The Ponca Sun Dance

The Ponca Indians on the reservation near White Eagle, Ok., have just lately held their annual sun dance, a ceremony that always attracts more or less of a crowd of curiosity seekers. Two hundred members of the tribe, including a number of squaws, took part in it and nearly 1,000 of the tribesmen shed the light of their countentnces upon a weird scene. Besides there were a goodly number of whites present, while neighboring tribes of Osages, Kaws and Pawnees helped to swell the motley crowd of spectators.

White Eagle, head chief of the Poncas, was master of ceremonies. He is a magnificent specimen of his race, standing over six feet high, erect as the center-pole in his tent and with a face betokening much intelligence and force of character. The dignity he displayed throughout was worthy of a Roman emperor, and not only did he inspire his own people with awe, but he called forth the admiration of all the visitors.

The scene was both unique and picturesque. The white tepees of the Indians stood in a large circle on the prairie some distance east of the government agency buildings. To the northward flowed the Arkansas river, whose course is marked by an avenue of rugged bluffs clothed in verdure. On the summits of some of these bluffs fires had been kindled and the smoke rose from them in blue circles and spread itself over the landscape, giving the semblance of a genuine Indian summer. Large herds of cattle were grazing on the plain, and the twinkling of their bells, mellowed by distance, came faintly to the ears of the listeners. In front of the tepees the braves sat stolidly smoking their pipes, while within the squaws were busy preparing viands for the approaching feast that ends the ceremony.

A Time-Honored Observance.

For three days and nights the sun dance continues. Once a powerful tribe on the frontier, the Poncas hold to the traditions of their fathers with unusual tenacity. The sun dance, being the principal festival of the year, is especially esteemed, and its observance has become, through long continuance, imperative. Time and environment, it is true, have modified some of its characteristic features, but in the main it is precisely as it has been for a century or more. The custom came to the Poncas from the Sioux long ago, but even at this day in essential details it is the same as the sun dance of the Sioux. The Poncas say that the dance is an invocation to the Great Spirit through the power and majesty of the sun for an abundance of food in the coming year and for preservation from disease and evil spirits. It also expresses gratitude for whatever good fortune has come in the past. The literal significance of its customs and of the decorations and equipments of dancers is difficult to learn. Even the most capable students of the sun dance have told little else than how it was performed, advancing into perplexing uncertainties when they attempted to tell why this or that thing was done. However, the motives that prompt its observance are not far removed from those that influence the whites in their observance of a day of national thanksgiving.

A Pale-Faced Guest.

For the observance of the sun dance a level plain is selected. A circle is made of the tents of the Indians and within this the ceremonies take place. On the recent occasion the entrance to this circle was from the east, toward the rising sun, the tepees facing toward the center. First the customary council of the head men was held to decide upon the program. Only the head chief and his band chiefs have the right to sit in the council of their own volition and the honor of an invitation, seldom conferred, is greatly coveted by Indians whose status is simply membership in the tribe. Unless invited the latter are not even permitted to approach the council tepee.

Lawton Is Booming.

Lawton, Ok., is a town which grew in a night, and which is still growing. It was a flat, hopeless stretch of prairie one day, the next it was a village of tents. It sprang into being with the babble of men's voices and in response to their restless greed. Two months ago it was the last corner left of the Indians' hunting ground, a poor patch, but theirs nevertheless. Then it was converted into a number on a lottery ticket; then it became a camp of land-seekers; now it is a county seat. Will it one day be the capital of the state of Oklahoma? Who can tell?

The bunch grass was scraggy and brown about it; the sun was hot; there was dust and dreariness everywhere. The trains ran through it from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts and travelers closed their eyes as they passed, wishing themselves well rid of such hopeless solitude. If anyone had prophesied that the place would be a hustling town within a month, who would have believed it? Who would or could have chosen such a place for a town site? It was so pitifully discouraging. Yet there stands a town, almost a city, with a first-class post office, a county building, and what not of public establishments. With two miles of business streets, with 300 stores and offices, with 86 saloons, what a prospect has Lawton before her!

People who have witnessed such growths before in the building of the west shake their heads dubiously over Lawton. It may disappear, even as it came, they insist; such things have been known. The town may be alive to-day; it may be dead tomorrow; each day which passes is but so much unraveled from the tangle of its destiny. Merchants are satisfied that they have been prosperous for the day; they dare not anticipate the future, so uncertain is it. What the town stumbles upon must be accepted whether it is for better or worse.

Lawton town site was bathing in the sunset when prosperity struck it. When the sun rose again Lawton was a town. Where the clatter of crickets had re-echoed the day before, the shouts of men were to be heard. Homes were of white canvas, streets were weed grown, but the town of Lawton lived. A great army had settled down upon the prairie and a new chapter in the development of the west was begun. With all the carelessness of an excited, hurrying people the Lawtonites began to lay out their town. Stakes had already been set here and there by government surveyors, who had planned and named Lawton. The name was for the brave man who had fought and died in the Philippines, and, patterning after him, the town had been courageous of undertaking and prompt of action. It has sprung into a city, sturdy and full of promise. No time to pave its streets nor to house itself with brick and wood, yet Lawton has a schoolhouse, a first class post office, churches and many another of the institutions which follow the American people.

Grand avenue is the longest and finest of the thoroughfares, paved with bunch grass and lighted with tallow candles. It is lined on each side with shacks and tents, each of which bears an elaborate sign to indicate its usefulness. There is "The Owl Drug Store," "Mother's Grocery Store," "The Bon Ton, Gent's Furnishings," and so on down the street. The wit and ingenuity of the citizens of Lawton have not been spared. Streets are named "Goo Goo street," "Bluffers' avenue," "Lucky Number boulevard," and so forth. The town is up to date in everything.—Busy Scenes in Lawton.

BUSY SCENES IN THE TOWN OF LAWTON.

Visitors From Turkey.

Ali Nouri Bey, late consul general of Turkey in Rotterdam, who is now in London with his wife, the Princess Hairie Ben-Ayad, is one of the prominent leaders of the Turkish legitimist party. This party claims and works for the reinstallment on the throne of Turkey of Murad V, who was said to have become insane some time after his accession, and was, therefore, temporarily put aside, his brother, Abdul Hamid, being installed as vice sultan under certain conditions which he then agreed to. One of these conditions, it is alleged, was to restore his power to his brother Murad, the rightful ruler of Turkey, as soon as the latter should be able to resume the reign. Ali Nouri Bey has several times been in trouble with his imperial enemy and has often made acquaintance with Abdul Hamid's political prisons, although he always managed to escape. Lately, however, Ali Nouri Bey has been condemned by order of Abdul Hamid to 101 years' imprisonment. Ali Nouri Bey hopes there will soon be an end of the present reign in Turkey. Abdul Hamid is ill, very ill. The reaccession of Murad V will give Turkey a liberal government and be looked upon as the beginning of a new era for Turkey—that of progress, justice and freedom. His wife, Hairie Hanem, is the daughter of the late Mahmoud Pasha Ben-Ayad of Tunis, a personage well known in French society in Paris during the reign of Napoleon III, who honored him with his friendship. The family of Ben-Ayid is one of the oldest and noblest families in Tunis. The princess is the first Turkish woman who has ever set foot in Europe with the mission of making known the strange social condition of her countrywomen, to engage in a campaign against the existing state of affairs in Turkey and to expose its utter rottenness and corruption by delivering series of lectures.

I. Zangwill has written the following letter as to the derivation of the word "ghetto:" "I don't think any quite convincing etymology of 'ghetto' has been adduced, although the most likely connection is with the 'ghetto,' or iron foundry, in the quarter of Venice to which the Hebrews were assigned in 1516. As this was the first compulsory Hebrew quarter in Italy, the others were called by the same name.

Apparently the proverb about closing the stable door after the horse has been stolen is fully appreciated by the mayor of Buenos Ayres, South America. He has issued an order that no city employe who handles public money can attend the races.

AN ODD TALE OF THE SEA.

Rolling Copper Rivet Wears Through Bottom of Vessel.

Some years ago a vessel loaded with guano worth several thousand dollars caught fire in the south Pacific and was abandoned by the captain and crew, who came ashore in the small boats and reported the disaster. One of the consignees thought the cargo could be saved, as he knew that guano would not burn, and it was his idea that the hulk of the ship might be found floating somewhere at sea. He chartered a small English tramp vessel that happened to be at Callao, Peru, and started out to search for the derelict. After cruising for two or three weeks, he found her, the woodwork burned to the water's edge, but the hulk sound as a dollar and the cargo all right. They started to tow her to Callao, but the day before reaching that harbor the tramp vessel they had chartered began to fill rapidly and the pumps could scarcely keep her afloat. They narrowly escaped sinking with all on board. The leak was a mystery. They managed to get her to Callao only by the greatest exertion. When the ship went into the dock and was examined it was found that one of the plates about the center had worn through. Further investigation demonstrated that the damage had been done by a little copper rivet, which had been accidentally left in the bottom and had rolled back and forth over the same spot so often and so long that the iron plate had been worn thin and the pressure of the water had broken through.—Chicago News.

A DREAM OF TREASURE.

Small Boy's Dream Locates Money Which Is Really There.

Dreams are often unaccountable, and perhaps what I am about to relate may interest your readers. When quite young—I was only 7 years old then—I lived with my parents at a villa in Trieste, Austria. For weeks and weeks I had the same dream, although not nightly—namely, that in the night time I found myself at the bottom of the garden in my nightgown, scratching at a little heap of earth, and found copper, silver, and gold coins, and suddenly looking up, I found before me, and watching me, the sister of the landlord of the villa, an old, haggard woman. Having dreamed this so often, I naturally related it to my mother, who repeated it to her friends. These friends, who were of a superstitious nature, tried to induce my father to buy the plot of ground in question, but he would not listen to such absurdity, as he was an unbeliever in spiritualism. Well, some years later the landlord had occasion to build a lodge at the bottom of the garden, and while digging for the foundation a large sum of money in copper, silver and gold coins was discovered. How is it that a mere boy of 7, without any knowledge of the place or of the history of the owners of the said grounds, should have such a dream, which turned out true?—Spectator.

THE SHOCKED BURGLAR.

Indignant to Find Policeman Warming Himself at Midnight.

Once upon a time a Burglar looked up from his work at the Office Safe into which he was Drilling and Detected a Policeman in the act of Watching him from Behind the Stove. "Well," said the Burglar, dropping his drill and speaking wih Manly Indignation, "I may not be Everything that a Gentleman should be. As I'm no Hypocrite, I Frankly Admit that I'm a Crook and Steal for a Living. But there's One Thing I can say for myself—I'm no Sneak. Come on with your handcuffs, Cop Gibboney, and run me in. I'm a Burglar all right, but, thank heaven, I'm no Spy and Informer. And when the Mayor hears of this perhaps it won't be Me that'll find himself in Trouble." The Burglar's anticipation was Justified. The mayor caused him to be Discharged with Apologies, and issued a statement to the public Deprecating any action on the part of his Police Force that might Wound the Sensibilities of the High-Spirited Criminal Classes. Moral: It is better that ninety-nine guilty men should escape than that anybody should employ the only means by which they can be caught.—Philadelphia North American.

The Bishop's Appeal.

The late Bishop Williams of Connecticut was a truly pious man, but was sometimes placed in a position where he envied the privileges of those not of the cloth. At a recent conclave at the General Theological Seminary they told this tale of the good bishop's wit: One summer day the bishop went out fishing with a friend, and, as the day was warm, they swung a bottle of rare Burgundy over the side of a rowboat. When luncheon time came the bishop essayed to pull the wine aboard, already tasting in anticipation the cool, delicious beverage. Through some mishap the string slipped from his fingers, and the bottle sank to the bottom of the river. Bishop Williams sat up with a sigh, and said, with his eyes sparkling: "You say it, Jones; your'e a layman."—Boston Journal.

Affected Them Differently.

Recently the German Crown Prince called the Kaiser's attention to the fact that the teachers in certain colleges gave their pupils some extraordinary subjects on which to write essays. Whatever the subjects were, it is known that the Kaiser was displeased, while his heir could see only the comic side of the matter. It leaked out that a teacher in a college for girls of 12 to 13 years of age gave the following as a subject for an essay: "What Was the Idea of the Egyptian King Amasis About God, and What do We Christians Think About It?" This incident explains both the Crown Prince's hilarity and the Emperor's annoyance.—Berlin Correspondence London Telegraph.

She—So you've been across? He—Yes, for the first time. She—Ah! when you realized that you were on the broad bosom of the ocean did you not feel like shouting out with joy? He—I don't know about the joy, but I assure you I could scarcely contain myself.—Philadelphia Press.

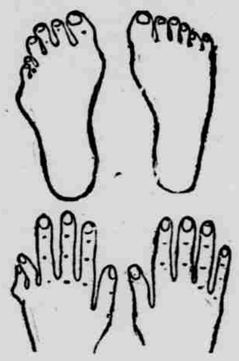
Current Topics

Cost of the Steel Strike.

President Shaffer's public statement of the terms upon which the steel strike has been settled contains nothing of importance that was not known before, but his attack upon the American Federation of Labor and the United Mine Workers adds another significant item to the losses of the Amalgamated Association throughout the strike. Mr. Shaffer indulges in bitter censure of Mr. Gompers and Mr. Mitchell because they did not call out their followers, irrespective of contracts, as he had done. His words scarcely can fail to complete the alienation of the two large organizations thus attacked. The strike also has shattered the Amalgamated Association itself, perhaps beyond repair, besides making non-union mills of many which were nominally union before. During the two and a half months of the strike the workmen lost about $10,000,000 in wages. The losses of the company can be recouped to a considerable extent, but lost time and wages are never found again. The average number of men idle during the strike was something over 50,000. At one time the number was nearly 100,000.

Six Fingered Man.

In the current number of the American Naturalist Professor H. L. Osborn gives the tracings of the hands and feet of a student at Hamline University. Each foot is provided with a supernumerary toe. While one hand is normal, the other is provided with an extra finger. The case is that of a young man 25 years of age. His parents, grandparents, and all of his relatives so far as known were perfectly formed. Cases of this sort are not uncommon, and are known as poldactylism.



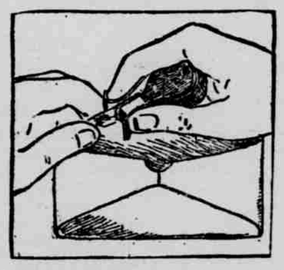
TRACINGS OF HANDS AND FEET.

Central American Germans.

German business houses in Gautemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica control almost the entire foreign trade of the five republics with England and California, besides the entire traffic between Germany and Central America. The shipping along the Central American coasts is also to a large extent in German hands. These conditions are causing an immense loss of trade to Great Britain. With the taking of the commerce from Great Britain has arisen in England a hatred of things German until the nations that were at one time allies are now not far removed from the point of war.

Moistens Stamps.

Most envelope and stamp moisteners are complicated or bulky affairs which are unhandy for use when it is desired to dampen a single envelope, but the device in the illustration seems to surmount these objections. It is the invention of W. E. Kentrick of Vermont, who states that the implement is adapted for use with mucilage as well as with water. The rear portion of the moistener is a reservoir for the storage of the water, which feeds through a tube to the bottom of the compartment containing the sponge. The feed is regulated by a valve located between the reservoir and the sponge, and the parts may be easily separated for refilling. To use the moistener it is grasped by the thumb and finger, as shown, the finger pressing the spring tongue against the flap of the envelope to squeeze the water from the sponge as the envelope is drawn between the two with the other hand.



HANDY IMPLEMENT FOR DESK USE.

Richard Croker's visitors at his English country place, Moat House, give a glowing account of his public services as a benefactor of Letcombe. Not content with beautifying his own property, he is improving the village by widening and straightening the public roads, by extending a picturesque wall and by placing seats for villagers in the meadows under the trees. He has also licensed the village boys to bathe in his new lake at certain hours and has promised to provide a fountain near one of the old mills. He has furnished employment for a large force of workmen in improving his estate.

President Roosevelt, as a speaker, varies a good deal in the matter of delivery. Sometimes he speaks very rapidly and this especially when deeply moved. But generally he speaks very slowly, choosing his words with great care.

A handsome memorial window in memory of Lieutenant Commander T. B. M. Mason has been received at the Annapolis naval academy and will be placed in the chapel.

News and Views

Descendant of Hamilton.

Lieutenant Louis Hamilton of the Fourteenth United States infantry, who commanded the special guard of honor at the Buffalo city hall and on the train which took President McKinley's body to Washington, is a great grandson of Alexander Hamilton.

LOUIS HAMILTON.

Premonition of Death.

In his autobiography, "A Sailor's Log," Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans relates a strange incident of premonition which a fellow sailor had the night before the attack on Fort Fisher, in January, 1865. He says: "We had on board the Powhatan a fine young seaman named Flannigan who came from Philadelphia. On the night of Jan. 14 he came to my room with a small box in his hand and said to me: 'Mr. Evans, will you be kind enough to take charge of this little box for me—it has some little trinkets in it—and give it to my sister in Philadelphia?' I asked him why he did not deliver it himself, to which he replied 'I am going ashore with you tomorrow and I will be killed.' I told him how many bullets it required to kill a man in action and in other ways tried to shake his convictions, but it was no use—he stuck to it. He showed no nervousness over it, but seemed to regard it as a matter of course. I took the box, and, after making a proper memorandum, put it away among my things. On the afternoon of the next day, when we were charging the fort, and just as we came under fire, at about 800 yards, I saw Flannigan reel out to one side and drop, the first man hit, with a bullet through his heart. I stepped quickly to his side and asked if he was badly hurt. The only reply was a smile as he looked up into my face and rolled over dead. The box was delivered as he requested, and I afterward assisted in getting a pension for his sister."

Woman as Bill Poster.

Miss Cora Guthrie Kimball is the only woman in the United States, and in the world, probably, to be at the head of a bill posting company. Miss Kimball lives in Moultrie, Ga., and there she carries on a very successful business. Miss Kimball turned to bill posting after several years spent in kindergarten teaching. The entire loss of her voice compelled her to abandon her chosen field of work. Recovering her voice in a year or so, but fearing a return of the affliction, Miss Kimball decided to turn to something in which she could use her arms independently of her tongue and earn a comfortable livelihood.

MRS. KIMBALL.

Though President Roosevelt is the youngest chief magistrate this country has ever had he is not so youthful as the heads of some other governments. The President is 43 years old, but Emperor William will not be 42 until the 27th of this month. The czar of Russia is only 31. Emperor Emmanuel II of Italy will be 33 this coming November. Wilhelmina of Holland was 21 years old last month and Alfonzo XIII of Spain, the youngest of them all, was only 15 May 17 last.

The first postmistress in Cuba is Miss Ysabel De Los Rios She is about 23 years old, a daughter of Judge De Los Rios, and receives, it is said, a salary of $1,200.

It has been determined that the memorial of the late Senator Stephen M. White of California shall be in the form of a life-sized statue which will be placed in the court house grounds at Los Angeles.

President C. K. Adams of the University of Wisconsin, who a little more than a year ago went to Europe for his health, writes that he is quite well again and that he will be able shortly to resume his work at the university.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is one of the best classic scholars and speakers in modern languages in the house of commons.

SAYINGS and DOINGS

Anarchism and Atheism.

Anarchists are always atheists. Their fundamental proposition that there is no rightful government begins with the assertion that there is no God. If there is no God there is no moral government of the world, and in the general chaos it is every man for himself. If anarchy has any logic, anything beside its brutal hatreds, that is it.

When that typical anarchist, the unsavory Johann Most, was in Chicago, in a meeting of anarchists, speaking freely in German, he declared that the first thing they as anarchists had to do was to "destroy every altar, to extinguish every religion, to tear God down from the heavens." What right, he said, would any man have to govern other men unless God gave him that right? "Down with God." In this Most was only a rabid echo of Karl Marx. The assassin of President McKinley, like Emma Goldman, has been blatant in protesting his atheism, declaring that there is no God, that he has "no use for God."

It is a remarkable fact, and one that will not soon be forgotten, that just when the assassin imagined he was doing something to usher in the new social condition, in which there would be neither God nor government of any sort, there came from the heart of the president such an acknowledgment of God as had the effect to waken in the hearts of all the people such a sense of the relation of God to human affairs as had never before in our history found more impressive utterance.

A Shaggy Bird.

A strange bird to be found in Central Africa is called by the natives

THE WEE-TOO-TOO-HOO.

Wee-Too-Too-Hoo, from its cry. Instead of having feathers the bird is shaggy. It is about the size of a swan and it has a long and slender bill, of which it makes a remarkable use in supporting itself when it rests. The bird lies quiet during the day in holes in the ground or at the root of trees and comes out in the twilight. It feeds on worms, grubs, and also hinan berries. It makes a peculiar snuffling noise when hunting or feeding. It lives in pairs, and the female lays twice a year a large egg, which is deposited in a hole at the foot of a tree.

Greatest of Artists.

This is the title which the musician depicted in the accompanying sketch has selected for himself. No other artist is capable of playing so many different instruments at the same time. For some years past he has been attracting attention on the continent by his wonderful feats, and has offered to pay any person £500 who can succeed in imitating him. So far no one has accepted his challenge. M. Malboech is capable of playing as many as thirteen instruments—the piano, cornet a piston, clarinet, violin, a chime of forty bells, the bass drum, symbals, triangles, two kettle drums, tabor and castanets. By means of his hands he plays either the piano or the clarinet and piano at the same time, but more generally the cornet a piston and piano. The left hand, used for the latter instrument, actuates the chimes also. The secondary instruments are played through the pressure of the feet upon the pedals. These multiple occupations do not prevent him while playing the cornet from smoking his pipe. He correctly executes pieces that are often difficult

Margherita of Italy.

Dowager Queen Margherita of Italy has the reputation of being the best educated woman in the ranks of European royalty. She reads and writes English, French, German and Spanish and has a wide acquaintance with the Greek and Latin classics.

One of the oldest British journalists in active service is John Hollingshead who recently celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday anniversary. Mr. Hollingshead worked for Dickens and Thackeray when they respectively controlled Household Words and the Cornhill Magazine. He published a book of reminiscences while managing the London Gaiety theater, which he founded. He wrote so much of it each day and sent it to the printer, keeping up that journalistic system until the work was completed.

Lord Roberts has a strange antipathy to cats. He cannot bear them about him, and it is said that once while dining out he declared that there was a cat in the room and nearly fainted. A search revealed the fact that a strange cat had indeed got into the place and was under the table.

Richard Bell, who represents half a million railroad men in the British parliament, is the first railway guard to enter the homes. He won great favor during the late strike on the Northeastern and the Taff Vale railway.