White House lawn, M. Jusserand will cease practicing tree climbing, the chief forester of the government has dismissed his athletic trainer and has announced he will now take his morning sprints through Rock Creek park, and a general look of relief is noticeable in the demeanor of every member of the president's official family as well as his kitchen cabinet.

Among the newspaper correspondents there is general rejoicing and they swarmed over the White House grounds to their hearts' content all day and long into the night.

But in the president's household there is much sorrow over Pete's distress. "Pete" was put under the ban because he chewed up a navy department clerk, and he was in disgrace generally. Next this feeling gave way to one of genuine sympathy for "Pete," who surely needs friends now if he ever did.

"Pete" was allowed to take some exercise early in the morning, after having been chained all night as a punishment for his work on the navy department clerk. He evidently had a "grouch" against the world for being tied up like a common, ordinary dog, and he was in search of trouble, sure.

He raced around the White House grounds for a time, looking for excitement, and it soon wore in sight in the shape of a husky fellow bull terrier. "Pete" tackled him without ceremony, but the other dog was too quick for him. He made a grab for "Pete's" foreleg under the shoulder, and got a magnificent under hold.



In all the subjects the experts represent, Capt. Hobson will do the hand-shaking and political solidification act.

Alabama people happen to know that Mrs. Hobson is one of the best women politicians in Washington. She drove with him over every county in the district. They got acquainted with everybody, explained their desire to go to congress, convinced folks that they were justified in it, and when primary day came bore off the nomination in triumph over Mr. Bankhead, who had held the seat for 20 years.

Other representatives are casting envious eyes on this Hobson programme and are beginning to prepare applications for the use of government experts. If the departments allow the enterprise to be generally copied there will be a dearth of experts and the scientific departments have to conscript them before long.

MILLIONS APPROPRIATED BY THE LATE CONGRESS

exceed those of the first by \$41,208,958.

During the last session 16,434 salaries were increased at an annual cost of \$2,919,352. This includes the vice president, speaker, nine cabinet officers, 90 senators, 396 representatives and 34 employees of congress.

Contracts were authorized for public works requiring future appropriations aggregating \$67,934,349, of which almost \$15,000,000 is for battleships, torpedo boats, etc. The largest appropriation carried by any one measure was \$212,091,193 by the post-office bill. The naval bill carried \$98,958,507, the army bill \$78,634,582 and the pension bill \$146,143,000.

A comparison of the total appropriations made at the second session of the Fifty-ninth congress for 1908, \$920,798,143.80, in addition authority was given to make contracts aggregating \$67,934,349. In this way the total expenditures allowed fell but little below the billion-dollar mark, being \$988,732,492.

The total appropriations by the Fifty-ninth congress were \$1,800,357,328.96. Those of the second session



and there is only one house within that range.

Other reasons than the danger of explosions led to its isolated location. It was necessary to remove it from the danger of electrical and jarring influences. In order further to do this, the building is constructed on special insulated foundations, and with no connection between its walls and floor. The walls are anchored in deep sand, and the floor of each room is a cement island set in a lake of dry sand.

This branch of Mr. Carnegie's institution has already solved one problem. It has made quartz glass. Its second problem is still unsolved; namely, what is Portland cement, and why?

The new laboratory, with its volcano machines, will begin to do business next month.

BULLDOG "PETE" AT LAST MEETS HIS WATERLOO

Luckily the stranger got tired after awhile and gave the White House terrier a chance to adopt the discretionary part of valor, retiring in a mad rush to safety under the White House hedge. His superior knowledge of the holes through the thicket stood "Pete" in good stead, and he got away alive, thanks to the policeman on guard at the White House, who covered his retreat and chased away the most admired dog in the capital.

If the owner of "Pete's" vanquisher will send word privately to a lot of officials high in the government service, he will receive the finest collar and dog tag that money can buy.

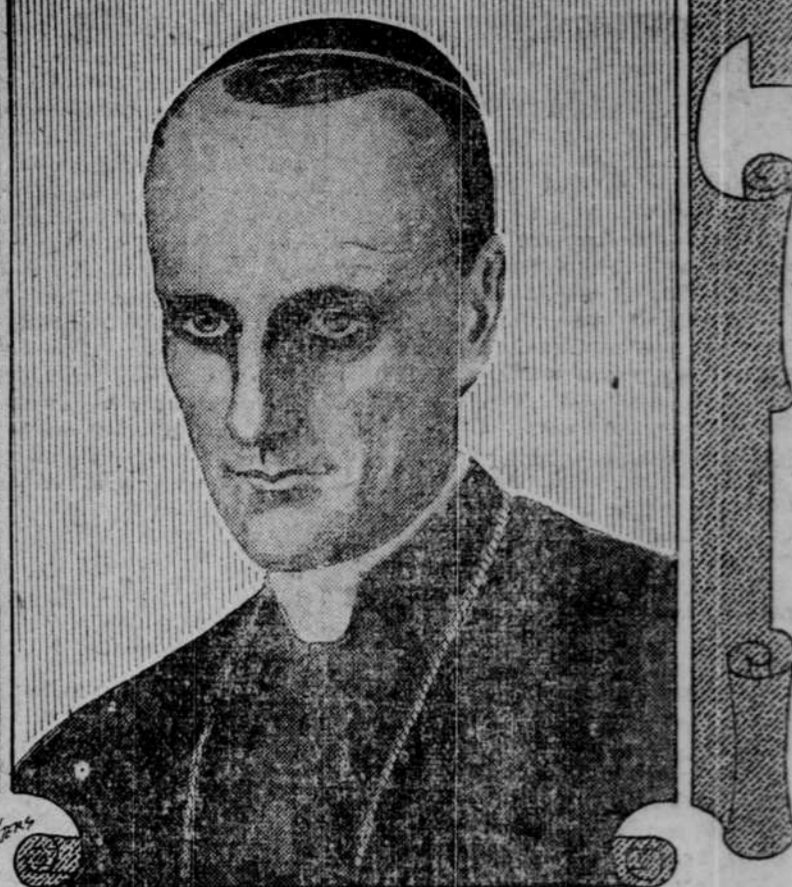
Accounting to Come.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, the celebrated Philadelphia physician, was a guest at a dinner of the National Board of Trade on one occasion. He listened to one or two speeches and then slipped out of the room. Later a friend inquired as to the cause of his disappearance. "I grew weary," he said, "of hearing men talk about millions and billions and not a word about education or moral progress or literature or poetry. Why, has the nation got so imbued with commercialism that men can talk of nothing but dollars and cents? Let me tell you, sir, that this country could well afford to pay \$1,000,000,000 for another Shakespeare." "But, doctor," said his friend, banteringly, "we have our Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, and he did not cost us \$1,000,000,000." "Wait," he answered, and his eyes twinkled. "Wait; you have never got a bill from me yet."

That's What Hurt.

"I don't like that Mrs. M. Wellman at all," said Mrs. Nuritch. "Well, you ain't got to take no notice of her," replied Mrs. Nuritch. "But the trouble is she don't take no notice of me."

POPE'S SECRETARY MAY RETIRE



CARDINAL MERRY DEL VAL

The rumor that Cardinal Merry Del Val is to retire from the office of the secretary of state for Pope Pius X. is not new, for, during the troublous days which have followed the carrying out of the Vatican's policy in France, and for which the cardinal is said to be largely responsible, it has been frequently heard, but the present report, coming through private sources, seems to indicate that this important change is one of the certainties of the near future, and when it comes it is thought that it will, in a measure, alter the present policy of the pope.

Cardinal Merry Del Val was just entering his thirty-ninth year when he became secretary of the apostolic see, and because of his scholastic attainments and his theological training it was considered that he was peculiarly well-fitted to discharge the vast and wide-extending duties of his office. At that time he was already distinguished as a theologian and a deep student of church history. Latin was to him almost like a mother tongue; he spoke and wrote like an educated native English, French, Spanish, German and Italian. But while some regarded him as a fine product of the English schools of Slough, Ushaw and Stonyhurst, as a youth grown into manhood under the liberal ideas of an English mother, as a rational Catholic of the Manning-Newman type, others remembered him as the son of a Spanish diplomat, and recalled the years he had spent in the most aristocratic ecclesiastical circles of Paris and Madrid, with all their inviting reactionary influences, and recognized in him a somber Spanish prelate below his veneer of English training.

By no means the least to be considered of the cardinal's qualifications is his address and bearing, in both of which respects he has enjoyed an advantage over the leaders of other European chancelleries. His knowledge of the languages of different countries has been an ever present aid to him in his official communications with the leaders of the church in thought and government in various parts of the world, and it has also facilitated his intercourse with all with whom he has been brought in contact from foreign lands. Being in the very prime of life and possessed of good health, he has shown a power of application and a zeal and devotion to the interests of the church which have surprised his friends and been the cause of much worry and trouble to those who have opposed him and the things for which he stood.

Few papal secretaries, perhaps, have been so severely criticised as has been Cardinal Merry Del Val, for it has been thought that he, even more than the holy father himself, is responsible for the encyclical of last August denouncing the French separation law and forbidding Catholics to obey it. The powers of the papal secretary of state are considerable. The office has been evolved from the time when the pope had representatives at nearly all the courts of Europe, and so at the present time the duties and responsibilities of the office are about half-way between the German and the English ministries of foreign affairs.

If the cardinal does resign his office and relinquish this vast power, it is certain that it will come as a result of dissatisfaction on the part of the pope with the policy pursued. In fact it is said that as long as two years ago the pope felt displeased over the papal note which his secretary had

framed protesting to France and the Catholic powers against the proposed visit of President Loubet to Rome. To those who are familiar with the inside history of things it is known that Pius X. did not wish to send it; but allowed himself to be overruled by his secretary of state.

When the effect of the note was realized by the pope, a change in the secretaryship of state was hinted at, but of this many were skeptical, for it was pointed out that Pius X. was very determined in matters in which he was sure of his ground, but where he was not he was influenced by the late coner, so that the secretary of state would have to make some immense mistake, or mistakes would have to accumulate to such an extent that there would be a universal protest, before he would replace him.

But now, it is said, the pope has reached a decision, and the usually well-informed Rome correspondent of La Petite République de Paris formally declares that Cardinal Del Val will shortly be replaced by a prelate who will be more conciliatory in his attitude toward France.

And if Merry Del Val does quit the question is being asked: Who will be his successor? Some say Rampolla, who, although 63 years of age, is still vigorous. Others say that Monsignor Kennedy, rector of the American college at Rome, may get this high office.

Monsignor Kennedy has been rector of the American college for years, and in a way has been the intermediary between the pope and the bulk of the English speaking countries. He is thoroughly conversant with the internal affairs of the Vatican. Should he be called to this office, Monsignor Kennedy would undoubtedly be created a cardinal in private consistory, as was Cardinal Merry Del Val.

Monsignor Kennedy is a Pennsylvanian by birth. He is in his fiftieth year and at the time of his appointment to Rome was stationed at Overbrook seminary.

Men of the Moon Lightweights.

The average weight of man is 149 pounds, but the force of gravity on Mars is so much less than on earth that the 149-pound man would weigh only 53 pounds if transferred thither. With such light weight and still retaining the same strength, an individual would be able to run with the speed of an express train, go skipping over ten-foot walls, and do various other extraordinary things. On the moon a man would be even lighter.

But on the sun our 149-pound man would have his troubles. Instead of being an airy individual he would weigh a ton and three-quarters. He probably would have the greatest difficulty in raising his hand, for that member would weigh 200 pounds.

According to scientific computation a man who on earth weighs 149 pounds would go to the other celestial bodies with the following weights: Moon, 23; Mars, 53; Venus, 114; Mercury, 119; Neptune, 123; Uranus, 127; earth, 140; Saturn, 155; Jupiter, 371; sun, 3,871.

His Rating.

Mother—That young man who wants to marry our daughter Grace is a penniless young fellow.

Father—Then he is a Graceless youth.—Baltimore American.

SNOWSLIDE IN IDAHO.

"That was the grandest sight I ever saw," said Fred W. Smith, in speaking of the snowslide at the Independence group of mines a few days ago to a Halley Times reporter. "The slide must have been fully a quarter of a mile wide and as long. Bare ground succeeded a broad sheet of white. The snow piled up 30, 60, 100 feet high at every obstruction, and the whole mountain seemed to be coming down. When the body of snow got to the bottom of the gulch it kept right on up the mountain on the opposite side for 150 feet, and it piled in the gulch fully 100 feet high. That snow will not go until the end of June."

"There was no noise, no tremor of the earth, and the slide came down so gently that an inexperienced person would have been tempted to stand in the open and look on while the snow slid past."

Seeing the slide coming down the mountain above him, Mr. Smith jump-

ed into the blacksmith shop at the 300-foot level, ran into the tunnel there, thence down to a winz to the 400-foot level, and out to the blacksmith shop at that level.

There was 30 feet of snow on the roof of this shop, but Mr. Smith did not know this, and he had to get out before the snow became crusted anyway, so he began shoveling a way out with a scoop shovel, throwing the snow behind him. In a couple of hours he had burrowed a tunnel about 60 feet long to daylight, and when John Sears, the only other man within a mile or two, and his sole companion, came from the cabin to look for him, he was just in time to see Mr. Smith break through the top of a pile of snow 50 or 60 feet high.

A Pennsylvania man has invented a method for getting any number you want on the telephone by simply pressing a button. Central had better watch out for her job by being pleasant all the time now.