

THE WEEKLY PANORAMA

HILL TO QUIT POLITICS.

New York Senator Gives Formal Notice of Withdrawal.

David Bennett Hill is fighting in the last political campaign in which he ever will engage. On the eve of his 61st birthday he announced his intention of retiring from politics Jan. 1, 1905, regardless of the result of the national or state election.

With the passing of Hill goes the leadership of the Democratic party in New York state, which has been held by him for a score of years. Not only will he relinquish the active leadership, but he declares that in the event of Democratic success this fall he will not accept any position under the national or state administration, nor will he again be a candidate for any office.

Mr. Hill has been one of the powerful factors in the national councils of the Democratic party for fifteen years. His personality has been felt in all the national conventions of recent years, never more than in the



David Bennett Hill.

most recent. He has made politics his life study, starting as city attorney of Elmira in young manhood, and being in turn alderman, mayor, member of the state legislature, lieutenant governor, governor for seven years, and United States senator for six years. He was the choice of the Tammany element of the New York delegation in the national convention of 1892 for the nomination for president.

ELECTRIC AIDS IN FARMING.

Agriculturists of the Future Will Depend Largely on the Current.

Scientific men who are calling attention to the great benefits of electro-culture say the farmer of the future will be a highly skilled electrician, who from a central switchboard at his farm will direct the germination and growth of cabbages, carrots, potatoes and other crops. No longer an ignorant laborer or mere machine dependent upon the weather, but, like an engine driver, regulating the supply of energy in the form of electric current according to certain determined rules, the agriculturist will take his place with the other large users of electricity under modern conditions.

This is the prospect held out by a Belgian scientist, Prof. Guarini, who has recently been delivering a course of lectures under government auspices at the agricultural institute of Gembloux, on the relation of electricity to plant life, which he states is an electrical phenomenon that can be regulated at will.

According to Prof. Guarini the atmospheric electricity is essential to plant growth and it is not electricity that can be substituted for light in certain cases in the accomplishment of the function of chlorophyll, which is in the decomposition of carbonic acid and water, but the light of the sun or of electricity arc lamps, with the accompanying electric radiation, that may take the place of purely electrical action.

GETS FORECAST BY 'PHONE

Farmers to Receive Daily Hints on the Weather by Wire.

Farmers and business men in western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and eastern Ohio will receive the weather forecast by telephone hereafter. Forecaster Frank Ridgway of the Pittsburgh office has, with the consent of the Washington bureau, arranged with the two local telephone companies to send out the forecast over their lines to anyone who desires it.

Bells will ring simultaneously in the morning in hundreds of little towns and villages and through the farming districts and the sweet voice of the telephone girl will be heard with the current forecast.

The experiment is being watched from Washington and if it proves popular and successful it will be introduced all over the country. The idea emanated from the brain of Forecaster Ridgway, who secured the consent of Prof. Willis L. Moore for the trial.

When Bret Harte Taught School.

Old-timers boast that Bret Harte once taught school at Tuttleton, Cal., and in that way acquired knowledge of the localities in the vicinity that he afterward worked into his writings. Mark Twain clerked in the only store in the town at the same time. The town itself is a small village nestling at the foot of Jackass hill, the latter being a veritable quarry of gold. Nearly all of this hill is owned by James Gill, the original "Truthful James," and is covered by parties working small pocket mines "on shares."

EX-SULTAN OF TURKEY DEAD.

Unhappy Life of Murad V Comes to End at Constantinople.

Sultan Murad V, modern Turkey's man of mystery, died last week and was buried with scant ceremony.

In May, 1876, when there was smoldering revolution in Turkey proper and open rebellion in Servia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro, Abdul-Aziz, sultan of Turkey, was dethroned. The sultan was visited by his ministers and high dignitaries, and informed that it was the will of God that he be deposed. He was deposed, and a month later was found dead in the palace to which he had been assigned as a prisoner.

He was succeeded by Murad V, who distracted by the quarrels of Midhat Pasha and other reformers with the conservatives in the council, was seized with melancholy and declined to assume the responsibilities of government.

Meantime rebellion was rampant in all the Turkish provinces. Constantinople itself was in a ferment. The European powers were clamoring that the porte should fulfill its obligations, and the governing council again resorted to deposition.

The ministers called in some of the most celebrated physicians in Europe, called in representatives of the Mohammedan hierarchy, and Murad was pronounced insane, and Abdul-Hamid, a younger brother of Murad, was declared regent, or sultan.

The reform party, it was reported at the time, consented to the change on the theory that Abdul-Hamid should be really regent, and that when Murad recovered his mental equilibrium he should be restored to the throne. Abdul-Hamid, however, informed all parties that he would be sultan in fact, and he soon became the real head of the government.

Midhat Pasha carried on his quarrel with his rivals in the cabinet, and succeeded for a time in banishing them from power. Later he was himself banished, and the two factions to this quarrel, which had led to the deposing of Abdul-Aziz, found that Abdul-Hamid was to be counted on in every step taken by the Turkish government.

Meantime sight was lost of Murad, and for nearly thirty years his fate has been a mystery. It was reported at one time that he was dead, and that for reasons of state the fact was concealed. It was reported again that he was very sick, that he was well cared for, but that he could not recover.

At last the mystery is solved. Murad, who, it is said, held the promise



Sultan Murad V.

of Abdul-Hamid to leave the throne when Murad should recover his health, is out of the way. While he languished in a sanitarium that was a prison, his younger brother has become one of the most powerful of the sultans who have ruled in Turkey in the last fifty years.

RICH MAN LITTLE KNOWN.

Wealthy Citizen of Philadelphia Has Just Passed Away.

There are some very rich men whose names never become familiar to the public, and one of them was William Weightman, who died at Philadelphia last week in his 91st year. He was a native of England and went to Philadelphia when 16 years old to enter the chemical manufacturing business started there by a relative. Eventually this establishment, under the name of Powers & Weightman, became the largest manufacturer of chemicals in the world. It is said that for fifteen years prior to the death of Mr. Powers each partner took \$600,000 a year out of the business. Mr. Weightman invested most of his money in Philadelphia real estate and became the largest taxpayer in Pennsylvania.

Offended Chinese Empress.

The empress dowager of China, according to the Shanghai Times, is highly offended with the wife and daughters of Yu Keng, late Chinese minister at Paris, and has issued orders that they are not to enter the palace again. The cause of their sudden downfall is said to be that they instigated the young American lady artist who painted the empress dowager's portrait to demand a sum of 300,000 taels for her work. The empress dowager at the advice of some of the officials had previously presented the artist the sum of 12,000 taels and some presents.

Pen Picture of Great Heiress.

Of Miss Pauline Astor, American heiress of a naturalized Briton and fiancée of Captain Spender-Clay, an English paper says: "She is quiet, rather nice-looking, sensible, self-willed. Not pretty in the accepted sense, though her hair is beautiful in its wayward profusion and her deep eyes look into yours with a sympathetic intelligence. Playing hostess to the great world ever since she was 14 has given her an air of easy distinction, and with it perhaps a suggestion of being a little tired."

MAP SHOWS DAMAGE BY RUST TO THE SPRING WHEAT CROP



Reports received by the Northwest Miller from 500 millers in the Dakotas and Minnesota give the spring wheat crop of the three states at 170,000,000 bushels. This is 30,000,000 bushels less than indicated thirty days ago, before the rust struck it and 3,000,000 bushels less than last year's yield. The acreage of Minnesota is 5,333,000, an increase of 2 per cent over 1903. This state has a larger acreage of good wheat harvested than was lost in some of the others. South

Dakota's acreage is 3,241,000, an increase of 2 per cent. North Dakota's acreage of 4,359,000 increased 8 per cent. All the crop is harvested in South Dakota and mostly in North Dakota and Minnesota except in northern portions. Average yield per acre of these states in 1903 was 13.2 bushels, the highest being 13.8 bushels for North Dakota. Threshing returns this year give Minnesota 5 to 20 bushels, South Dakota 5 to 15 bushels and North Dakota 8 to 15 bushels.

MRS. MAYBRICK TO REST.

Unfortunate Woman Now Sojourning in the Catskill Mountains.

Mrs. Florence Maybrick, immediately on landing in New York from Europe, left for the Catskill mountains. She goes there to visit in the home of Dr. Emmett Denmore, where she will remain for some time.

Dr. Denmore was extremely interested in Mrs. Maybrick's case while she was imprisoned in England, and was energetic in aiding to secure her release.

Mrs. Maybrick will recuperate in the mountains from her long confinement in prison. While thanking Americans earnestly for their endeavors in her behalf, Mrs. Maybrick declined to give details of her experiences in England until she has entirely recovered her health and vigor.



Mrs. Maybrick as she looked upon her arrival in New York.

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Secretary Morton's Pun.

Secretary of the Navy Morton, although he has possessed the navy portfolio only a short time, has already achieved something of a reputation in Washington as a "punster." The other day when, through a misunderstanding, Miss Margaret Treadway of Dubuque, Iowa, and Miss Anna Hull, the daughter of Representative Hull of Iowa, were both asked to christen the gunboat Dubuque, launched at the yards of the Gas Engine & Power Company at Morris Heights, Mr. Morton was called upon to straighten matters out. He deliberated for a while and then remarked gravely: "I guess Miss Treadway will have to officiate. I never heard of two 'hulls' at one launching before, did you?"

Progressive New York Women.

There is a young woman in New York who makes a good living by acting as a visiting valet to lap dogs owned by rich women. The girl bathes and combs and makes the toilets of the dogs, and in some instances even takes the pampered pets out for airings on the avenue or in the park. Another young woman has built up for herself a profitable business in the polishing and keeping in order of the silver on my lady's toilet table. She makes it her specialty and has obtained for herself quite a number of fashionable customers. Her fee is \$1 a week and she does the cleaning and burnishing without taking the silver from the owner's home.

Suffer from White House Glare.

Inflammation of the eyes is a common complaint among police officers and secret service men detailed for duty at the white house, particularly among those whose duty it is to patrol the grounds immediately adjoining the mansion. The trouble is caused by the constant and brilliant glare of the white building. A coat of fresh paint was applied recently and the reflected rays of the sun constantly keep those in range squinting their eyes. Several of the officers have had more or less trouble with inflammation.

PROBLEM OF WHEAT RUST.

Urgent Need for Discovering Method to Exterminate Pest.

Aside from showing the vast damage to the growing wheat crop of the Northwest—due to rust—investigation has emphasized the noteworthy fact that this ravaging fungus, for years subjected to scientific investigation, still offers a problem in the solution of which little progress has been made.

Authorities seem to be fairly agreed as to the origin of the pest. They understand how it is propagated and how it spreads. They realize the great loss it causes to the farmers—some estimating it as high as \$50,000,000 in a single year; but when it comes to successful methods for exterminating the pest or of preventing it from attacking the wheat, science and our own Department of Agriculture appear to be completely at sea.

The government experts have been watching with some interest the efforts of the Australian farmers to conquer the rust fungus by opposing to it resistant varieties of wheat; but notwithstanding the encouraging measure of success that has followed these experiments no systematic study of rust resistance has been made by the United States Department of Agriculture. After reading the effect of rust on the wheat crops of Minnesota and Dakota, it will appear to the public—and particularly to the farmer—that the Department of Agriculture should make the solving of this problem a prompt, earnest and persistent enterprise.

The cost of the necessary investigation and experimentation is not to be considered in view of the immense losses sustained in seasons favorable to the rapid growth of the rust fungus. If by spending \$1,000,000 the government could save to the farmers of this country even a quarter or a tenth of the estimated loss now suffered through this pest in one year, it would prove to be a permanent investment of practically incalculable value.—Chicago Post.

REDMOND A LEADER OF MEN.

Has Position So Long Occupied by the Late Charles Stewart Parnell.

Although John E. Redmond is very unlike the late Charles Stewart Parnell, many of his countrymen recognized in him a leader possessed of the same great qualities of leadership.



He is one of the conspicuous figures in the convention of Irish National Leagues, now being held at New York.

Extreme Woman Suffragist.

Frau Elise Schaaf, who recently committed suicide in Berlin, was one of the most prominent champions of woman suffrage in Germany, but she was so extreme in her views and so violent in language that the more conservative suffragists repudiated her. The manuscript of a book which she intended to call "How I Became a Suffragist" was submitted to several friendly members of the German parliament, all of whom counseled her to suppress it because it would result in a number of libel suits.

WOULD WORSHIP GREEK GODS.

London Man Asks for Funds to Erect a Temple.

It is only a paltry \$12,500 that Maryon, London's latest spiritual counselor, "The High Priest of the Winged Disc," wants the public to give him wherewith to spread his doctrine, and really somebody ought to come forward with the money, just as a contribution toward the gayety of nations.

The new "Apostle of Pantheism," as



Maryon Adoring His Winged Disc.

he otherwise calls himself, is the most picturesque thing in the propagandist line England has produced recently, and the temple that he wants to build for the worship of the old Greek gods, with a special tower for the accommodation of stray birds, ought to put Messiah Piggott's "Abode of Love" out of the running soon after it gets started.

Cushions of Fat Saved Him.

After falling three stories while sleeping and landing on a stone sidewalk, Thomas Gallagher, a 250 pounder, came to consciousness in the operating room of a New York hospital and astonished the surgeons surrounding him by jumping up, dancing around the room, and walking home unimpaired.

Cushions of fat on which he landed after his fall, said the surgeons, saved his life.

Gallagher occasionally walks in his sleep. He took one of the nocturnal trips early to-day by way of an open window. A policeman heard the thud a block away. The surgeon who came with the ambulance gave Gallagher up for lost, and it was thought that only an operation could save him.

Credulous Chicagoan.

Frank Gadomsky, of Chicago, swore out warrants for the arrest of Joseph Kozel, Martin Kozel and Frank Maronski, charging them with swindling him.

The alleged swindle, according to the complainant, was the result on his part of credulity and cupidity. The man says that he was made to believe that by carrying a hen for eight days and following a formula given him by the alleged confidence men he could cause a dollar to return to him again and again after he had spent it.

Gadomsky followed this advice, but no wealth came to him. Now he seeks the arrest of the three men and the return of money which he says he gave to them for their "secret."

Utah's Wonderful Natural Bridge.

There exists in San Juan county, Utah, three wonderful natural bridges. The largest of these bridges spans a canyon 335 feet and 7 inches from wall to wall, and is a splendid arch of solid sandstone, 60 feet thick in the central part and 40 feet wide.

Underneath it there is a clear opening 357 feet in perpendicular height. The accompanying cut, reproduced



Utah's Great Natural Bridge Compared with Capitol.

from the Century, shows the dimensions of this bridge as compared with the capitol at Washington.

The other two bridges, while of proportions somewhat less massive, are marvels of wonder and beauty. They have been seen, probably, by fewer than a dozen white men.

Footprint of Prehistoric Animal.

A valuable scientific find has been made in New Jersey, where a slab of stone bearing the impress of the feet of some prehistoric animal has been brought to light from eighty feet below the surface. The footprints are three-toed, about three inches long, and resemble bird tracks. There is also a trail left by the heavy tail of the animal, and two parallel lines which may have been made by wings. They are thought to be the tracks of a pterodactyls a kind of reptile bird.

Pencils Were Not Cheap.

A fakir sold a lot of splendid looking lead pencils on the street at Indian Orchard the other evening at the astonishing price of eight for 10 cents. His customers grew angry the next day when they found that the lead only ran back about one-fourth of an inch from the end.

Rodents Froze to Death.

B. W. Adams of Plainfield, N. H., was throwing out hay from the bay recently, when he came across a nest that contained seventy-four rats and mice, which had evidently been frozen to death.

MAN'S FIGHT WITH BABOON.

Wounded Monster Very Nearly Overcomes Its Slayer.

The South African mail brings a thrilling tale of a fight to the death between a man and a giant baboon. Mr. Robert Hough, proprietor of Kameeh's Farm, Ulitenhage, saw a baboon in his orchard, and shot him through the body at 300 yards. The animal was, however, able to get away, and was afterwards seen on the top of an adjoining hill, where he suddenly dropped. Thinking that he was dead, Mr. Hough went after him with two terriers and a native. The dogs ran up to the supposed carcass, when the baboon suddenly rose, caught the unfortunate terriers, bit a large piece out of each, cast them from him with such violence as to kill them, and then made furiously for their master, tearing his arm open from shoulder to wrist. The native bolted, and the partially disabled white man was left alone to battle with the enraged baboon. Mr. Hough is active and muscular, but his efforts to throttle his antagonist and to beat his face in with his fist were unavailing, and he was forced to the ground. Here, while desperately struggling, the man's hand came in contact with a large stone. This he seized, and with almost a last effort fractured the baboon's skull with it. When the body was measured it was found to be over five feet.—English Exchange.

Boy is Seven Feet High.

A European prodigy, known as "the long Josef," was born in Munich-Gladbach on April 15, 1888. At 12 years of age he was 6 feet 4 inches in height and is now 7 feet 1 inch. He is still



growing and no doubt will become the tallest man on earth. His family name is Schippers. His father is a butcher. At present he is the principal attraction at the Panopticon, Berlin. He is born of normal parents and is the eleventh child. The first ten have developed quite normally.

Thought It Was the Camp Pig.

While K. J. Snell of Potsdam was trading watches with a Frenchman at his lumber camp near Utica, N. Y., the dogs behind the house set up a loud barking. Snell went out to investigate and discovered an animal poking around in the darkness. He concluded that the camp pig had again escaped, and after considerable hard work succeeded in putting the beast in the pen. When he went out next morning to see if the porker was all right, he was astonished to find that instead of a pig he had put a black bear into the pen. Snell avers that bears are as thick as huckleberries in that section. The law forbids that they be shot at the present time.

Spanish Women in Suicide Club.

The police at Lerida, Spain, have raided what is believed to be a women's suicide club, and have made several arrests. Recently a young lady named Isabel Rodriguez, belonging to a well-to-do family, was found wandering about the streets at night in a state of great excitement. When questioned by a policeman she stated that she had drawn a number at the club which, according to the rules, bound her to commit suicide. She added that at the last moment her courage had failed her. Acting on this information the police watched the premises used as a club house. They found it was attended by well-dressed ladies, who met ostensibly for social purposes.

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Holly Tea.



Mate, or Paraguay tea, is made of the dried leaves of the Brazilian holly. The infusion has a pleasant odor and an agreeable bitter taste.

Minister's Up-to-Date Idea.

A West Virginia minister is to hold a service in the open air soon, and has advertised that before the sermon there will be an exhibition of trapeze work and tight-rope walking. In this way he hopes to get a large audience.