

# The Weekly Panorama.

## GIVES UP HIS SECRET.

Richly Ohio Shoe Manufacturer No Longer a Victim of Blackmailers.

Robert F. Wolfe, the wealthy and respected merchant of Columbus, Ohio, who has given to the world the secret that he was once confined in the Indiana state prison, has won admiration throughout the country for his manly confession. That he has lived an upright and honorable life for the last twenty years is considered sufficient



ROBERT F. WOLFE.

atonement for the mistake which he committed in early manhood. Mr. Wolfe was sentenced to serve five years in the penitentiary on a charge of assault with intent to kill. He had become involved in trouble when 18 years old, while defending an attack upon the character of a girl cousin in a small Indiana town. After being held three months in jail without trial he overcame his guard and escaped. He was soon rearrested and his penal servitude followed. While in prison the young man learned the shoemaker's trade, and after his release he made his way to Columbus, arriving without a dollar. He started a little shop and in time became one of the leading shoemakers of the state. He is now president of the Wolfe Brothers' Company and his estate is estimated at \$500,000. Soon after his arrival in Columbus Mr. Wolfe told the secret of his imprisonment to a few friends. Afterward when he became a successful merchant this information was used to extort money from him, and he was constantly the victim of a set of harpies. He was so goaded with these demands that he finally decided to announce the secret himself.

## A GYPSY QUEEN.

Who is Reputed to be Very Wealthy with a Magnificent Home. There is seldom anything of interest to be found among the wandering bands of gypsies so common in many parts of the country during the summer months; but during the last few weeks a very interesting person has been in Kenosha, Wis., living in the wagon with her gypsies. She is Myra White, who is known as the "Queen of the Gypsies." Miss White has a magnificent home in Terre Haute, Ind., but with the opening of the spring season she takes the road with some of her followers, and for the last three summers she has spent the hot weather on the lake shore, sleeping in the



MRS. MYRA WHITE, GYPSY QUEEN wagon or else out under the open sky, and transacting the business of the kingdom of the gypsies from a little desk in the front of one of the wagons.

The name of the Gypsy Queen has been connected with many stories of romance. She is reputed to be fabulously wealthy; but a visit to her little home in the gaily painted wagon reveals nothing to show that this is true. The story of how she led the gypsies from one part of the country to the other seems like a fairy tale. Miss White is a beautiful woman, and her hair and eyes declare that she is an American, not the typical gypsy. Of her connection with the gypsies in this country she refuses to speak, but any one who enters the wagon will see that the life she leads is a fascinating one. Men and women alike bow down to her and pay tribute. She holds the destinies of a kingdom of some 5,000 people in her hands, and it is her boast that not one of her subjects ever lacked a roof in the winter or a meal in the summer.

## Rights of Americans Abroad.

If governments guarantee the safety of foreigners they should be made to do their utmost to fulfill their obligations. If an indignity should be put on an American citizen it should be the cause of an immediate rebuke from the canon's mouth. An American citizen should be free to go and come in any civilized country so long as he observes the laws of that country, and any effort to abridge that privilege should be resented.—Memphis Commercial-Appal.

# Current Topics

## OTTO SVERDRUP.

Explorer Who May Have Found the North Pole.

A rumor has sprung up in Christiania that Captain Otto Sverdrup, the Arctic explorer who won his reputation as an assistant of Nansen, whom he accompanied in 1888 on his famous expedition across Greenland and on Nansen's still more famous voyage on the Fram, has reached the north pole and is now returning home. There is no confirmation of this report, nor is anything known of its origin, but even the rumor has aroused the keenest interest.

Captain Sverdrup sailed on his expedition to the arctic on June 14, 1898. The ostensible purpose of the expedition was to explore Smith's sound and the Robeson channel, discover the northern limits of Greenland, study the origin of the palaeocryptic ice, and to note the tides and temperatures; but there was no doubt at the time the expedition sailed on the Fram from Christiania that the bold Sverdrup and at least one or two of his companions would push on and try to reach the pole.

The outfit of the expedition consisted of ski, sledges, canoes, snowshoes, and everything necessary for transportation. Clothing and sleeping bags were taken along, while the food supplies were large and varied. The draft animals on the Fram numbered ten splendid elk dogs, a large variety of the Finn dog, wolfish in appearance. To these were added eighty Eskimo dogs, secured in Greenland. Of the sixteen members of the expedition five were executive officers and five were scientists.

The last heard of Sverdrup was during the summer of 1899, when he was on the northwest coast of Greenland.



CAPT. OTTO SVERDRUP.

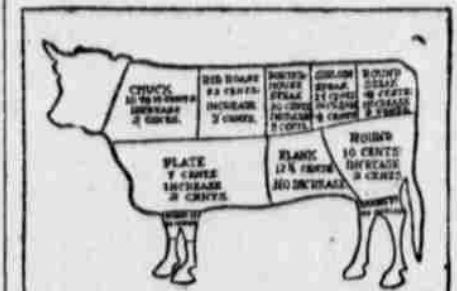
Lincoln's Sea, to the northwest of that point, was ice free the following summer, according to the American explorer, Lieutenant Peary, and Scandinavian scientists declare there is a strong probability that Sverdrup seized the opportunity and reached the pole.

## College Education and Marriage.

Professor E. L. Thorndyke of the Teachers' College, connected with Columbia College, has been discussing the problem, now beginning to be an old one, whether women who are college graduates marry, and, if so, at what age they decide in favor of making the momentous change. To arrive at some solution of the problem he has been studying the catalogues of Vassar, Smith, and Wellesley Colleges, as well as of the educational institution at Oberlin, and the result is summed up in the conclusion that as time goes on college women are less inclined to marry. He says: "It is absurd to suppose that college women differ from others in possessing superior attractiveness in mature years, and we are, therefore, led to conclude that the college graduate has been growing less and less inclined to get married, or less and less able, or both."

## Price of Beef Soars.

The retail price of meats in Chicago is higher than for years, says the Tribune. The housewife, the restaurateur, and the hotel proprietor all are feeling the effects of the drought which extended over the country last summer. Scarcity of corn and other feed for fattening stock is the reason assigned for the increased price of all meats. Within the last few months beef has been advanced from two to three cents a pound, the heaviest increase in prices being on the finer grades and choice cuts. Although those who can afford to buy the better meats are bearing the bulk of the burden, even the poorer consumers are



## SHOWING INCREASE ON DIFFERENT PARTS OF BEEF.

finding that their money goes only a little way in a butcher shop. There is only one consolation for the consumer in the general rearrangement of prices. The high prices of corn and feed is compelling the stock raiser to ship his beef to the market before it is fat enough to be classed as choice grade. As a result, the advance has been moderate in the price of poorer grades of beef.

# News and Views

## SAYS MONKEYS DESCEND FROM MEN.

Professor Haeckel Gives Out a New and Startling Evolution Theory.

That Professor Ernst Haeckel, the distinguished German naturalist, and the world's greatest living advocate of the biological theory of evolution, has reversed his views of half a century and taken a stand with Professor Rudolf Virchow in opposition to Darwinism is the startling announcement made in Paris. It is stated that during his expedition to Java, begun last



ERNST HAECKEL.

year, Professor Haeckel has found striking evidence in support of the theory, advanced for the first time only a few months ago by Virchow, that monkeys are descended from man and not man from monkeys. That, in fact, monkeys are nothing less than degenerated humans.

"If professor Haeckel has made any such discovery," says Dr. Edgar Grant Conklin, professor of zoology at the University of Pennsylvania, "or if he has recanted his former multitudinous writings and lectures sufficiently to make any such statement it means that one of the most remarkable revolutions in biological science has taken place."

"I cannot credit the announcement. It seems too extraordinary to believe that Haeckel, of all men, should take this stand. I do not know if he has returned from Java, but he went there to study and make further researches into the pithecanthropus erectus, discovered by Dr. Dubois, with a view to further substantiate the theories he laid down in his 'Phylogeny,' tracing the descent of man."

## New Lord Mayor of London.

Sir Joseph Cockfield Dimsdale, the newly elected lord mayor of London, has long been a figure in the municipal life of the British metropolis and is well known for his connection with the great banking firm of Dimsdale, Cave, Tugwell & Co., the leading financial house of the City of Prescott. He was born within sound of Bow bells in 1849, and in 1891 made his debut in politics by his election as alderman for Cornhill. Since then he has occupied the usual preparatory offices which serve as steps to the mayoralty. These are the places of sheriff and member of the London council. Last



LORD MAYOR DIMSDALE.

year Sir Joseph was elected a member of parliament. The new lady mayor was formerly Miss Beatrice Holdsworth, and she was married to Sir Joseph in 1873, the occasion being one of social importance. It is said that this couple is pre-eminently fitted to discharge the society functions of the municipal corporation.

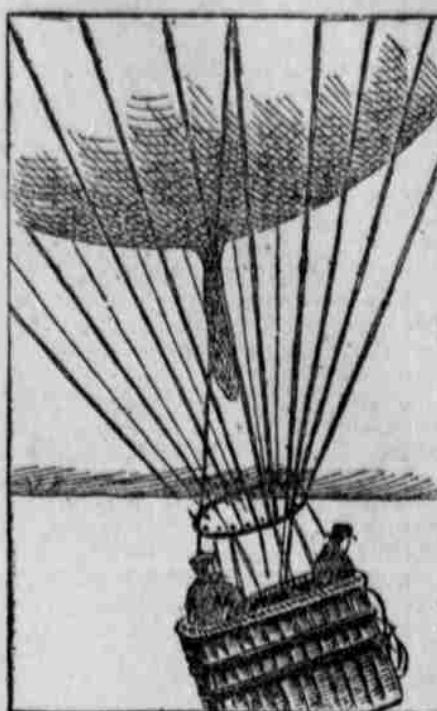
## A Social Fad in Paris.

The newest social fad in Paris is to go in a party and act as supers at some theater. These society butterflies in search of a new sensation are not called upon to say anything, but they spend an hour upon a stage in a bona fide, money-making play, among professional actors and before a genuine audience, for the theater is far up along the boulevards near the Place de la Republique and the piece is a strenuous melodrama. The amateur supers act a "fashionable throng" in a restaurant of the Bois de Boulogne, very well put upon the stage. All they have to do is to eat supper and drink champagne while the chief characters harrow the audience.

These experiences are not without their thrill of stage fright; otherwise they would not be so attractive. Always there is a chance that the audience may give unequivocal expression to the belief that the supers fail to look their parts. This has occurred on several occasions, at which times the society people were hooted vigorously until their demeanor was changed to suit the audience.

# Comte de la Vaulx and His Balloon.

The Comte de La Vaulx last week made an unsuccessful attempt to cross the Mediterranean sea in a balloon under the escort of two French naval vessels, is one of the most daring aeronauts in Europe. This young nobleman is in love with his exciting pastime, but he has likewise a desire to help his country and to benefit mankind. Last year he attracted the attention of the world by making one of the longest balloon voyages on record. He and a companion crossed a large part of the continent of Europe in his balloon, the "Centaur." They traveled upward of 1,300 miles through the air and alighted none the worse for the journey. Vaulx's constant companion in his aerial flights is Castillon de St. Victor, who, like his daring friend, is a nobleman of an old and aristocratic family.



The new governor of Porto Rico is a classmate of the governor-general of the Philippines, Judge Taft and Judge Hunt were friends throughout their course at Yale and graduated together in 1878.

## Russia's Success in Manchuria.

A correspondent of the London Chronicle who recently traversed Manchuria, gives some interesting details showing how complete is the Russification of that former Chinese province. Ten years ago, when he traveled over the same route, the dragon banner of China floated at all its stations, and not a Cosack was to be seen. Now every vestige of Chinese control has disappeared, the Tartar villagers have been ousted from their homes, and the Cosack outposts have been extended 700 miles up the Amur river. Not a single Chinese official representative remains in that region. Russian officers collect the taxes, command the inland naval docks and are in charge of the Chinese shipbuilding

yards. Russian gunboats command the river passages and Russian civil administration extends to all the chief cities and markets. The Muscovite dominance is equally marked in private business enterprises. The only thing left of the former Chinese regime is the accumulated filth in the streets, over which Cosack orderlies dash with the indifference of lifelong familiarity.

The significant feature of this sweeping change is the fact that the Manchus rather like it. These nomad Tartars never had much sympathy for the fossilized conservatism and absurd ceremonialism that seem so dear to the Chinaman. Their independent spirits revolted against the abject kowtow demanded by every petty Chinese official.

They find that they can speak freely and informally to Russian officials, and they appreciate the difference. The Russians also are developing the mines and industries of the country with amazing energy, and have brought prosperity in their train. Tartars who formerly worked for \$1 a month now can earn 50 cents, or even \$1 a day. The Russians do not trouble the natives with any sanitary or social reforms, and their ideas conflict with none of the ancient prejudices of the Mongols.

The net result is that the Manchus are fairly reconciled to Muscovite rule. The silent methods of Russian conquest have availed to annex this new empire without a struggle. On the whole the change appears to be as beneficial to the Manchus as it is profitable to the Russians, for, when all is said, the Russian government is to be preferred to that of the Chinese Empire.

## An English Duster.

The ordinary feather duster in the hands of the housemaid has the faculty of stirring up the dust and causing it to alight elsewhere about the room instead of cleaning it up, as should be done. There are already in use pneumatic dusters, which will draw the dust into a tube connected with the brush, but it was impossible to use them for light work on account of the motor necessary to run the suction fan at the end of the hose. The illustration shows a duster which applies practically the same principle but with the suction arrangement inside the back of the brush. The mechanism is formed of front and back plates, with a flexible fabric joining them and an internal spring to hold them normally apart. The handle is attached to one plate and the brush to the other, with a valve at the rear of the brush. A slight pressure on the surface to be dusted closes the bellows-like plates and shuts the valve to prevent the outflow of air through the bristles, and as soon as the pressure is removed the opening of the bellows sucks air in through the bristles, drawing the dust with it. As the plates again close the air inside is altered through a second valve, leaving the dust inside, where it remains until the duster is opened for cleaning.



Minnesota is called the "Bread and Butter State," and rightly, too, for the last year her mills turned out 25,630,500 barrels of flour and churned over 60,000,000 pounds of butter.

# Louisville Girl and Her Titled Fiance.



Miss Patti Ellison.

Miss Patti Ellison, the Louisville girl who is to marry Sir Charles Henry Augustus Frederick Lockhart Ross of England, is a descendant of one of America's most distinguished revolutionary families. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ellison of Louisville. Her great-grandfather was General Charles Scott, third governor of Kentucky and a general on the staff of Washington. Sir Charles is the third largest landowner in Great Britain, his estate, Balmagowan Castle, Parkhill, Ross-shire, Bonnington, Lanarkshire, being rated at 356,600 acres, with more than 3,000 tenants. His deer forests are the most extensive in Scotland. He has many interests in Canada, copper mines in British Columbia and in the Klondike.

The marriage is to take place in Louisville about the middle of November. After spending the winter months in London and in Scotland Sir Charles and Lady Charles will return to Montreal, where they will reside for a year. Sir Charles is the ninth of his title, to which he succeeded in 1883. A lieutenant of the Seaforth Highlanders, he rose to the rank of major of volunteers in the campaign in South Africa. His education was received at Eton and Trinity, Cambridge. He is fond of sports, is a skillful athlete, and is a crack shot. He has invented a rifle which has won him some fame.

## British Conscription.

Kitchener's demand for 25,000 more men ready for immediate service in South Africa is interpreted by semi-official army and navy journals as equivalent to resort to conscription. The decline of volunteering, the worthlessness of city ruffraff for military duty, point to the more respectable manhood as the only available contingent whence the new and urgent call for fighting men can be satisfied. A year and a half ago motion was made in parliament that the ancient constitutional law of compulsory military service be put in force in such modified form as would not make it unduly burdensome upon the people. The ministry objected on the score



Sir Charles Ross.

that the volunteer system had not shown itself inadequate and that "ballooting for service" under the ancient law would "inevitably lead to conscription, which if put in force would provoke a reactionary feeling against the war in South Africa."

A few months later, however, an act was passed "to increase the usefulness of the volunteers" in "great emergency." The militia, the yeomanry and the volunteers have hitherto been free from compulsory service abroad. According to tradition that was the duty of the regulars exclusively. The reserve and the auxiliary have been maintained as home defense, with no exception of being called into action. The yeomanry are an ancient corps of mounted men with an organization of their own.

**Leaves**

As I went for my walk this autumnal day,  
The beautiful leaves falling round my way,  
Life a sleeping babe's sigh they softly fall,  
The nothing but leaves what a lesson to all.

Emblems of our lives in this world of unrest,  
That we soon shall sleep on our earth mother's breast,  
Not death! all is life! to the eternal vaults of heaven  
To him who believes, life everlasting is given.

Leaves - universal links to God and life they bring  
A thirist for the unknown power of things,  
They banish sad thoughts and doubts so grim  
And fill my heart with great love for Him.

Armista Roselle Smith