

Current Topics

Unsuitable Employments for Women.

A vigorous protest against the tendency of young women to leave the parental roof and embark in the pursuits heretofore followed in civilized countries exclusively by men is contributed to the current number of the independent by Henry T. Finck, the well known sociologist and author.

Against the woman who is compelled by misfortune or poverty to earn her living in some form of industrial activity Mr. Finck has no complaint. It is for this class, in fact, that he pleads when he protests against what he calls a "foolish and criminal warfare on home life." For every woman who leaves the refining atmosphere of home life to engage in a gainful occupation merely from choice and not of necessity diminishes the opportunities of the thousands of poor who must earn their daily bread.

The epidemic delusion that home is no place for a girl seems in Mr. Finck's opinion to be gaining ground daily. Instead of recognizing the need of the home and its influences in our civilization a considerable number of agitators are endeavoring to disseminate the idea that it is the duty of women, no matter what their circumstances, to make themselves self-supporting and independent. The writer is very severe upon the phase of the "new woman" movement which takes employment away from those who are compelled to earn a livelihood. He says:

"The selfishness which prompts the daughters of well-to-do parents to lower the rate of wages for everybody by flooding the market with a competition as ruinous as an invasion of cheap Chinese labor is a most unwomanly quality which should make men shy of marrying them; though, to be sure, many of these girls, like those who encourage the slaughter of birds for their hats, do not know how cruel they are."

Even in the case of girls and women who must work the writer does not believe that they should be allowed as they are at present to precipitate themselves blindly into nearly every kind of a job that men have heretofore performed in this country. The advocates of "woman's independence" take a great deal of pleasure in calling attention to the remarkable "progress" of women in invading the employments of men regardless of the question whether these employments are suitable for them or not. The fact that 45 per cent of the factory work of this country is now done by women is sometimes pointed to as a gratifying evidence of woman's advancement in independence.

Metropolitan of Canada.

Bishop Bond of Montreal has just been selected by the house of bishops of the Church of England in Canada to



BISHOP BOND.

succeed Archbishop Lewis as metropolitan. He will hereafter be known as lord archbishop of Montreal and metropolitan of Canada, having jurisdiction over the territory from the western limits of Ontario to the Atlantic ocean. Archbishop Lewis, who has been seriously ill at New York, but it recovering, will be permitted the courtesy title of archbishop metropolitan while he lives, but it will not be officially employed. The new metropolitan of Canada has been bishop of Montreal since 1878. He was born at Truro, England, in 1815, and emigrated from England to Newfoundland when he was 19. In 1840 he was ordained a deacon of the Anglican church and a priest one year later. His early ministry was spent in organizing mission stations in the province of Quebec. His first important charge was that of St. George's at Montreal. He is president of the Montreal Theological College and one of the most scholarly divines in Canada.

Forty Acres and a Mule.

Some important as well as interesting testimony was given before the Industrial commission the other day by Major R. B. Wright, a colored man, who is president of an industrial college near Savannah, Ga. The testimony pertained to the condition of negroes in the south, and was to the effect that if the government had given each colored man forty acres and a mule instead of the ballot it would have been of more benefit to the race. In other words, Major Wright is of the opinion that work rather than suffrage is the only solution of the negro problem.

The Late General McClurg.

The death of General Alexander C. McClurg removes one more member of the dwindling group of old citizens who helped to raise Chicago from the rank of a small city to that of a great one. Nearly forty-two years of his life were spent in Chicago. Both his public services and his private enterprise have been such as to give him a well deserved place on the city's roll of honor. General McClurg's military title was earned in many a hot battle in the Valley of the Cumberland. He enlisted as a private in a volunteer company which he assisted in organizing in Chicago, and he won his way upward through various grades to that of a brigadier general by brevet. He proved his soldierly qualities at Chickamauga and Chattanooga and in other great battles in that region.



GEN. A. C. MCCLURG.

and he marched with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea as a chief of staff in the Fourteenth Army Corps. His book store in Chicago has for years been a congenial center for book lovers and the "saints and sinners' corner" has made its way into literature. His standards as a publisher were high and his business methods were conservative and honorable, says the Chicago Tribune.

Reaction Against Divorce.

The Supreme Court of the United States has handed down a decision which will have the effect of checking the American divorce mania. The substance of the decree is that divorces granted in a state where both husband and wife have legal residence are valid in any part of the country, but that divorce granted in a state or territory where the parties have not a legal residence is invalid. This will reduce to a bigamous statute many persons who temporarily removed from their legal residence to a more accommodating state or territory for the purpose of procuring detachment from a legal partner who had grown inconvenient or insufferable, the motive in a large majority of such cases being immediate remarriage to another party already selected. The decision will not operate against collusive divorce when the parties are rich enough to be able to remove to a new legal residence and abide there long enough to satisfy the terms of the decision. The decision is to be welcomed as a practical step in the direction of uniform divorce legislation in the United States. No legislation on the subject will be effectual which does not absolutely prohibit marriage of the guilty party or of both parties until at least a year after granting of a decree. So lax has divorce practice become in the courts that marriage has ceased in a large measure to present to the contracting parties an aspect more serious than that of a temporary agreement, to be dissolved at the caprice of both or of either. If remarriage were made difficult, or, what would be better, impossible in law, the divorce mill would grind more slowly and the original contract would carry more moral as well as legal weight. If the tie were tightened in the first knot there would be less disposition to cut it for a second.—Chicago Chronicle.

French Inventor Triumphs.

The new flying machine which has been successfully tested at the Crystal Palace, London, is the invention of August Gaudron, a Frenchman, who has been long an experimenter in aerostatics. It is rather an airship than a flying machine proper, from the fact that it depends for its support upon a cigar-shaped balloon seventeen



feet long by three feet in diameter. Beneath the balloon are fixed platforms, certain of these containing a motor and fan to supply the propulsive power. The platform in the middle is reserved for the aeronaut, who there controls the steering gear. On a windless day the inventor hopes to attain a speed of thirty miles an hour. M. Gaudron and his British backer, Cecil Barth, have in contemplation the building of a machine which will accommodate five persons. The supporting balloon of such an apparatus would have to be 100 feet long and thirty feet in diameter.

The Weekly Panorama.

Expert at It.

A Maine young woman has just set an example of what can be done even by a girl when she so wishes. She is now not quite 13 years old. Her father is employed in handling baggage at a railroad station at Biddeford, Me., and while visiting him there she became attracted by the telegraph instruments in the station. Securing permission from the agent she visited the station every evening after school and spent her spare hours in studying telegraphy. When she was 11 years old she was able to report trains and read ordinary messages. Last summer, during the school vacation, she was given charge of the telegraph office at Saco, Me. There she served as both manager and operator, and she did her work so well that the superintendent of the line has promised her a more important appointment when the grammar school which she is attending closes in June.



Miss Simpson.

Lovers Defy King Edward.

Rosie Boote, the English actress, is now the marchioness of Headfort in spite of the efforts of King Edward and the mother of the marquis. Cardinal Vaughan granted the dispensation to the marriage at the personal request of the groom, Miss Boote being a Catholic. The happy pair are spending the honeymoon at a hotel in Folkestone, London. The ceremony was performed in the registrar's office at Saltwood, near Folkestone, the witnesses being a villager and Miss Daisy Roche, an actress.

The marriage took place early in April, but has just been made public. Some delay was caused by his mother, who managed to get possession of the license. The marchioness was exceedingly bitter in her opposition. Miss Boote was then playing the part of a



MARCHIONESS OF HEADFORT.

soubrette at the Galety. When she suddenly disappeared it was believed that the consent of the marchioness had been obtained.

That lady, however, had made a frantic effort to block the impending marriage. In the last resort she appealed to King Edward, who took a hand in the game with some spirit. He had been angered by a flippant letter from Headfort, and ordered him to be imprisoned in the barracks of the Life Guards, of which he is a lieutenant. The colonel of the regiment had refused to allow the young man to resign.

The love affairs of the marquis have been the drawing room topic at London for some months. He himself announced his engagement at a supper given by him to Rosie's friends at the Savoy. On that occasion he placed around her neck a costly diamond ornament, and swore loyalty to her before her friends.

The young woman is the daughter of a Dublin bootmaker. She is of extraordinary beauty and a devout Catholic. She assumed the name of Boote by the suggestion of a companion, who said that the family business should not be ignored in a matter of this kind. Headfort is 23 years old. He belongs to the ancient and noble family of the Taylours, one of the richest in the Irish peerage.

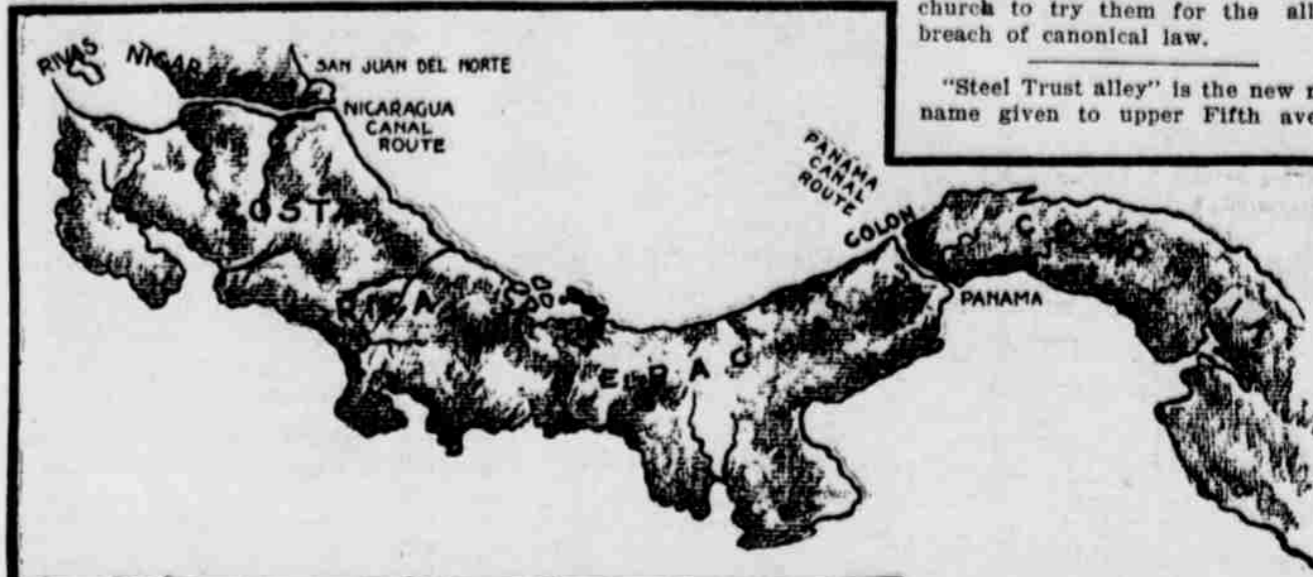
"Dieu Sauve le Roi."

At a recent meeting of the Court Royale of the Isle of Alderney the oath of allegiance to his majesty the king was administered to the judge, jurats, king's procurator and other officials with due and fitting ceremony, says a London newspaper. As each present took the oath the whole court, rising, exclaimed: "Dieu Sauve le Roi!" which means "God save the King." The people of Alderney evidently prefer a little French in their.

Fifty Years a Teacher.

Professor Joseph Henry Thayer has resigned his chair in the Harvard divinity school because of old age. He was graduated from Harvard in 1850, received his degree from Andover Theological seminary in 1857 and was professor of sacred literature at the Andover seminary for eighteen years. Since 1884 he has been professor of New Testament criticism and interpretation at the Harvard divinity school.

MORGAN'S GREAT CANAL SCHEME.



church to try them for the alleged breach of canonical law.

"Steel Trust alley" is the new nickname given to upper Fifth avenue.

J. Pierpont Morgan wants to build the Panama canal. He needs the waterway to complete the transportation deals that he has under consideration, and he has made definite offers to President McKinley regarding the cutting in two of the isthmus.

Mr. Morgan has pointed out that the construction of the Nicaragua canal will cost the government \$30,000,000 for the first year and \$20,000,000 annually thereafter for perhaps ten years. As the expenditures of congress have increased enormously Mr. Morgan has pointed out the bad politics in adding the expense of a canal project to the cost of running the government.

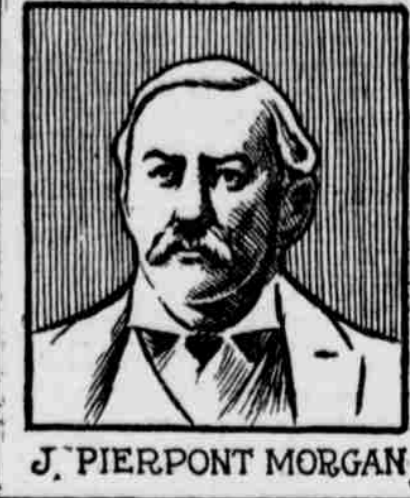
Status of the Two Canals.

Panama Canal.	
Length	46.2 miles
Amount completed (estimated)	18 miles
Amount spent	\$200,000,000
Cost of completion (estimated)	\$125,000,000 to \$200,000,000
Work begun in	1879
Work stopped	1889
New company formed	1894
Capital of new company	\$12,000,000
Terminus Atlantic coast	Colon
Terminus Pacific coast	Panama
Nicaragua Canal.	
Length (including Nicaragua Lake)	170 miles

To be excavated	27 miles
Amount completed	None
(Only preliminary work at Greytown)	
Work begun	1857
Work stopped	1859
Estimated cost to complete,	\$100,000,000 to \$200,000,000
Terminus Atlantic coast	Greytown
Terminus Pacific coast	Brito

A Dispute Over Vestments.

The Episcopal Church in the United States is stirred by a controversy over the right of bishops to wear the miter, the cope and other gorgeous vestments of the medieval church. Last November the bishops of Chicago, Marquette and Indiana were commissioned to consecrate Bishop Weller of Fond du Lac, Wis., and it is claimed that they used rubrics and vestments unwarranted by the Book of Common Prayer and by the usages of the church. Responsibility for the service has been disclaimed by Bishop Clark of Rhode Island in a letter which he signs as "Presiding Bishop of the Church," but the seven western bishops, who officiated at Fond du Lac, dispute his right to make any such disclaimer, and they have now challenged the



J. PIERPONT MORGAN.

New York, where Warner Leeds, Henry Phipps, Andrew Carnegie and other manufacturers have purchased property. "Paradise alley" one impecunious clerk has dubbed it.

John Pollard, a bell ringer in Lancashire, born in the same year with Victoria, rang his bells for her coronation and for each of her birthdays and tolled them at her death.

The Big Fair Commission.



UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS FOR THE ST. LOUIS FAIR.

Martin H. Glynn. John M. Allen. George W. McBride. Thomas H. Carter. John M. Thurston. William Lindsay.

While the public has its eyes focused on the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo, preparations are already under way for another and even greater exposition. The latter is to be held at St. Louis in 1903 and is to be the centenary celebration of the purchase of Louisiana by President Jefferson. Hence its name—the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Large appropriations have been made and it is expected to rival the World's Fair held at Chicago in 1893. The city of St. Louis has appropriated \$5,000,000; the state

of Missouri an additional \$5,000,000 and the United States government is a contributor to the same amount. To look after its interests in the fair and provide a suitable display the government will be represented by a commission of nine members. The appointments have been made by President McKinley and are as follows: Ex-Senator John M. Thurston, of Nebraska; ex-Senator Thomas H. Carter, of Montana; ex-Senator William Lindsay of Kentucky; ex-Senator George W. McBride of Oregon; Frederick A. Betts of Connecticut; ex-Representative John M. Allen, of Mississippi; ex-Representative Martin H. Glynn of New York; Philip D. Scott of Arkansas; John F. Miller of Indiana. As a commissionership is worth \$5,000 annually and is good for nearly three years, the places were eagerly sought by the politicians and statesmen out of jobs. The commission consists of five Republicans and four Democrats.

The greatest number of men ever employed on one structure was the Gizeh pyramid, where 7,000,000 men were in forced labor. This pyramid is 450 feet high and covers an area of thirteen acres, twice the dimensions of any other building in the world, in one instance taking 2,000 men three years in bringing a single stone from the quarry.

A novel attempt to cope with the drink evil has been begun by the Belgian government, which has offered a prize for the picture that best depicts the evils of drunkenness.

Australia's first measured wool clip was 20,000 tons, in 1821. This has now risen to 2,700,000.

The Snake Charmers of India.

Of all persons in the world there is none with a calling more weird than that of the snake charmer of India. Our picture today shows two of these Hindus sitting by the roadside, while their peculiar pets, the snakes, sport before them for the amusement of the passers-by. The serpents shown in the picture are the terrible cobra-di-capello, or hooded snakes, of the East. In their native state they are deadly creatures, but the jugglers, before handling them, first extract their fangs. Then they teach them to dance and keep time to music. In some of the Hindu temples the cobra is an object of worship, being carefully fed with milk and sugar by the priests. The natives have many superstitions about this snake, and even believe that the Deity sometimes assumes that form. When kindly treated the cobra becomes quite tame.

Music has a special attraction for the cobra, and he will often come from his hiding place when a flageolet or flute is played in his hearing. When a house becomes infested with the serpents the snake charmer comes into use. He plays his flageolet, and the serpents come forth and are killed.

It Is Time to Wake in Sail.

The treasury department sounds a note of alarm. Its officials view with undisguised concern the speculative rage which has taken possession of Wall street and which is carrying beyond all reasonable bounds the quotations of the securities not merely of railroads which are earning money and of well managed and stable in-



SNAKE CHARMERS IN WEIRD PERFORMANCE.

dustrial concerns, but also of the "cats and dogs" of the stock market. These officials are disturbed over the fact that money which should be at the command of legitimate business has been diverted into speculative channels. They would like to see that money where it belongs.