

Will Make Another Dash for Pole.



COMMANDER ROBERT E. PEARY

Leave of absence for three years has been granted Commander R. E. Peary, U. S. N., by the Navy department in order to resume his attempt to find the North pole. The dash will be made in the summer of 1908.

TEXANS RAISE PECANS

NUT-GROWING INDUSTRY SPREADING IN STATE.

Value of Product Proved by Late Governor Hogg—Northern Investors Enter Field and Begin Planting of Orchards.

Austin, Tex.—Texas has at last come to a realization of the pecan's importance as a revenue producer, and the tree that once fell indiscriminately before the thoughtless woodman's axe is now carefully protected. More than \$2,000,000 worth of these important looking little nuts were shipped out of Texas during the year 1906, and there now are nurserymen in Texas who devote themselves exclusively to pecan propagation. Texas is the chief pecan state of the union, although the tree flourishes in many other southern states, even as far north as the southern part of Indiana and the Egypt district of Illinois, and the culture is spreading year by year. There was a time not so very long ago when all pecan trees were of the

wild variety, but the enterprising nurseryman has brought about a marked improvement, and statistics now show that Texas has 358,955 artificially planted trees, while the number of wild ones in bearing condition is estimated at nearly a million.

The late Gov. James S. Hogg, of Texas, was among the first to appreciate the commercial value of the pecan, and on his plantation near the historic old town of Columbia there stands a large and select pecan grove as a monument to his planting. It is also a matter of official record in Texas that in his dying moments, Gov. Hogg directed his law partner, Frank Jones, of Houston, to see that his funeral was marked by simplicity, and that his son, William, and his daughter, Miss Ima, be requested to plant as early as possible a pecan tree at the head of his grave and another at the foot, and that when these trees reach a bearing state their product be distributed so far as they will go among the plain people of Texas to be used as seed in spreading pecan culture. It is the rule rather than the ex-

ception for an ordinary pecan tree to bear from three to five barrels of nuts, hence it can be calculated at a glance that in the course of time, an immense quantity of pecan forestry will result from the two trees that stand as sentinels over Gov. Hogg's grave in the Austin cemetery.

As soon as practicable after the funeral the trees of the most improved variety obtainable, were planted in accordance with the dying governor's request, and their growth thus far has been entirely satisfactory.

Nuts grown from wild pecan trees sell for about five cents per pound, while the cultivated nut brings from 20 cents to 50 cents per pound. The trees are long-lived, and it is not unusual for a ten or 12-year old tree to produce a crop worth from \$60 to \$100. The average, however, is somewhat below that figure, but 25 or 30 trees find ample room upon an acre of ground, thus making pecan raising a highly profitable industry.

Pecan growing has now reached the dignity of classification as a horticultural pursuit, and many northern investors, appreciating the great profit that is possible, are forming syndicates to plant and operate large commercial orchards.

Since the nurseryman has taken hold of the pecan, numerous varieties are springing up, each vying with the other in the matter of early production. The best that has ever yet been reached is a tree warranted to bear fruit in four years from date of planting, while others of the improved varieties require all the way from five to seven years. The wild tree is much slower.

Hardiness is one of the chief characteristics of the pecan tree. It belongs to the hickory family, and grows to a large size. Almost any kind of soil satisfies the pecan sapling, no difference whether it be along the river or along the high plains. Its roots penetrate deep into the ground, and it thus at once becomes able to withstand the severest drought. Owing to its size and spreading branches, the pecan tree serves well for shade, and in many of the towns and cities of Texas, pecans are being planted for the dual purpose of ornament and usefulness.

Experts who have indulged in various tests, assert that the pecan possesses a nutritive value of great merit, and is more easily digestible than most of nuts.

WAX REPLACES THE BONE.

Remarkable Operation Performed on Six-Year-Old Boy to Save Arm.

New York.—Surgeons at St. Gregory's hospital performed an operation on a six-year-old Italian boy, Peter Lepari, of Brooklyn, by which they replaced a portion of a necrotic bone of the left forearm with a substance known as "bone wax," which the surgeons say will turn into bone.

When the boy was brought to the hospital it was found that he was suffering from a tubercular bone in the forearm. Decomposition had set in, and to prevent loss of the use of the arm and the complete removal of the bone it was decided to bring the "bone wax" into use. An X-ray view will be taken daily to watch the progress of healing.

"Bone wax" was discovered by a German chemist ten years ago and has been used in Vienna.

NO RAW WESTERNER

"BAT" MASTERSON CORRECTS WRONG IMPRESSION.

Has Become of the East, Though He Owns to a Fondness for the West He Has Left—An Early Day Tragedy.

"This talk about my being a raw westerner, ready to eat two or three men at every meal, is rather tiresome," said "Bat" Masterson, sheriff of Dodge City, Kas., back in the seventies; deputy marshal of Trinidad, Col., one of the rangers who went fighting Indians with Gen. Miles, and now deputy United States marshal in New York city.

"When the president appointed me to the position I now hold, I had been living for four years in a hotel on a prominent corner in New York," he continued. "Yet it was made to seem as though I had just stepped out of the plains with a sombrero hat, cowboy trousers, a belt full of guns, and ready to shoot up the town. I was followed with cameras and flashlights until life was made a burden. I have lived in the east a long time now, but, of course, I am still something of a westerner. A man who is once a westerner never gets over it. He can't. It sets in his system."

"Out there in the west in the days when a man had to travel hundreds of miles on a stage coach in order to get anywhere, we had some adventures now and then. For instance, one day in 1878, when I was sheriff of Dodge City and my brother was marshal, he saw on the street two obstreperous cowboys who threatened to do harm to innocent bystanders, and started to take their guns away from them. He told them to disarm and they refused. He wrestled with one for his gun. I saw the other shoot at my brother and miss, and then I saw the fellow whom my brother was wrestling with discharge the bullet into his abdomen. My brother fell dead. I had been running up, and was then ten or 12 feet away. Before either of the cowboys could fire I had shot them both dead. Only a matter of 20 seconds had elapsed since the fracas began, and there lay the three dead bodies in the middle of the street."

Marshal Masterson modestly declined to go further into the history of his shooting scrapes. "There was quite a lot of shooting going on then," he said, "but it was mostly confined to the obstreperous individuals, who settled their difficulties in that way. If one of them attacked a man who had always been peaceful and industrious, and refrained from quarreling through and through, the bully who wanted to fight was attacked in turn, and told that if he could not find his own kind to fight with he had better leave town. A man was recognized for his true worth, everybody was outspoken, and hypocrisy was not tolerated."

American Catalogues.

Tons of American catalogues are destroyed every year by the authorities of Australia for the reason that business men, to whom they are addressed by manufacturers and merchants of the United States, refuse to pay the duty of six cents a pound. Thus there is a loss which cannot be estimated in descriptive circulars, catalogues and price lists which never reach their destination.

United States Special Agent Burdell at Sydney, suggests the following as the best remedy: "If the American exporter will carefully address his matter, and by the same mail send to the comptroller general of customs or the postmaster general, or the comptroller of the customs at Melbourne or other port, as the case may be, a notice that he is sending by parcels post, via San Francisco or London, a description and the weight of the matter, and inclose the amount of duty—preferably in international money order—the literature will be forwarded to its destination without delay."

Roadside Trees in Hanover.

The German province of Hanover, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, owns 1,967 miles of highways, on which there are 175,794 fruit trees—pear, cherry, plum and apple—sufficient if set out 80 to an acre to form an orchard of more than 300 square miles. The fruit raised on these trees is a source of income for the province, which sometimes makes \$40,000 a year by selling the products of this elongated orchard.

The province maintains a nursery of 403 acres to supply young trees for roadside use and for promoting the interests of fruit culture. The profit of a tree is very small, but the Hanover people do not worry about that. Shade is afforded in summer, the roadbed is free from dust, the presence of trees retards the washing out of the soil from the banks into the roadside ditches and the attractive appearance of the roadside stimulates an interest in tree culture and benefits the province in many other ways. They find it worth while.

Oratory and Its Dangers.

Grand oratory is a new thing, and it seems to be dangerous. Ulysses S. never talked, and, therefore, never got into trouble on account of his tongue. It is a good rule for soldiers and sailors, says the Washington Star. Even politicians, whose business it is to talk and who should study words in all of their power both to enlighten and to confuse, often trip and find it necessary to issue a supplement carrying a key to the first edition. In this day of banquets and addresses, when everybody is drafted and few smilingly decline, the plea of misquotation is often made. But the fact remains that the difficulty is more frequently with the speaker than with the reporter. The latter, as a rule, is practiced in his duty, and has no ends to serve but those of accuracy, while the unpracticed speaker is liable to say unintended things and regret intended things after they have been said. Cold type is the greatest of eye-openers.

NEWSPAPER MEN WILL FARM.

Colony of Writers to Take Land in Little Snake River Valley.

Denver, Col.—A colony of newspaper men is to be established in the Little Snake river valley in Routt county, Colorado, where the state of Colorado will throw open for settlement this summer, under the Carey act, 50,000 acres of land. This land is under the Little Snake river canal system.

The plan is to make this colony an up-to-date farming community, where each man will own his own farm and improvements, the only connection in which the community idea will prevail, if at all, being in regard to labor. Under the Carey act, any citizen of the United States may select 160 acres, the price of land and perpetual water right in the canal system being fixed by the state at \$22.50 per acre. Warren R. Given, a former newspaper man, has taken options on 40 sections of 160 acres each for the newspaper men.

STORY OF A DESERTED CAMP.

Mysterious Strange Cases for Graves of Early California Miners.

One of the old residents of California is Jeremiah Van Horn, who is now a retired merchant and spends his time in traveling. He is full of tales of the state and last night told one of an old mining camp near Marysville. "Near the town of Marysville," said he, "there is an old mining camp, now deserted. On a hillside lie the bodies of 50 miners. Their resting places are fenced in and a few hardy flowers bloom in the spring, only to dry and wither in the summer. No name is to be seen on the rude headboards. But one man—himself as unknown to the people of the region as the dead men below—knows the secret of the graves."

About Easter of each year this man—now aged and somewhat bent, but with vigor still in his walk—appears from out of the mysterious east. He arrives at Marysville, hires a conveyance, and visits the graves of three of the old-timers. There is nothing of the miner about him. He is prosperous and perhaps wealthy. His clothing is of the city cut. His gray beard is well trimmed and his gold rimmed glasses hide a pair of shrewd blue eyes. His business is to look after the graves. He straightens up the fence, waters the thirsty plants and when everything is shipshape spends a half hour in looking over the valley and the hills. Then, jumping into his carriage, he returns to Marysville, takes the train to San Francisco, and is lost for another year in the solitude of civilization.

"Who is he? What ties binds him to the three men whose bodies long ago crumbled into dust? Was he himself one of the Argonauts, bound by ties closer than those of blood to the trio upon whom the winter rains have fallen for half a century? Great is the curiosity of the people of Marysville. They watch him narrowly on his annual pilgrimages, and some of the forward ones have been made bold to question him. He has always turned them away with courtesy and strict reserve. They do not even know his name or station, but they marvel much over what they believe to be an example of brotherly love and affection that stretches over many decades and never forgets the past."

What Rolling Stone Does Get.

After an absence of five or six years, Ephraim returned to the little town in Maryland where he had been born and reared. From his brown derby hat to his patent leather shoes he was dressed in the tippet of fashion. His first call was made on his brother Bill, a slow, plodding kind of dandy, who had never been to Baltimore.

Ephraim told with great enthusiasm his experiences in Philadelphia, Washington, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco and other places, in which he had plied his calling of barber. He wound up rather softly with:

"Say, Bill, kin you len' me two dollars?"

Bill looked with just a touch of scorn at the fine clothes of the wanderer and drew a small roll of bills from his pocket. He peeled off two ones, handed them to his brother and said:

"It's the old story, I see, Eph. A rolling stone gathers no moss."

Ephraim drew himself up, adjusted his coat by the lapels, flicked an imaginary speck of dust from his sleeve, and replied:

"Yes, Bill, but he gets a mighty sight 'o' polish."

Feeding the Infants.

The helplessness of some women of the poorer classes in the matter of feeding babies was brought out at the coroner's court at Leigh, says the Dundee Advertiser. A child of two years had been killed by a meal of liver and bacon and beefsteak, and the mother could not realize that there was anything extraordinary in the diet. Medical men who practice in Ancoats wage a continuous battle against this sort of thing, and one of them, at a meeting of the Ancoats Healthy Homes society, told some experiences that would have been amusing if they had not so grim a significance. "I was called one day," he said, "to see a sick baby, and found the mother feeding it with little pieces of corned beef. 'My good woman,' I said, 'you must not feed the baby with that sort of stuff.' 'Well, sir,' she replied, 'what am I to feed him with? He doesn't like pork!'"

Youthful Logician.

Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead of Boston, aroused a good deal of comment with her recent declaration that tin soldiers had a bad effect on children, inciting in them a love of war.

Mrs. Mead, an engaging author and noted lecturer, was well qualified to speak on this matter, for she has for a number of years studied carefully and intelligently the child mind. In the course of her investigations she has come upon many quaint instances of the peculiar reasoning of children. The other day she said: "I once told a little girl that some folks claimed the moon was inhabited. 'The child sneered. 'Rubbish,' she said. 'It can't be. What would the people up there do when there was only a little slit left?'"

Trouble Coming After School.

Johnnie Jones—My sister has been took with the measles, teacher.

Teacher—Then you'd better go home at once, Johnny, and stay there till she gets well.

Freddy Brown—Please, teacher, Johnny's sister is stopping with his aunt in Chicago.

Couldn't Disturb I.

"I want a pound of oyster crackers," said Mrs. Medders.

"Sorry, ma'am," replied the country grocer, "but I reckon I'll have to send 'em later. Ike Huskey is a sleepin' on top 'o' the bar! they're in, an' he's in a bad humor to-day."

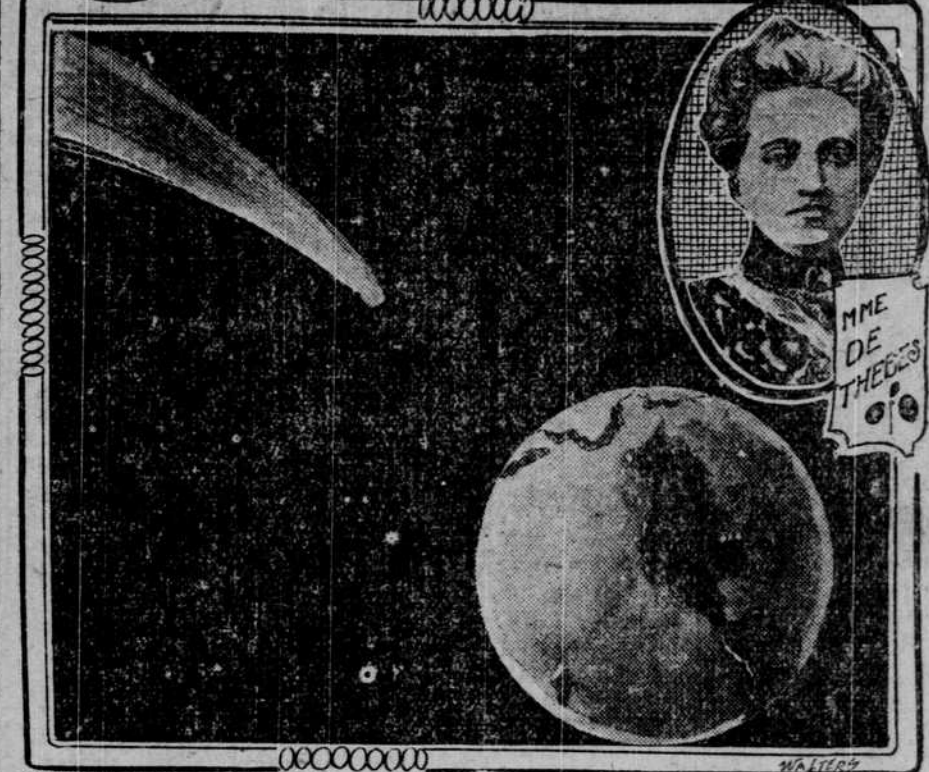
Teacher's Agency.

Teacher—Have you any position in view for me?

Agent—I know one man who wants a tutor for his empty-headed son.

Teacher—Well, I think I could fill the vacancy.—Harper's Weekly.

WILL COMING COMET COLIDE WITH EARTH



VALLEY'S COMET HEADLED EARTHWARD

What with earthquakes from within and comets threatening from above, surely these are days of uncertainty and anxiety for the inhabitants of this mundane sphere. Astronomical calculation tells us that four big comets are headed for the earth, coming with that awful speed which only those erratic tramps of the heavens can attain. Three are due this year, and the fourth, which is the one which is causing the greatest speculation, will come into view in 1910. This last is known as Halley's comet. At present it is not far from the orbit of Jupiter, and by the time the year has waned it will be speeding through the belt of the asteroids—a group of miniature planets revolving in orbits just outside of that of Mars.

Assuming that the gigantic star-like nucleus and its mighty nebulous tail succeed in passing without disaster through this maze of little worlds—none of which is more than 100 miles in diameter—it will cut across the orbit of Mars and touch upon that of the earth. That the comet will not come in contact with one or more of these planetoids is not at all an assured fact, but this does not concern us nearly as much as the possibility of its coming into collision with the earth.

When the bright-tailed orb is nearest the sun it will be many millions of miles inside the earth's orbit, and hence there will be two occasions when it and the earth might meet, namely, when the former passes into and out of the latter's path. If such a celestial collision should take place, the comet would probably be burned up in the earth's atmosphere, and the earth be still left intact, though the blinding light and intense heat would destroy all life on that side of the world.

Olbens, a German astronomer living in the interval between 1758 and 1840, pointed out that Biela's comet, which, in 1832, pass within 20,000 miles of the earth's orbit, though the earth would not reach the same point until a month later. While astronomers saw no danger, a great many people who feared the verity of the deductions looked forward to the time with considerable apprehension. They were greatly relieved, however, for as predicted the comet came on the day the mathematicians named, and all danger had passed.

Halley's comet, which is now approaching, is of extraordinary interest. It was the first to be suspected of returning periodically, as well as the first whose period of revolution was calculated.

It will be its thirteenth visit which the comet will make three years hence, but who can tell what scene it will look down upon? Many authorities believe it will come very close to the earth, though it may not be as brilliant or as conspicuous as in its earlier returns. Arago suggested that comets in traversing their gigantic orbits might throw off into space nearly all the matter of which they were composed when at a point nearest the sun.

Under these conditions, then, it is evident that some of the more attenuated ones may, in the course of time, pass entirely out of existence, though they may, on the other hand, attract particles floating in space along their paths and so equalize their losses. This would account for the varying intensity of the same comet.

Incompatibility.

Mrs. Crossway—Your last girl didn't stay long.

Mrs. Kowler—No; she was one of these particular girls. She said she couldn't stand our language—we used the imperative mood too much.—Chicago Tribune.

Among Newspaper Men.

Wright—I'm working on the Bugle, now.

Penman—That paper is no good. I was on it once.

"Oh, well, it improved after you left it, you know!"—Yonkers Statesman.

Extremists All.

Batchelder—Well, if I ever do take a wife, I'll make it a point to pick out an economical woman.

Wiseman—Impossible, my dear boy! There's no such thing as an economical woman. A woman is either extravagant or mean.

Last Year's Cocoa Crop.

The world's cocoa crop in 1906 was about 151,000 metric tons. Of this quantity, Germany got over 35,000 tons.

as for instance, Halley's. However this may be, it must be remembered that appearances of comets in the early days were much more mysterious, and proportionately impressive, than in the more enlightened ages and that the extraordinary brilliancy recorded in some instances was, quite likely, due more to imagination than to the actual state of the comet.

When the great comet comes on the scene in 1910, its nucleus or beard will appear like a star of the first magnitude, but having a mighty tail trailing after it and pointing away from the sun. Different from many of the smaller comets which are tailless, the one named for Halley is formed of three distinct parts, namely—the nucleus, coma and tail. The nucleus is the concentrated part and shines by the reflected light of the sun, while the tail gives out a light of its own, due chiefly to the glowing carbon vapor which is not unlike that of an ordinary gas jet.

Though shining as brightly as Jupiter, and sometimes visible even in the daytime, the comet is very light in weight, being not more than one one-millionth as heavy as the planet named. That this is true is known from the slight attraction it exerts on the plants, while the latter frequently pull the comet out of its course. The tail is so filmy that should it brush the earth it would hardly be noticeable.

When Halley's comet is first seen by the comet seekers as it rushes heading toward the sun, it will appear like a round, dim ball of hazy light. As it comes nearer the earth, its tail will gradually appear and lengthen. It may increase or decrease from night to night, varying from 25 to 15,000 miles in 24 hours, though should it do this, it would be an exception rather than the rule. As the great celestial messenger swings round the sun, its tail will apparently grow smaller, and finally disappear, the ball of hazy light alone being left to tell of its flight to Neptune. After a little this will be gone to be seen no more until the year 1885.

The composition of comets interested men even before their periods were calculated, and Halley's will be examined as it never was before, for we have instruments now that were unknown when it was visible in 1835. The spectroscopic has shown what other and smaller comets were made of. The nucleus is a solid mass formed of different substances, and this is an envelope of dense gaseous matter that is in perpetual motion. This portion is called the coma, and to its activity is probably due the tail, attracting and repelling the gaseous particles of waste material.

There are many small periodic comets that have been discovered in recent years, but Halley's is the only great comet that appears at regular intervals.

In spite of the comforting assurance of astronomers that the approaching comet will be harmless, so far as its general effects upon the earth are concerned, and providing, of course, that the comet ever reaches us, Mme. de Thebes, the Mother Shipton of Paris, has predicted that the comet is going to make a great deal of trouble for the earth. Mme. de Thebes predicted the Boer war, the great Charity Bazaar fire in Paris, the Servian massacre, the San Francisco and Kingston disasters and the discovery of radium.

Seek Transvaal War Chest.

Latest of vast fortunes sought by seekers of lost treasure is the Transvaal war chest containing \$5,000,000. The chest was taken from shipping at Delagoa bay in 1898 and hidden on the Dorothea, which vessel was lost on a reef in the Indian ocean. Now the steamship Nobel has been specially fitted up by a syndicate for the work of recovering the treasure.

Good and Sufficient Cause.

Constable—Th' very idee of two old men like you a-fightin'! Ain't ye ashamed o' yerself, Uncle Reub Punk-infrust?

Uncle Reub (still in the ring)—No, sir! He 'lowed his roomyism hurt wuss'n mine did, dad blame him!—Puck.

Unaccountable Prejudice.

Starcraze—These dramatic critics are so unfair—very few are willing to give one a show on one's merits.

Miss Acton—Yes, one critic gave me a roast for no better reason than he had seen Sarah Bernhardt and Ellen Terry in the part.