

Items of Interest.

The Desert of Sahara embraces 2,500,000 square miles.

Rome and Paris will soon be connected by telephone.

A million pounds of silk a week is the world's production of that staple.

Seasoned hickory wood weighs an average of 52.37 pounds per cubic foot.

The crown prince of Germany is going to England to study English customs and methods.

The royal park of Copenhagen is said to be the largest deer enclosure in the world. It embraces 4,500 acres.

Lee Trickey of Glenwood, Wis., claims to be the heaviest man in the world. He weighs 560 pounds.

An expert has appraised the historic Plains of Abraham, near Montreal, and says they are worth \$137,000 as real estate.

Belden, "The White Chief," is authority for the statement that hickory does not grow wild west of the Missouri river.

Five hundred and sixty miles in twenty-four hours is the record for a steamship. The record for a sailing ship is 325 miles in twenty-four hours.

An Arkansas man is planning to start a kangaroo ranch. Leather made from kangaroo hide is especially valuable and the tendons are in demand by surgeons.

The hat and cap industry is a large one. Two hundred concerns are engaged in the business of manufacturing hats and caps for men and boys in this country.

The new mint at Philadelphia is the largest and costliest money making institution in the world. Together with its machinery it has cost the government about \$2,000,000.

A half century ago the Kaw river in Kansas was navigated from its mouth as far up as Lawrence. The railroads have killed the river transportation business.

Hereafter pupils in the public schools of Saxony will be required to commit to memory 291 biblical verses and 193 verses of hymns in addition to the catechism.

Members of the Danish parliament have free seats in the royal theatre at Copenhagen. Norway's law-makers receive free medical attention and nursing if they fall ill while attending a session.

Recently a Union Pacific freight engine exploded its boiler while running at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour. Old railroad men say this is the second instance on record of a locomotive boiler exploding while the locomotive was running.

Street Railway Journal: There are 905 companies operating electric, cable and horse railroads in the United States. The total mileage of single track is given at 20,442 miles, and the total number of cars is 62,918. The aggregate of capital stock for 1900 is \$1,066,196,460, an increase over the previous year of \$75,183,698. The bonded debt of all roads for 1900 was \$866,818,673, an increase over the previous year of \$83,855,202.

Some interesting information concerning the libraries of the United States is found in an article by Mr. E. I. Antrim in the May number of the Forum. According to this article, there are in the United States today 8,000 public libraries containing nearly 50,000,000 books, as against 600 libraries and 2,000,000 books 50 years ago. There are now library commissions in 17 states, traveling libraries in 42 states, and three library schools with courses of study ranging from one to three years from which more than 500 students have graduated. There are now in the United States libraries that contain more books than did all the libraries of the country 50 years ago.



—By courtesy of The National Watchman.

An Apt Illustration.

A good story is told of the clever manner in which Justice Harlan managed to give a tip on the insular decision to his golf friend, Solicitor General Richards. About an hour before the court met a week ago Monday Justice Harlan walked into Mr. Richards' office at the department of justice. He said he was on his way to the court.

"Some important business today?" remarked the solicitor general.

"Say," replied the big justice, "did you ever hear the story of the calf and the knot hole down in Kentucky?"

Mr. Richards confessed he had never heard it, but would be pleased to listen.

"Well," said Justice Harlan, pausing to take another chew of tobacco, "two men were going along by a cowpen one day, and they saw a calf's tail sticking out toward them through a knot hole in the fence. 'That is a wonderful thing,' said one of the men. 'I don't see anything wonderful about it,' replied the other; 'it's nothing but a calf's tail sticking through a knot-hole.' 'Well, sir,' persisted the other, 'I have travelled all over the world and I've never seen a more wonderful thing than that.' 'What in the deuce is so wonderful about it?' asked his friend. 'What is wonderful about it? What is wonderful? It is this, how in the name of the great horn spoon did that calf get through that knot-hole?'"

Justice Harlan had a good laugh at his own story, and as he went away to the capitol the solicitor general turned to his assistant and remarked:

"The court is for the government and Justice

Harlan is in the dissent."

While Justice Brown was reading the decision of the court in the DeLima case, in which the government lost on a minor point, Justice Harlan kept his eye on Solicitor General Richards. There was a merry twinkle in it. Finally he called a page and sent a note down to his golf companion, who was sitting soberly at bar. The note read:

"Now you see the calf's tail."

At this the face of the solicitor general brightened a little, and he went out into the lobby and told the afternoon correspondents they would make a mistake if they sent out reports to the effect that the government had lost the case. When he returned to the court room Justice Brown was reading the majority opinion in the famous Downes case. Justice Harlan's eyes were still twinkling. In a few moments, before Justice Brown had reached the pith of his decision, another note came down from the bench to the now happy solicitor general. It read:

"Now you see how the calf got through the knot-hole."—Walter Wellman in Chicago Record-Herald.

A Farewell.

My fairest child, I have no song to give you;
No lark could pipe to skies so dull and gray;
Yet, ere we part one lesson I can leave you,
For every day.

I'll teach you how to sing a clearer carol
Than lark's who hails the dawn o'er breezy down,
To earn yourself a purer poet's laurel
Than Shakespeare's crown.

Be good, sweet maid, and let who can be clever;
Do noble things, not dream them, all day long,
And so make Life, Death and that vast forever
One grand, sweet song.

—Charles Kingsley.