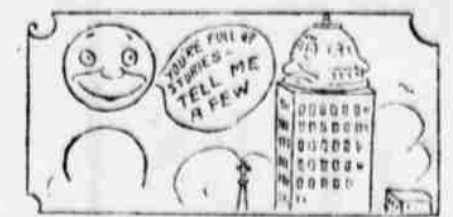


# TALK OF NEW YORK

Gossip of People and Events Told in Interesting Manner.

## May Not Build Proposed Skyscraper



NEW YORK.—If the directors of the Equitable Life Assurance Society finally decide to build the 62 story "home" for which plans were filed in the bureau of buildings recently, certain policy holders who regard the structure not only as an architectural monstrosity, but as a financial tower of Babel, may appeal to the superintendent of insurance, or, if necessary, to the courts to prevent investment of their funds in such an undertaking.

The estimate of \$10,000,000 as the cost of the building is believed by them to be far under the amount of policy holders' money that eventually would be piled up, with no guarantee that it would earn reasonable interest in investment.

Maintenance and operation above a certain height are recognized as even more potent factors than cost of construction in limiting the profitable height of skyscrapers. The financial success of the Singer and Metropolitan towers is still unknown. The men who have built them, of course, do not admit that they were built for any purpose other than profitable renting, but disinterested real estate men and architects agree that they will be in an experimental state for many years.

One of the most celebrated of the early skyscrapers remains to this day unprofitable because it was erected on such a small piece of ground that the elevator shafts consume so great a proportion of the floor space that the rentable area can earn less than four per cent.

With the tendency of downtown New York to be always on the move into the very latest and most modern building, the work of the architect and the builder comes almost to the level of the tailor or the milliner. The once magnificent Equitable building, finest in New York, sank to a two per cent. investment under the old management. Paul Morton has, by economies of the new regime, made it return four per cent. to the policy holders.

A modern building on the Equitable site, which is considered the most valuable in New York, should earn, according to eminent real estate authorities, 10 to 15 per cent. One of the more recently constructed skyscrapers of the financial district, although partly vacant, as are practically all of the buildings completed within the last two years, is earning eight per cent., and will earn 12 per cent. if filled at the prevailing rate of rental.

Just when the glut of office space will be relieved no two real estate experts predict alike. Hundreds of tenants are moving from 16-story buildings in Nassau street, that were the highest type of construction ten years ago to take space in the more modern skyscrapers west of Broadway.

## Wall Street Men Will Bet on Anything



IT WOULD take a hundred governors and Senator Foelkers to stop betting in Wall street. The financial district is the one best betting place in the city.

Wall street's betting, generally speaking, is not typical gambling. It is prompted by a spirit not unlike that confessed to by a character in a recent musical comedy, who, saying that he always placed a bet on everything, admitted that he already had laid a wager as to which way the Singer building would fall.

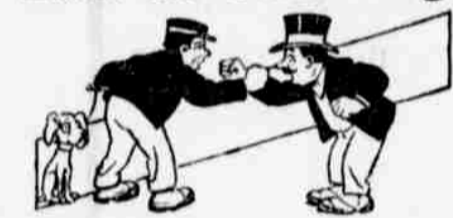
Every day a thousand or more bets of every conceivable sort are chronicled in the street. On the stock exchange it is possible to make a bet on anything, on that dinner "Charlie" Knoblauch ate at that waiter to the Boston brokers' baseball team or on how

George Buchanan would spell Mississippi. What Hugh Murray will wear on the morrow is also one of the favorite opportunities for betting on the floor of the exchange.

On the produce exchange bets can be made all the way from whether "Tom" O'Neil will continue to wear his white felt hat all summer to how much Charles George really does weigh. Where C. F. Stoppani gets his Woodruff waistcoats is the cloze of the betting brokers on the floor of the consolidated stock exchange. On the cotton exchange wagers are made on everything from the range of William Yohr's voice to the length of the vacation Norris Sellar takes. "Is C. B. Stroud the grouchiest man in the financial district?" is one of the subjects on which the coffee exchange brokers like best to wager the price of a luncheon or a new straw hat.

These lighter instances are fair criticisms of the willingness of Wall street to bet on anything. The number of shares dealt in during the day, the trend of a certain stock and such questions are bet on, to be sure, with greater frequency.

## Bird S. Coler Fights for Dog's Rights



THE case of Brian Boru threatens to become historic in the legal annals of the country. The Brian Boru referred to is not the celebrated Irish hero, but a terrier belonging to Borough President Bird S. Coler of Brooklyn, who was formerly comptroller of New York and later Democratic candidate for governor.

In an evil moment Brian Boru wandered from home and fell into the hands of one of the dog catchers employed by the S. P. C. A. Mr. Coler hastened to the rescue of his pet only to be informed that he must pay a fine of three dollars and a tax of two dollars or see the redoubtable Brian go the

way of many a less highly pedigreed canine, into the gas tank.

Mr. Coler, who loves a fight as well as his terrier does, had no other battle on his hands at the moment. He did not so much mind parting with five dollars of his hard-earned salary, inasmuch as he is a man of considerable wealth, but he decided that it was unconstitutional for the state to delegate police powers to a private organization such as the "cruelty society." He thereupon became the champion of oppressed dogdom and set out to obtain a legal decision as to their rights.

The case has gone as far as the supreme court of the state, but it is likely to be carried through higher tribunals to the supreme court in Washington. Meanwhile the fate of Brian Boru hangs in the balance. If he finally goes the chloroform path he will have the questionable satisfaction of knowing that his name figures in voluminous court reports and may be cited in precedents centuries hence.

## Mrs. Leeds Another Very Rich Widow



MRS. WILLIAM B. LEEDS suddenly finds herself in a class with Mrs. Herman Oelrichs, Mrs. Bob and Mrs. Ogden Coeliet, Mrs. George Law, Mrs. Dick Gambrill and Mrs. Belmont, among the very rich widows of New York. It was a strange coincidence that both she and Mrs. Belmont should lose their husbands within so short a time. They are intimate friends and Mrs. Leeds owes nearly everything to Mrs. Belmont for the social position she was permitted to acquire in this city. It was Mrs. Belmont, assisted by Mrs. Sid Smith and Miss Kil Cameron, who, some four or five years ago, undertook the somewhat heroic task of making a society woman of Mrs. Leeds. Saratoga was wisely selected as the first battleground in the Leeds social campaign. It was there that they first met the Whitneys, Mackeys and others identified with the smart Long Island racing crowd. Leeds was always lavish with his

money, and money is everything at Saratoga. At Newport, later on, little Mrs. Leeds learned for the first time in her meteoric career that great wealth at her command did not bring everything to her door.

Mrs. Leeds, all things considered, is exceedingly tactful, and she really dresses as well as any woman in that set. Never once did she attempt to overdo things, and that has been the secret of her remarkable success. Perhaps these, too, were lessons learned from her social promoters, for previously the Leedses had rather amused people by carrying with them to such first-class resorts at Palm Beach and the Virginia Hot Springs such items of comfort as brass beds and making such a splash as did Hobart Moore when he raced around the south accompanied by a brass band.

The lossing of Fairlawn, the Townsend Burden place at Newport, was a great stroke, and the Leeds purchase of splendid Rough Point, the mansion Fred Vanderbilt declared he wanted to sell, but would not dispose of to any one whose position in life did not warrant their becoming neighbors of Ogden Mills and Commodore Gerry (or words to that effect), simply made Newport notice the Leedses.

## KERMIT ROOSEVELT



Copyright by Walden towers.

Son of the president who will accompany the latter on his hunting trip to Africa on the expiration of his term of office.

## SECRECY OVER A SHIP.

BIG SEA FIGHTER TO BE BUILT AT NEW YORK NAVY YARD.

Order Forbids Men Telling Anything About New 20,000-Ton Vessel—Keel to Be Laid Within a Few Weeks.

New York.—In an order which is one of the most sweeping ever issued at the New York navy yard all officers and men employed in the construction of the new 20,000-ton battleship, whose keel will be laid within a few weeks, are forbidden to give out any information whatsoever to the newspapers or the public. So strict is the wording of the order that the officers in charge of the department of construction and repair, to whom it is particularly addressed, will not even give the name of the author.

Rear Admiral Caspar F. Goodrich, commandant of the yard, is in Washington, and it is believed that the order had its origin there. One officer did venture the information that the contents of the document would probably be made public within a few days.

William J. Baxter, naval constructor, who will have charge of the building of the ship, refused to talk about anything connected with his department.

"I am shut up tighter than a clam," he said. "Under this order we cannot give out any information. I cannot tell you when the keel of the new vessel is to be laid. The order won't let me say how many men are to be taken on or laid off."

All other officers connected with the department of construction and repair were as reticent as their chief. At the office of the labor board in the yard it was found that the order had produced an effect similar to that in the department of construction and repair.

While some of the officers and men are of the opinion that the desire of the navy department is to prevent foreign nations from learning of the improvements in the battleship, others see in it the result of the struggle that has been going on between the officers favoring the consolidation of the various departments of the yard and the anti-consolidationists.

The workmen at the yard are opposed to consolidation and many op-

cers are in sympathy with them, for under the new order of things it will be practically impossible for a workman to obtain promotion except by a competitive examination.

## OFFICE CAT PETRIFIED.

Found Between Walls Thirty Years After Disappearance.

Greensburg, Pa.—The office cat has turned up at last, and a prank of the printer's devil of 30 years ago has come to light. In tearing out a portion of the Mittinger building recently workmen found the petrified body of a pussy, encased between floors. Every feature except the whiskers is well preserved and the curio has caused much comment.

Old time printers and veteran newspaper men are racking their memories to recall the disappearance of the cat, but none has been found who remembers the circumstance. Thirty years ago the Greensburg Herald was published in the Mittinger building, and it is presumed the "devil," finding the hand set galleys scarce and little work to do, caught the cat, cunningly concealed her between the floors, and nailed shut the opening.

The piece of petrification is heavier than stone, of a grayish hue, and even the eyes of the feline retain a luster.

## TOO MUCH MUD IN OMAHA.

Citizens Imbibe 11,315 Tons of Sediment in a Year.

Omaha, Neb.—Omaha people have been drinking 31 tons of mud every day, according to the testimony of the city chemist, given in a suit wherein the city is protesting the bills of the Omaha Water company because of the impure water furnished. During the year Omaha people drank 11,315 tons of sediment, the chemist said.

The Omaha water supply is taken from the Missouri river, the muddiest stream in the country. Although alum is used in settling the water, and five different settling basins are contained in the battery of reservoirs, yet the water as it comes from the mains is murky.

The water commissioners are refusing payment of the water bills for the last four years.

## MEXICO'S INLAND WATERWAY

Canal 104 Miles Long Between Tampico and Tuxpam Built by an American.

Tuxpam, Mex.—The Mexican government is building an inland waterway 104 miles long to connect the ports of Tampico and Tuxpam. It is now about one-half finished and will cost about \$5,000,000 Mexican money, which is equivalent to \$2,500,000 gold.

It is 75 feet wide and has a uniform depth of 10½ feet. The first division of 66 miles is now practically finished and is open for traffic. It is expected that the waterway will be opened all the way through for small boats within two years.

This waterway runs within from two to five miles of the gulf along its whole length. Its construction grew out of the fact that there are frequently days at a time when small boats engaged in coastwise trade are unable to weather the rough water of the gulf and that there is insufficient water over the bar at the mouth of the Tuxpam river at times to enable the boats to reach the harbor at Tuxpam. Another great incentive that led to the building of the canal was that it would be the means of developing a broad agricultural region that has heretofore been badly lacking in transportation facilities for its various products.

The Tampico-Tuxpam canal follows the route of an inland waterway which has been in use for more than three-quarters of a century.

Capt. Charles Shillaber of Chicago is constructing the canal for the Mexican government on a percentage basis.

He had made a comfortable fortune, had just reached his sixtieth year and

had planned to spend the remainder of his life in comfort and enjoyment. Chancing to visit Mexico on a pleasure trip he conceived the possibilities of improving the old waterway, brought the matter to the attention of the government and undertook to do the work.

## WED BY SIGN LANGUAGE.

Unique Marriage Ceremony is Performed in Iowa.

Fertile, Ia.—A unique wedding ceremony occurred here in the marriage of Miss Purdy Smith to Frank Thompson, O. J. Ojerdund officiating, which was solemnized by use of the deaf-mute language.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, prominent residents here, is a graduate of the deaf-mute school at Council Bluffs, and a most talented and charming young woman. The groom is a resident of Owatona, Minn., is a printer by trade, and secured his education at Fairbault, Minn., in an institution for mutes of that state. The officiating clergyman is also a mute. The young people will reside in Owatona.

## Women Oil the Streets.

Stouchsburg, Pa.—Fully 200 of the 800 people of this town joined the other day in a street sprinkling crusade. Scores of women and children turned out with garden sprinklers, and these were used to sprinkle the streets with oil. By subscription seven barrels of oil were bought, and all of it was sprinkled on the streets to keep down the dust that has become so troublesome since automobiles are constantly passing through the town.

## GIRL RUNS BIG FARM

MANAGES ESTATE WHILE HER FATHER IS IN JAIL.

Daughter of Unrocked Rector Has Trouble, but Sticks to Hard Task with Success—Incidentally Wears "Merry Widow."

Richmond, Va.—Miss Elizabeth Hargrave, since the incarceration of her father, Rev. James T. Hargrave, the unrocked Episcopal clergyman, who was recently convicted in the federal courts for using the mails for purposes of fraud, has become sole manager of the estate, Cedarhurst lodge, in Hanover county.

The evidences are that the pretty 19-year-old girl is a genius in the business of operating farms. She appears also to know a thing or two about the law, which information she is studying to advantage in her trials with the county officers.

Miss Hargrave came to the city for the purpose of petitioning for an injunction to prevent the officers from seizing the property of her father while he is a prisoner. The law is to the effect that a prisoner in the penitentiary shall not be liable to civil suits. The question is whether or not the county officers are justified in the seizure, since Hargrave is serving a term in the county jail.

"There's nothing in it. I can't run a farm on air and water," said Miss Hargrave. "When they seize everything that comes to me I can't get on. Why, they even dare to take my own things—my mail, freight and express packages, and everything. They've levied on everything but the place and that is so fixed that they can't get at it. If they keep pushing me I am going to take out the 'homestead exemption.' I don't suppose they can get around that."

"The hardest luck of all," she continued, slightly blushing, "is that I have to rake the hay. Several days ago I had a field all plowed ready for planting. The seeds were at the station, but when I sent for them the information came back to me that they had all been levied on."

Miss Hargrave was neatly attired in a princess gown of striped gray. She wore a "Merry Widow" hat, trimmed in pink feathers and ribbon, with a big-headed hat-pin stuck through the middle of it. Her long brown gloves swung limply across her right arm. Her appearance was that of a carefree maiden, who had never known the meaning of trouble.

"I'll run that farm or die," she exclaimed, as she left to catch her train, having failed in her mission because of the absence of Judge Edmund Waddill from the city. "I'm the girl they can't fool. I'm going back to Hanover to rake hay. It's the 'Maud Muller' game for me, all right. There are five men on the place at work to-day. I guess if they were girls, the county officers would try to seize them. It's all very awful, but I am not starving."

## PAIR WEDS AFTER 47 YEARS.

Outbreak of Civil War Cause of Postponing Marriage.

Lewisburg, Tenn.—After a postponement of their wedding for 47 years, O. P. Starnes of Johnson county, Texas, and Mrs. Woolaver of Archer, Tenn., have been married here. They have gone to Oklahoma on their honeymoon.

The bride was formerly Miss Mary Faley and lived in Greene county, which was also the bridegroom's home. They were to have been married in the summer of 1861, but at the outbreak of the civil war Mr. Starnes enlisted in the confederate army and the marriage was postponed. At the battle of Missionary Ridge the prospective bridegroom was critically wounded and left for dead on the field.

Reports that he had been killed reached Miss Faley, and in time she became the bride of Robert Woolaver, Starnes saw Mrs. Woolaver but once after his recovery and left for Georgia, where he was married. He subsequently moved to Texas.

Eighteen months ago Mrs. Starnes died and the husband recently ascertained that his former sweetheart in Tennessee was a widow. A correspondence was begun which resulted in the consummation of the pledges made many years ago.

## RIDES IN LOCOMOTIVE TANK.

Machinist Beats Way 260 Miles and Nearly Drowns.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—Having ridden from Buffalo to this city, 260 miles, in the tank of a Lehigh Valley railroad passenger locomotive, considered an impossible feat in ride stealing, William Bahmiller of Mauch Chunk, was arrested here when the 2:40 express arrived.

Being a machinist by trade, and having worked on locomotive tanks, he knew enough about their steel bracing to risk hanging on, and crawled in at Buffalo. He was in water up to his neck most of the time, and when the locomotive dashed around curves he had hard work to save himself from drowning as the water dashed all over him.

He was also in danger each time the tank was filled, but escaped until it was being filled here, when the fireman allowed it to run over, and Bahmiller had to pop his head out to get air and was discovered.

After hearing his story, Mayor Kniffen fined him only one dollar.

## AN HONEST DOCTOR ADVISED PE-RU-NA.

M. R. SYLVESTER E. SMITH, Room 218, Granite Block, St. Louis, Mo., writes: "Peruna is the best friend a sick man can have."

"A few months ago I came here in a wretched condition. Exposure and dampness had ruined my once robust health. I had catarrhal affections of the bronchial tubes, and for a time there was a doubt as to my recovery."

"My good honest old doctor advised me to take Peruna, which I did and in a short time my health began to improve very rapidly, the bronchial trouble gradually disappeared, and in three months my health was fully restored."

"Accept a grateful man's thanks for his restoration to perfect health."

Pe-ru-na for His Patients.

A. W. Perrin, M. D. S., 980 Halsey St., Brooklyn, N. Y., says:

"I am using your Peruna myself, and am recommending it to my patients in all cases of catarrh, and find it to be more than you represent. Peruna can be had now of all druggists in this section. At the time I began using it, it was unknown."



Libby's Food Products

## Libby's

Vienna Sausage

You've never tasted the best sausage until you've eaten Libby's Vienna Sausage.

It's a sausage product of high food value. Made different. Cooked different. Tastes different and is different than other sausage!

Libby's Vienna Sausage, like all of the Libby Food Products, is carefully prepared and cooked in Libby's Great White Kitchen.

It can be quickly served for any meal at any time! It is pleasing, not over-flavored and has that satisfying taste! Try it!

Libby, McNeill & Libby, Chicago.

## A Favored Fowl.

"I has been told," said Miss Miami Brown, "dat de parrot is one of the longest-lived birds dat is."

"De statement," replied Mr. Erastus Pinkley, "is strictly ornithological."

"I wonder why?"

"I 'specks dat one reason why de parrot lives so long is dat he ain' good to eat."—Washington Star.

That an article may be good as well as cheap, and give entire satisfaction, is proven by the extraordinary sale of Defiance Starch, each package containing one-third more starch than can be had of any other brand for the same money.

## Sleighing All the Year.

Because of the lichen which grow abundantly on the stone-paved streets in Madeira, making them slippery, it is possible to use sleighs the year around.

Lewis' Single Binder costs more than other 5c cigars. Smokers know why. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

Sufficient unto the day are the 24 hours thereof.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

The place should not honor the man, but the man the place.—Agesilaus.

Feet Ache—Use Allen's Foot-Paste Over 500 testimonials. Refuse imitations. Need for free trial package. A. S. Olmsted, La Roy, N. Y.

Blunt language is often used in making sharp retorts.

