

Items of Interest.



The United States has 10,000 more miles of railroad track than all European nations combined.

Defective teeth seem to be the rule among Bavarian army recruits. Only 5 per cent have sound molars.

Malaga is not the sole producer of Malaga grapes. Most Spanish varieties of grapes bear the same name.

The average woman has about forty miles of hair on her head. Women with fair hair usually have the most.

California is said to be the most prolific in fruits of the tree, vine and shrub of any equal area of the earth's surface.

The largest wrought iron pillar in the world is said to be in Delhi. It is sixty feet high and weighs seventeen tons.

Mount Cenis tunnel is the most remarkable structure of the kind in the world. It is a little less than eight miles long and cost \$3,000,000.

During the last eighteen months more than 65 national banks, with an aggregate capital exceeding \$2,000,000 have been organized in Texas.

Denmark has a peculiar temperance law. When a drinker is so drunk as to require medical attention the doctor must be paid by the proprietor of the tavern where the patient secured his last drink.

A vessel can sail from the Atlantic ocean to the head of Lake Superior without ever leaving Canadian waters. The distance is 2,260 statute miles.

In 1800 100,000 bales of cotton lasted the Lancashire mills a whole year. It is said that the same amount of cotton would now feed the Lancashire spindles less than a week.

The "Bay Psalms Book" was the first book printed in the United States. It was issued in Cambridge, Mass., in 1640. Copies are extremely rare and bring a high price.

Without the bamboo China would be well nigh helpless. The bamboo provides them with many varieties of food, is manufactured into dress goods, paper, furniture, ships and houses.

The largest block of granite ever quarried is being used in the construction of Beachy Head lighthouse, England. It weighs 1,400 tons, is 68 feet long, 20 feet wide and 14 feet thick.

In many rural sections of the United States cows wear bells in order that the owners may the more readily find them. In the Himalayas cows wear bells as a protection against tigers.

With potatoes selling at \$1.50 a bushel it is interesting to know that they were first cultivated between San Riego, Chile, and Liwa, Peru. They still grow wild in the mountain districts of South America.

The New Zealand government has, during the last six years, bought back from the original settlers 324,000 acres of land. This land was used originally for sheep runs, but is now farmed by 1,630 families.

A new experiment in conducting a socialistic colony is to be tried in New Hampshire. Every member of the colony will be forced to work for a uniform rate of wages. The lazy and the morally unfit will be expelled.

When a flash of lightning is a mile away from the observer it takes five seconds for the sound of thunder to reach the watcher's ears. Thunder has been heard a distance of fourteen miles. Artillery fire has been heard a distance of 120 miles.

Queretaro, Mexico, is a place of interest to all American tourists. It was there that the Mexican congress ratified the treaty with the United States in 1848 by which all of the territory east and north of the Rio Grande was ceded to the United States.

The most famous warships of the American navy are represented by miniature models at the Buffalo exposition. These same models were exhibited in the government building at the Omaha exposition. The model of the battleship Maine is enclosed in a glass case and the woodwork painted a dead black.

The Bethlehem Steel company passed into the hands of Charles M. Schwab last night. A check for \$4,032,000 was deposited with Girard Trust company by Drexel & Co., in payment of 168,000 shares of the Bethlehem steel stock. The total number of shares in the company is 300,000. Immediately after the receipt of the check a new board of directors and officers were elected. When the directors met Max Pam of New York was present, representing Mr. Schwab, and the stock and money were speedily transferred. The new directors are: R. P. Linderman, E. T. Stotesbury, E. M. McIlvaine, Archibald Johnson, George F. Baer, J. P. Ord and Charles McVeagh.

A special dispatch to the World-Herald from Lead, S. D., says: There is a little stock ranch down on Box elder creek, near Silver City, owned by August Petersen, which is the only stock farm of its kind in the country. Mr. Petersen raises beavers for their fur, and it is said that his crop next year will make him thousands of dollars. There is scarcely any expense in raising these little animals, and, as they are not subject to any of the diseases so common to the ranch stock, the losses are very small. There is a great deal of building and improvement going on in this city, 200 houses being in course of construction at the present time. These houses will mostly be occupied by those who are erecting them.

The house of representatives of the Texas legislature adopted after a lengthy discussion the following resolution, introduced by Mr. McFall: "Be it resolved by the house of representatives of the legislature of the state of Texas that trusts and monopolies are contrary to the spirit and genius of a free people, destructive of individual liberty and subversive of the principles of a republican form of government; that we recognize in the United States steel corporation an organization which embodies all the evils of the trust monopoly and community of interests idea and one which by reason of the manner and amount of its capitalization and plan of operation may be said to be the very head and front of the offending system; that we are in hearty sympathy with the amalgamated association in their contest which they are now waging with the United States steel corporation for a just and equitable recognition of their union."

Senator Jonathan P. Dolliver of Iowa announced the candidacy of Governor Leslie M. Shaw for the republican presidential nomination in 1904. The announcement explains the repeated refusal of Governor Shaw to allow his name to be placed for renomination to the governorship of Iowa, and the force of the whole state will be brought behind Shaw when he is named as the hawk-eye candidate in 1904. "This is an announcement," said Senator Dolliver. "Not only is Mr. Shaw a candidate of Iowa," continued the senator, "but he will be found to be a candidate of the major part of the middle west as well. He is Iowa's favorite son—a simple, truthful, able man, a business man, a man of affairs, a plain citizen without frills, his heart animated by a sincere love of humanity and his manners democratic and direct. He has made one of the best governors Iowa ever had, his grasp of administrative business being remarkable, and his probity and honor being unimpeachable. Nor is he merely Iowa's favorite son; he is typical of the middle west."

"Yonkers, N. Y., Aug. 24, 1901.—Dear Sir: I have just returned to my home after a short visit to Saratoga and Lake George. Owing to my detail as a member of the court of inquiry, ordered to meet on September 12 next, I find that many newspapers are giving me credit for having served my country in the United States navy for nearly

half a century, with honor. I see also that I am thought to be objectionable as a member of this court of inquiry, it being stated that I publicly expressed opinions on the conduct of the battle of Santiago while serving as commandant at the Boston navy yard, shortly after the result of that engagement was known. I believe the service knows, as I do, that I do not attempt to make public speeches, write for magazines or papers, or make public utterances on navy or other subjects. It has been impossible for me to avoid the visits and questions of representatives of newspapers while serving at important stations and at times when the navy has been so busily employed. * * * When the news of our navy's success at Manila and again at Santiago reached Boston the people there were not behind the rest of the United States in giving honor and praise to the navy, and to the commanders-in-chief of the fleets. The enthusiasm of the population in praise and honor for the officers and men engaged at Santiago lasted for some time, until later, when the troubles commenced as to where the credit and honors should go for the success of this engagement. It is no news to the navy to say that where all direct their duties the first honors for success go to the officer in chief command. Censure for failure also belongs to him. This newspaper cutting contains a question which states that I made a comparison between Schley and Sampson, unfavorable to Schley. The word 'respected' as used by the reporter is seldom or never employed by navy men in comparing the qualities possessed by officers and I am sure I could never have said this, as he reports, nor said that Schley had the reputation of being nervous and hot-headed in the naval academy. One may say an officer stands higher in his class, if true; another may stand higher by scientific attainments, while another be distinguished for eminent diplomatic and social qualities, while all under discussion are of good standing and proficient in their necessary professional calling. I have no recollection of the gentleman reporting for the Boston Record, and I don't approve of the public statement as mine. I cannot say that I have not discussed with acquaintances matters published in the newspapers relating to our navy's success, as well as the unfortunate disputes so widely commented on. There are few or no persons in the navy or in our country who have not daily discussed these newspaper articles. From the papers it appears that Admiral Schley has strong doubts as to my fitness to fairly judge this case with Admirals Dewey and Benham. As it is a case of grave importance to those concerned and to the country, I am desirous of giving my little help to clear away the troubles. The duties of members of courts-martial and courts of inquiry are not sought or desired by officers. While I feel highly honored by the department's selection of myself for this duty, it is anything but a pleasant task to sit in judgment on brother officers. However, the honor of the selection nor the unpleasantness of court duties do not enter into the reasons for my now writing to you, personally, three things, viz: First, to reassure you that I am not responsible for and did not give out such an interview as is alleged in the dispatches from Boston and as stated in the newspapers to have been mentioned by Admiral Schley in a recent letter to the department. Second, if, however, the department feels that the cause of the navy and of justice will be better served by relieving me from duty on the court, I am entirely ready to withdraw voluntarily, or to have the department relieve me upon its own initiative. Third, if, on the other hand the department, knowing all the circumstances, desires that I should perform the duty, I am entirely ready to perform it, and can, upon my conscience and oath do my duty as a member of the court 'without partiality' as the law requires. Yours sincerely and respectfully,

H. L. HOWISON,
Rear Admiral, U. S. N.
Hon. Frank W. Hackett, Washington, D. C."