

Items of Interest.



During the year 1900, the racing association of New York state paid the sum of \$98,671 in taxes.

It is announced from London that Louis Godard will attempt to cross the Atlantic ocean in a balloon.

The representatives of the steel trust have announced that the "general selling price will soon be increased."

A tea garden seven years old yields about 700 pounds of tea to the acre. Each plant yields about four ounces of tea.

It is announced that the president has decided to enlist an army of 76,000 men. This is 24,000 less than is permitted by the new army law.

Under the Illinois inheritance tax the estate of the late Silas Cobb of Chicago is required to pay the state an inheritance tax of \$58,972.

Sugar-raisers are turning their attention to Central Africa. They say that section will be the chief sugar producer of the world inside of fifty years.

Ten years ago homoeopathic and allopathic physicians would not mingle. Now many hospitals have representatives of both schools on their staffs.

Seven million men were employed in erecting the Gizeh pyramid. Two thousand men devoted three years to bringing a single stone from the quarry.

The barber pole has been used as a sign for nearly 500 years. When first used it told the public that the owner was a surgeon as well as a barber.

Dr. Tanner, the fasting expert, says poverty can be cured just as soon as people learn to hibernate in winter like the bear, opossum and other animals.

A number of philanthropic Parisians have organized and will try to brighten the lives of working girls by sending them to the theatre at least once a week.

The public printer of Minnesota had all the session laws printed in book form within two days after the legislature adjourned. This beat all previous records.

The district from which a Chinese woman comes can be told by the style in which she dresses her hair. Hair dressing is the most important part of a Chinese woman's toilet.

The servant girl problem is worrying Germany as much as the United States. Like their American cousins German girls prefer factory or clerk work to housekeeping.

The heels of soldiers' shoes will be tipped with rubber, it having been demonstrated that soldiers can march farther with less discomfort if they have rubber shoe heels.

The New York Co-operative society is establishing bakeries, groceries, dry goods stores and meat markets. The society is made up of members of various trades unions.

The family of Millset has been blowing the organ in Hampton Court House, London, since William IV.'s time. The other day the organ was fitted with an hydraulic blower.

Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery, corresponding secretary of the National Suffrage association, has announced that she will retire from that position, which she has held for twenty years.

The Indiana appellate court has decided that the civil authorities have the right to tax the Miami Indians who have abandoned tribal relations and exercise the rights of citizenship.

The price of elephants is going up like some railroad stocks did very recently. Fifty years ago an East Indian elephant could be bought for \$250. Today the ruling price is \$4,000 per elephant.

Sir Arthur Power Palmer, K. C. B., has just been appointed commander-in-chief of the British forces in India. He is the tallest officer in his majesty's service, being 6 feet 4 inches in height.

Londoners want a vehicle less dangerous than the hansom. Last year 1,400 people were injured and eighteen killed by being thrown out of their hansoms by reason of the horse falling down.

Two hundred and fifty years ago the Dutch were masters of the ocean-carrying trade, owning 60 out of every 100 tons. Now they are well toward the bottom of the list, owning only 1½ tons.

A Cork seed firm recently sent packages of seed to Irish soldiers serving in the British armies in South Africa. It is expected that in a year or two the Transvaal will be a big bunch of shamrock.

Chicago newspapers announce that the affairs of the old Third National bank of Chicago, which failed in 1877, are to be disposed of. For twenty-four years this bank has been in the hands of a receiver.

Mrs. May Campbell of Oconee county, South Carolina, aged 26 years, is a grandmother. She was married at the age of 11, was the mother of a daughter at the age of 12, and this daughter is now a mother.

A West Virginia hunter made the mistake of carrying his tobacco and cartridges loose in the same pocket. He tried to smoke, and as a result it took a surgeon and a dentist six weeks to make him presentable.

Ocean steamships now have as regular a schedule for arriving and departing as railroad trains, and adhere to it fully as well. A certain rate of speed is maintained and a late steamer is as rare as a late train.

Engineers are indebted to the clam for the idea of using a water jet to drive piles in the sand. The clam sinks itself in sand by throwing a jet of water beneath itself, thus washing the sand to one side and allowing it to sink.

Bamboo is to the Chinese what iron is to the American. It is the framework of most of the houses, the material from which bridges are made, provides a delicacy for the table, is manufactured into paper and used in boat-building.

It is announced that Mr. Loomis, United States minister to Venezuela, will not return to his post for a time. The administration desires Mr. Loomis to remain away and for a time there will be a partial severance of diplomatic relations.

The comic papers have so thoroughly grounded the idea that janitors are arrogant and unaccommodating that New York janitors have organized a league to remove the impression. They say it injures their rightful standing in society.

The manufacturers of plows throughout the country are engaged in the formation of a trust which will have a capital stock of \$50,000,000. It is stated that one result of the combination will be to abolish the long credit to merchants. The headquarters will be at Chicago.

Edward VII. is reported as considering the advisability of having the wild boars in Windsor park killed. The herd was started several years ago by the then Prince of Wales. The boars are dangerous and have often seriously injured visitors.

The British house of commons defeated a proposition to provide a university education for Catholics in Ireland without restrictions violating their religious convictions. Arthur Balfour, the government leader, took issue with the majority of his party and supported this proposition.

Governor Stanley of Kansas rashly said he would give a silver cup to every mother of triplets during his term of office. He has already been called upon for fifteen cups and is beginning to think that he is being buncoed. Hereafter he will require the affidavits of the parents, the nurse and the attending physician before sending a cup.

At Dayton, O., recently, a man aged 59 married a woman aged 23. The bride was the divorced wife of the bridegroom's son. Two children were born of the former marriage and the result is complicated relationship. This bride becomes grandmother to her children while the groom, who in natural relationship is the grandfather of these children, becomes stepfather to his grandchildren.

James Hamilton Lewis, former congressman from the state of Washington, has for a client Charles W. Nordstrom of Seattle, who, on seven occasions, has been sentenced to be hanged. Nordstrom's case has gone to the state supreme court of Washington five times and to the United States supreme court three times. The case is now under consideration by the United States supreme court.

The New York World is responsible for the following: "Senator Hanna slowly climbed the stairs in the White house the other day, puffing at every step. 'Mark,' said Senator Scott, who was with him, 'why don't you get the president to put an elevator in the building?' 'Did suggest it to him,' said Hanna, between gasps, 'but he said he noticed I got here just the same without one.'"

Recently a two-year-old girl living near Bay-side, L. I., was lost. One day a farmer discovered the little one in a strip of woodland where a large Newfoundland dog was standing guard over the child. The farmer carried the baby into the farm-house, the faithful dog guardian following it and remaining by its side until it was delivered to its parents.

A Berlin dispatch to the Chicago Tribune said: "The following will be the scale of customs duties on imports from countries concluding new treaties with Germany: Wheat, rye and oats, 5½ marks per hundred kilos; maize, 2½ marks; barley malt, 5½; other malt, 8 marks; steers, cows and calves, 5 marks per 100 kilos, living weight; oxen, 9 marks; sheep, 5 marks; hogs, 8 marks."

The late George Q. Cannon, president of the Mormon church, left four widows, thirty-three children and a number of grand-children to mourn his demise, cherish his memory and inherit his wealth. To each of his widows Mr. Cannon gave a well equipped home. To each of his thirty-three children, he gave an acre of land and \$2,000 in cash. The balance of his estate, estimated to be worth \$800,000, Mr. Cannon set aside for the benefit of his entire family. He provided that the "George Q. Cannon association" should be organized, and that every member of the family from one generation to another should be provided with a block of this association stock after the estate had accumulated for forty years, during which period it is to remain intact.

Chicago now poses as one of the seaport cities. The steamer Northwestern left Chicago on April 24, bound for Liverpool. Referring to the sailing of this vessel, the Chicago Tribune says: "Should the new European line prove successful it is assured that other lines will enter the field. The principal points that will have to be decided by a practical test are the securing of cargoes in Europe for the return trip and the expense of navigating the ships over the new course. Whether the saving in handling charges will offset the heavy expenses incurred in the navigation of the new route to the ocean is not yet known. When the Northwestern arrived in Chicago on Sunday the tow bill up the Chicago river amounted to \$77. At the Welland canal the boat will have to pay two cents a ton for passage. A pilot through the St. Lawrence will cost another \$100. The heaviest item will be the cost of insurance in the St. Lawrence river passage. On some boats taken down a year ago the insurance companies charged 4 per cent of the value of the vessel. At this rate it would cost the company's new steamers \$7,400 for insurance between the lakes and the Atlantic. It is not thought, however, that the company will be asked to pay this almost prohibitive rate.