

**HORNETS NESTED IN THE BELL.**

**Sittig Came from Souther and**  
**Brought Wedding Guests.**  
 How a colony of hornets interrupted a wedding ceremony and postponed it several hours is told by Nell Watson, a guide, who had been looking over the deer grounds between Molokuni Lake and Paton. Watson was present and vouches for the facts, says the New York World correspondent at Macva...

When he was some miles out of Paton Watson came upon the cabin of a small boat, another guide, and during the evening Sam imparted the information that he had been accused by a winsome lass named Nellie Turnbull and was expecting to be married shortly. In fact, he was simply waiting to provide himself with a best man, and now that Watson had turned up so opportunely he could see no reason why the ceremony should not be performed next day, provided Nell would agree to stand up with him.

Naturally, Watson offered no objection. So bright and early the following morning Sam put on a suit of clothes he had brought for the occasion, "sleeked up" his cabin and departed for the home of his sweetheart, accompanied by his fellow guide, Miss Nellie objected at first to hurrying the proceeding, but as there were few neighbors to invite and her wedding finery had been ready for several days she finally agreed to be married if Sam could get the keys to the district school house and fish up a parson. The school house had not been used since spring and was not near so suitable a place for the ceremony as her own home, but Miss Nellie had read of grand church weddings and set her heart upon getting as close to the real thing as she could.

Sam had no difficulty in getting keys and parson and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon bride, bridegroom, clergyman and neighbors were on hand. One of the neighbors had been instructed to ring the school bell as the couple approached the teacher's desk, now draped with gold-rod on an altar, and at the appointed time he laid hold of the dusty rope and pulled with might and main.

Instead of a clariion notes there issued from the bell a swarm of yellow jacket hornets, which sought out their disturbers and descended upon the wedding party. The parson had just been uttering a yell of pain and ran down the aisle. The bridegroom followed and the parson legged it a good third. By this time the audience was leaving by doors and windows with the hornets in pursuit.

Half a mile down the road the party gathered, smarting and hot, and bathed their swollen faces in a brook which they applied soothing mud to the afflicted parts. Then they all adjourned to the Turnbull cabin, where Miss Nellie decided to put off the wedding until evening. In the meantime the guests bathed themselves with ointment and lotions and enjoyed an impromptu spread provided by Mr. Turnbull. The ceremony was finally performed at 8 o'clock.

**JOKES OF THAD STEVENS.**

A Batch that Are So Old as to Seem New Now.

Many a joke is credited to Thaddeus Stevens, who led the Republicans in Congress during the Civil War and reconstruction periods.

One of the very keenest of his jests, which is undoubtedly authentic, is so commonplace in sound that one might easily be forgiven for falling to take in its meaning. In his last days David Reese and John Channey, two employees of the House of Representatives, used to carry him in a large arm chair from his lodgings across the public grounds, up the broad stairs of the Capitol.

"Who," he said to them one day, "will be so good to me, and bear me in their strong arms, when you two mighty men are gone?"

Such a question implied nothing short of a sense of intellectual immortality.

"When he had taken to his bed for the last time a visitor told him he was looking well.

"Oh, John," was the quick reply, "it is not my appearance, but my disappearance that troubles me!"

One day a member of the House of Representatives who was noted for his uncertain course on all questions, and who confessed that he never investigated a point under discussion without finding himself a neutral, asked for leave of absence.

"Mr. Speaker," said Stevens, "I do not rise to object, but to suggest that the honorable member need not ask this favor, for he can easily pair off with himself!"

One anecdote always remembered in connection with Stevens illustrates his unostentatious charity. A beggar woman met him one morning as he was limping to the house.

"Oh, sir," she said, "I have just lost all the money I had in the world!"

"And how much was that?"

"Oh, sir, it was 75 cents."

"You don't say so?" he replied, putting a \$5 bill in her hand. "And how wonderful it is that I should have found what you lost!"

**GUN DECLARED USELESS.**

**Twelve-Inch Weapon No Longer Fit**  
**for Coast Defense.**  
 That the 12-inch gun is no longer one of the coast fortifications of the United States was laid last through an engagement of two hours, the period that would elapse from the time the leading vessel of a fleet would come within the range until the last vessel would pass beyond the range of the guns, is the statement made by Brig. Gen. William Crozier, chief of ordnance, whose annual report has been made public.

Gen. Crozier thinks that it is of the utmost importance that some method be devised whereby the necessary gunpowder can be secured with less expense than that involved in using the high velocities of projectiles now employed, with the accompanying rapid wearing away of the rifling in such a manner as to destroy the accuracy of the gun after a few hours. The 12-inch gun will last for about sixty rounds, and as the gun is capable of firing for a considerable interval at the rate of forty-five rounds per hour, it can be seen that the limit of the life of this gun would be reached in less than an hour and a half.

Similar statements can be made with regard to guns of smaller caliber, says the report, although the caliber diminishes the admissible velocity increases. By lowering the velocity of the 12-inch projectile from 2,500 feet to 2,250 feet per second the life of the gun is increased to 200 rounds. The penetration of armor is reduced by the process, that of the 12-inch gun at 10,000 yards coming down from about ten and one-half inches to about nine inches and the range at which its projectile would penetrate twelve inches of armor plate being reduced from about 8,000 yards to about 6,000 yards.

The chief of ordnance states that it appears, by using in the situations requiring the greatest power a 14-inch gun, with 2,150 feet per second velocity of projectile, instead of the 12-inch gun with 2,500 feet per second initial velocity, the army would secure a better gun and a gun which would last four times as long.

Gen. Crozier states that the Taft board for the revision of the report of the Endicott board on coast defenses, recommended this gun and that the department has decided to use it in place of the 12-inch gun in situations where the highest power is required, and the 12-inch gun as a maximum caliber has been abandoned.

Among the changes made in the equipment issued to cavalry, infantry and artillery during the year was that of the cap, which formerly was made of steel, heavily lined, and which is now made of aluminum, adopted after an extensive service trial.

Gen. Crozier states that a number of militia batteries have been supplied with the new three-inch field artillery material and others are being rapidly furnished with it.

**MOODY TO THE SUPREME COURT**

**President Names Attorney General**  
**to Succeed Henry B. Brown.**  
 The President has announced the appointment of Attorney General William Henry Moody of Massachusetts as justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, to succeed Justice Henry Billings Brown, who retired some time ago. Mr. Moody has filled the office of Attorney General since July 1, 1904. He was previously to that time he had served for more than two years as Secretary of the Navy. He was in Congress eight years.

**TALLEST BUILDING WINDPROOF.**

**New York's High Structure Anchored by Ingenious Method.**  
 The Singer building, now building on Broadway, near Liberty street, New York, which will be 625 feet high, the tallest skyscraper in the city, is to have wind anchors so that it may be firmly braced against every gale.

The wind pressure, on account of the structure's great altitude, will be tremendous, and for that reason the building is to be literally tied to its foundations by an ingenious arrangement of steel rods. They will be three and a half inches in diameter and descend for nearly fifty feet into the concrete which forms the foundation resting on solid rock eighty-five feet below the curb. The lowest rod has on the end of it a great anchor plate to which it is secured.



The St. Louis Nationals tried 36 pitchers during the past campaign.

Willie Fitzgerald is to get another crack at Harry Lewis and a half dozen in cold in big time. The boys have signed articles for a six-round scrap in Philadelphia soon.

Battling Nelson will now have to find an antagonist other than Joe Gans. The Battler's manager, Billy Nolan, tried to arrange a match between the two men, but Gans imposed conditions as to weight and splitting the purse that Nolan would not consider.

John Horgan of St. Louis, Mo., champion continuous pool player of the world, has formally surrendered his title and returned the diamond championship emblem to the donor. Horgan's interest in billiards, he says, causes him to give up the pool table.

Ed Walsh, whose great twirling was one of the main causes of the Cubs' defeat in the youngest member of the White Sox. He is 24.

No member of the Detroit club will have a two-year contract for 1907 and 1908. Only one-year instruments have been handed out.

The American athletes who covered themselves with glory in Greece have shown the ill effects of the journey since their return. Nearly all of them displayed poor form in the contests in which they competed after returning from the Olympic games.

With the outdoor track meetings over for the season enthusiasts of the cinder path are busy getting together an "all-American" team.

Richard Sampson, a trainer and jockey, from Australia, has arrived in New York in charge of a shipment of 50 thoroughbred horses from Belgium and France, and which will be sent to a breeder of horses in Iowa.

Baseball follows the flag. It has lately invaded Panama. A game was played there recently that was attended by the society people of Panama. The players were made up of distinguished American and Panamanian officials and others.

**GENERAL SHAFER DEAD.**

**Soldier of Spanish War Fame Dies**  
**of Pneumonia.**  
 Gen. William H. Shafter, retired, who had been ill for more than a week with pneumonia, died Monday afternoon at the ranch of his son-in-law, Capt. W. H. McKittick, twenty miles from Bakersfield, Cal. At his bedside when the end came were Captain and Mrs. McKittick, Miss Carrie Redmond, Mrs. Conright and Capt. James W. Shafter.

William Rufus Shafter was born at Gatesburg, Mich., on Oct. 16, 1835. His father was a farmer. Shafter taught school three years before the outbreak of the Civil War. Then he entered the Seventh Michigan Volunteers as first lieutenant. He was consecutively major of the Nineteenth Michigan Infantry, lieutenant colonel of the Seventeenth United States negro regiment and brevet brigadier general. He entered the regular army as lieutenant colonel in January, 1866. In March, 1867, he received a congressional medal of honor for bravery at the battle of Fair Oaks. He was assigned to the Twenty-fourth Infantry as its colonel in 1869.



He became brigadier general in 1871 and was assigned to command the Department of California. When war with Spain came Gen. Shafter was made major general of volunteers and sent to Cuba to command the American forces. He was retired June 30, 1901.

**MEETS THE REPORTERS.**

**Mrs. Eddy Gives a Formal, Prearranged Interview.**  
 A formal, prearranged interview was given to eleven reporters from Boston and New York by Mary Baker G. Eddy, the venerable founder and leader of the Christian Science church at Pleasant View, her Concord (N. H.) home, for the purpose of disproving recent statements to the effect that she was totally incapacitated by age or disease, or both. The statement had been made that a Miss Pamela Leonard, a Brooklyn healer, had been impersonating the Christian Science leader on her drives. Several questions had been agreed upon to be put to Mrs. Eddy, but the reports conflicted as to her hearing when these questions had been put to her by the appointed spokesman. To the first question, "Are you in perfect health?" Mrs. Eddy replied, with a low, "Indeed I am," speaking in a deep, level tone of voice, but with a slight quiver. To the next question, "Have you any other physician than God?" she replied: "No physician but God. His everlasting arms are about me; that is enough." As she said this she turned toward the door, in front of which her carriage was waiting. In reply to the question, "Do you drive daily?" she said simply, "Yes." The fourth question, "Have you management of your own affairs?" was unanswered. She walked along the wide veranda, her hands shook as with a slight palsy when she was helped into the carriage. Edward M. Pierson, secretary of state of New Hampshire, was present with the reporters to positively identify Mrs. Eddy, whom he had known for many years. He issued a statement that it was Mrs. Eddy, and that she appeared to keep her faculties. An official of the household said that the gates of Pleasant View henceforth would be closed to the world forever. All agreed the aged woman showed her 86 years in marked degree, and that she was extremely weak.

**U. S. FARM VALUES.**

**Prediction that Great Increase of Past 5 Years Will Be Maintained.**

A very large addition to the wealth of the nation has been made during the past five years from the rise in farm values. According to a circular issued by the Department of Agriculture, based on 45,000 answers to its inquirers, it is estimated that throughout the whole country farm land has increased more than 38 per cent in value since 1900. The last census placed the total value of all farms in the United States at \$20,423,000,000, so that the increase since then, if the estimate of the Agricultural Department is correct, is nearly eight billions of dollars.

Among the reasons given for the rise in farm values are rural free delivery, electric railways, good roads, the movement of townpeople to the country, better and cheaper transportation and market facilities, and better methods of farming. Most or all of these conditions are likely to persist, so that a continued increase in farm lands from these influences may be safely counted upon. Good crops, better prices for farm products and investment in farm lands by persons who are not farmers are other causes for increase in the value of the lands, but these are more or less fictitious and temporary. The past decade has been a most bountiful period for the farmers of the United States.

**Three-Cent Fares a Fact.**

**Mayor Tom Johnson of Cleveland** acted as motorman on the first trolley car run over the recent fare line of the Municipal Traction Company. On the car with him were officials of the company, city officials and newspaper men, each of whom had paid 3 cents for one of the aluminum coins with the hole in the middle which are to be used in place of tickets. Crowds of men and women along the line cheered the Mayor, who thus came out victor after five years of fighting in the courts against the traction combine. The company has thirteen and a half miles of track, but injunctions have closed up all but three miles, which was the length of Mayor Johnson's trip. In the course of a speech the mayor said he was the happiest day of his life.

**Must Pay San Francisco Loss.**  
 The decision of the Superior Court of San Francisco as to the payment of fire losses on account of the great earthquake is against contestant, the Trans-Atlantic Insurance Company, which had no earthquake clause. The judge held that even if the earthquake caused the fire the company would be liable, but that there was no evidence to prove that the earthquake did cause the fire. The case will be carried to a higher court.

**All Around the Globe.**

The main building of the Oakwood Manual Training school near Huntsville, Ala., was destroyed by fire. One student was burned to death.

The boycott against American goods having been called off at Canton, the victory has released the three ringleaders of the movement under arrest there.

J. P. Enghel of San Francisco has informed the city officials that he has data relative to the recently owned tract of land in the middle of the Fair estate property.

The Lebandy airship has been sent to where it will be employed as a school balloon Chalais, department of Charcut, France, to train crews for France's aerial war flotilla.

According to an order just issued by the War Department State fish and game laws are not operative on a military reservation over which the United States has exclusive jurisdiction.

An entire block facing on Main street in the business section of Columbia, Tenn., was burned. The loss is valued at \$50,000, with insurance of \$50,000. This is the second serious fire in Columbia in three days.

**NEW CORN CROP MARK.**

**Last Year's Record-breaking Yield**  
**Is Passed.**  
 Last year's record-breaking corn crop is shown by the November report to be surpassed by 173,000,000 bushels. The hay crop is shown to be 8,000,000 tons short of last year's and 6,000,000 tons short of the average of the preceding ten years. The oats crop was previously shown to be 90,000,000 bushels short of that of 1905. It will thus be seen that the gain in the corn crop has a little more than overbalanced the shortage both in hay and oats, these making good all shortages in feed crops.

The following table shows the corn crops of the last six years and the proportion of each carried over from each of the five years preceding 1906:

	Carried over Per Cent.	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Nov. 1, bu. of crop.	200	2,881,000,000	2,708,000,000	2,467,000,000	2,244,000,000	2,232,000,000	1,922,000,000
1906	200	2,881,000,000	2,708,000,000	2,467,000,000	2,244,000,000	2,232,000,000	1,922,000,000
1905	200	2,881,000,000	2,708,000,000	2,467,000,000	2,244,000,000	2,232,000,000	1,922,000,000
1904	200	2,881,000,000	2,708,000,000	2,467,000,000	2,244,000,000	2,232,000,000	1,922,000,000
1903	200	2,881,000,000	2,708,000,000	2,467,000,000	2,244,000,000	2,232,000,000	1,922,000,000
1902	200	2,881,000,000	2,708,000,000	2,467,000,000	2,244,000,000	2,232,000,000	1,922,000,000
1901	200	2,881,000,000	2,708,000,000	2,467,000,000	2,244,000,000	2,232,000,000	1,922,000,000
Total	200	1,991,000,000	1,947,000,000	1,947,000,000	1,947,000,000	1,947,000,000	1,947,000,000

The hay crop of the last three years and the average yield per acre is given below. An average of the ten years preceding 1906 was 58,675,000 tons:

	Yield per acre, tons.	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
1906	1.35	52,659,000	50,522,000	49,000,000	47,000,000	46,000,000	45,000,000
1905	1.35	52,659,000	50,522,000	49,000,000	47,000,000	46,000,000	45,000,000
1904	1.35	52,659,000	50,522,000	49,000,000	47,000,000	46,000,000	45,000,000
1903	1.35	52,659,000	50,522,000	49,000,000	47,000,000	46,000,000	45,000,000
1902	1.35	52,659,000	50,522,000	49,000,000	47,000,000	46,000,000	45,000,000
1901	1.35	52,659,000	50,522,000	49,000,000	47,000,000	46,000,000	45,000,000
Total	1.35	52,659,000	50,522,000	49,000,000	47,000,000	46,000,000	45,000,000

The following table shows for the twenty-five principal corn States the preliminary estimates of average yield per acre in 1906, with the final estimates for 1905 and the mean of the averages for the last ten years, in bushels:

State	Nov. Final, 1906	Nov. Final, 1905	10 yrs. avg.
Illinois	39.1	39.8	34.5
Indiana	39.5	34.8	32.4
Iowa	40.1	39.8	32.4
Kansas	28.9	27.7	22.9
Texas	22.5	21.5	17.7
Missouri	34.1	32.8	28.5
Indiana	39.6	40.7	34.9
Georgia	12.0	11.0	10.5
Alabama	12.0	11.0	10.5
Tennessee	28.1	24.5	25.5
Ohio	42.5	37.8	34.8
Michigan	35.0	34.8	32.4
North Carolina	15.3	13.9	13.4
Arkansas	23.4	17.3	17.8
Louisiana	12.0	14.8	12.4
Indian Territory	33.4	32.7	25.9
Oklahoma	32.9	25.3	22.1
South Carolina	14.4	14.3	11.0
Virginia	24.5	22.4	21.0
South Dakota	33.5	31.8	28.8
Minnesota	41.5	37.5	33.1
Wisconsin	31.9	30.5	29.1
Pennsylvania	40.2	38.9	34.5
West Virginia	17.2	13.7	16.3
Michigan	35.0	34.8	32.4
United States	30.2	28.8	25.2

**SEPARATE FOR CHILD'S SAKE.**

**Novel Reason of Rich Couple for**  
**Breaking Up Home.**

The welfare of their son is the novel reason assigned by William J. Leupp, multi-millionaire head of a big St. Louis advertising company, for permitting his wife to obtain a divorce from him, in consideration of the \$500,000 upon her and maintain the family in the splendid style to which it has become accustomed. No scandal is involved.



**MRS. W. J. LEUPP.** But for years the couple have had bitter quarrels and they have decided that the future happiness of both and more especially of their 6-year-old boy requires that they live apart. Several times they have been on the verge of separation, but the wife's family has intervened. Now her brother says:

"It is a matter of temper and it is hard to tell which is most to blame. Mr. Leupp is too much of a gentleman not to permit my sister to sue for divorce now that their differences have reached a point where the breach cannot be healed. Mr. Leupp has had an exemplary life and is one of the straightest men I know. There are no sensational charges on either side. When people can no longer live happily together it is best that they should part."

Mrs. Leupp has had much trouble with her servants. She is known as the Lavender Lady, from her stunning costumes of that color. She has been conspicuous because of her gowns, her lavish entertainments and her unusual beauty. Her home is a veritable palace.



**WASHINGTON GOSSIP**

During the present American occupation of Cuba the government is to be conducted as if it were independent of the United States, although in point of fact it will be directed by the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department. When Governor Magoon wishes to communicate with the bureau he will send his message to the Cuban Secretary of State, who in turn will forward it to the Cuban minister in Washington. The Cuban minister will hand it over to the American Secretary of State, and he in turn will deliver it to the Secretary of War. Finally, the chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs will receive the document, reply to it and place it on file, properly marked. This roundabout process is adopted to keep the record straight, but there is a more direct method of communication in use, so that the Bureau knows what the message contains, and has an answer prepared before the formal document reaches it by way of "Robin Hood's barn."

Plans for the proposed giant battle ship have been submitted to the secretary of the navy by constructors who have availed themselves of the opportunity to compete for the floating fortress. Very little is known of any plans for the gigantic ship, which, it is assumed, will have a displacement of at least 20,000 tons. All plans are to be submitted to Congress, which is to pass on the navy department's action. Indefiniteness marked every part of the appropriation bill relating to the new warship, which is described by the bill as "a first-class battle ship, carrying as heavy armor and as powerful armament as any known vessel of its class." To have the highest practicable speed and greatest practicable radius of action and to cost, exclusive of armament and armor, not exceeding \$6,000,000."

It seems strange, and not altogether pleasing, that the United States government, as represented in the Navy Department, should be obliged to go into the show business to encourage enlistments. The latest and most successful scheme is the moving-picture machine which shows the life of the bluejacket on shipboard, and some of it on land. The advertising value of the plan lies in the readiness and completeness by which it enables the recruiting officers to give applicants or possible applicants an accurate idea of their duties and pleasures. It is especially efficacious in the West, where less is known about life at sea. A recruiting party in Nebraska lately displayed the moving pictures to a crowd of fifteen thousand people.

Plans have now been submitted by the bureau of construction of the navy department, which, if approved, will give the United States the most powerful battle ship in the world. One plan contemplates a 20,000-ton ship, and the other a 25,000-ton vessel. If either plan is adopted, a battery of 10 or 12 inch guns will be so arranged on center line as to give a broadside of all the guns.

Attorney General Moody has instructed District Attorney Devlin to assist counsel for the Japanese residents of San Francisco in bringing in injunction proceedings in the Circuit Court to compel the board of education to allow Japanese subjects to attend any school in the city. President Allan insists that he will obey the State laws, which require separate schools for the orientals.

Proposals have been submitted to the Postmaster General by the American Bank Note Company of New York for furnishing stamps and stamp books for the next four years at 5-100thhs dollars per thousand, whereas the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, operated by the Government, bid 57-100thhs dollars per thousand. For special delivery stamps the company asked 10 cents and the bureau 15.6 cents.

For the year 1906, according to the report of Auditor Layton of the State Department, receipts from the consular service have exceeded expenditures \$10,722. This is the first time in sixteen years that this service has been on a self-supporting basis. Under the new law consuls receive more pay, but are required to turn all fees into the treasury.

In the postoffice department building at Washington the largest American flag in the world has just been unfurled. When it was suspended from a cable at the seventh floor across the inner courts 2,500 employees joined in singing, "The Star Spangled Banner." The flag is 50 feet long by 30 feet wide.

The State Department announced that James L. Gerry, chief of the customs division of the Treasury Department, and N. J. Stone, tax expert of the Department of Commerce and Labor, will accompany Consul Director North to Berlin to confer with German tariff experts regarding changes in our customs administration. The object is to ascertain what it is that the German manufacturers expect of us in the way of concessions under their new tariff system.

The President has detailed Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, the noted woman lawyer and reformer in the Department of Justice, to investigate the condition of women and children workers throughout the country, on which subject legislation is now pending for Congress. Last year Mrs. Foster made a special report on the condition of women and children in the Philippines and only recently she returned from a trip around the world, during which she studied the woman and child problem of China and India.

