

Published Weekly by The Bee Publishing Company, Bee Building, Omaha, Neb.

Price, 5c per copy—per year, \$2.00.

Entered at the Omaha Postoffice as Second Class Mail Matter.

For advertising rates address publisher.

Communications relating to photographs or articles for publication should be addressed, "Editor The Illustrated Bee, Omaha."

Pen and Picture Pointers

NINETY-NINE miles an hour! A rate of speed the mind can hardly grasp. One sitting in a modern palace car could gain little notion of the terrific gait of a train traveling at that rate. To the passenger there would come under the most favorable of circumstances only a singular sensation that the blurring landscape might afford. At night he would have not even this, for the darkness shuts out the scenery, and the subdued hum of the wheels as they whirl over the rails

fact and recount incidents of other fast rides, or watch for more miles to see if the gait is maintained. On the engine a different condition prevails. On one of the monsters nowadays used to haul the heavy passenger trains there is no chance for communication between engineer and fireman when the train is under headway. Each has his duties to keep him busy. And how busy they are no one not familiar with the handling of an engine can even guess. Just to watch the track would seem occupation enough for an ordinary man. To make ninety-nine miles an hour the engine must cover 145.2 feet a second. How fast

average of the modern high-speed locomotives—each will travel back and forth thirty-two and two-thirds feet per second, or at a rate of nearly twenty-two and one-fourth miles per hour. These are some of the things that go on when the train is running at the rate of ninety-nine miles an hour.

Fancy dress balls are the bane of society people's life, for they must be held about once every so often, and ambition then usually outruns judgment. Result? Good taste is outraged, and persons who have gotten themselves up regardless to represent somebody or something merely look like guys, and as the situation slowly dawns the promised pleasure fades away and the bitterness of disappointment takes its place. Now and then it happens that a social set is found whose members have both taste and originality, and when they give a fancy dress affair it is worth while looking at. Such a thing happened at Hastings recently—the town's first experience with parties of the like, but so successful was it that the participants felt they were justified in preserving the ensemble by means of photography. The picture in this number of The Bee supports this judgment.

All Nebraska boys are not content to disport themselves in their fathers' hunting equipment, but have paraphernalia of their own, probably not so elaborate, but quite as effective. One of these boys is George Lamb, 14 years old, of Atkinson, Neb. The picture printed today is made from a photograph taken last October, when George was returning from an excursion with his gun. He brought home fourteen ducks, which had fallen as evidence of his prowess with the fowling piece.

Eugene F. Irwin, who has just assumed the duties of mayor of Lead, S. D., is known as the "workingman's mayor," although it is pretty hard to be anything else in a community where those who are not workingmen are in such a hopeless minority as they are in Lead. But Mayor Irwin is a real worker. He is 37 years old and a printer by trade, although he has not set type for a long time, having gone into the railroad service, where he was bill clerk, operator, station agent and train dispatcher, finally leaving the railroad to accept a position with the Homestake Mining company. He has the confidence of the miners, as is shown by his vote. Lead is proud of its position as second city in the state, and has planned extensive public improvements for the coming summer, extensions of those already existing.

H. C. Stoll and Barbara Schetek, both natives of Germany, were married in New York City April 18, 1852. The next year they settled in Illinois, where they engaged in the hotel business. Mr. Stoll was postmaster at Mokena four years under Buchanan. He engaged in the milling business, and when his mill burned in 1860 he removed to Missouri, practically penniless. Here when the war broke out he found



MR. AND MRS. H. C. STOLL OF GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, WHO RECENTLY CELEBRATED THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING.



J. V. O'Connell, Engineer. CREW OF THE B. & M. ENGINE, WHO RECENTLY PULLED A TRAIN AT RATE OF NINETY-NINE MILES AN HOUR.



EUGENE F. IRWIN, NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR OF LEAD, S. D.



GEORGE LAMB, YOUNG NIMROD OF ATKINSON, Neb., RETURNING FROM A DUCK HUNT.

this is may be imagined by looking at the second hand of a watch and think of flying over the rails nearly fifty yards each time the hand moves. If the engineer looks at the steam gauge, his engine has covered the distance of a city block during the glance. If he pulls out his watch to note the time, his engine covers a quarter of a mile at least. On a stretch of track where curves are many, this means much, even in daylight, and after nightfall it means a great deal more. Steam gauge, air gauge, water gauge, all must be watched by both engineer and fireman, and the one must also watch the track while the other attends to the furnace. It is easy to understand that social conversation is rarely indulged on a locomotive when making ninety-nine miles an hour. If the locomotive has driving wheels of seven feet in diameter, they must revolve seven times a second to attain a speed of ninety-nine miles an hour. All the tremendous weight of metal contained in pistons, cross-heads, driving-rods, valves, rocker shafts and eccentric blades, must be started and stopped fourteen times in each second. If the piston has a stroke of twenty-eight inches—which is about the

himself worse than poverty-stricken, owing to his union sentiments. At one time he discovered a rebel plot to ditch a train of union soldiers. He warned the oncoming train just in time. For this act he was forced to flee with his wife and children by night to Illinois. In 1862 the Stolls came to Nebraska, settling in Gage county, where they have prospered. The celebration of the golden wedding was made a notable occasion by their children and friends.

One of nature's wise arrangements is illustrated in this number of The Bee. In getting the pictures of the animals at the park zoo the artist found that, while he had no difficulty in getting close enough, the

animals had not yet changed their winter coats, and so nearly do they harmonize with the gray-brown background of the scenery it was extremely difficult to secure a photograph that would show. This provision that enables the wild beasts to escape detection and pursuit during the season of the year when there is not enough grass or foliage to screen them is shown thus most forcibly. It is easy for any of these creatures to assimilate with the inanimate objects on the landscape and thus deceive the pursuer. In their pleasant captivity—for if any captivity can be pleasant it is surely that of the animals in the Omaha parks—the habits of freedom have not been abandoned by the beasts.

Safe Burglary by Electricity Not an Established Success

OMAHA, April 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: We notice an article in your last week's issue which has been going the rounds of the press for the last few weeks, referring to certain tests having been made by the United States Treasury department experts.

First, with a compound called thermite.

Second, with an electrical appliance used on safes and vaults.

From these tests the deduction is announced that no safe or vault is burglar proof. In reply to this, will say that thermite has no effect whatever upon some kinds of steel.

The reported tests with electricity have connected with them the name of one Haeschke, as being the originator of fusing metals by using an electrical current, and it is stated in the articles referred to that the treasury officials investigated Mr. Haeschke's work. Now, we will say that this man Haeschke was not the originator in any sense of the word, as the fusing of metals by electricity has been known for more than fifty years, but the burglar has never been able and never will be able to turn it to his use, because the parapher-

nalia he would need is altogether too cumbersome. This matter was brought out by the papers something like six or eight years ago, and a like attempt was made to condemn all safes and vaults by a Chicago concern who have an electrical burglar alarm for sale.

In the articles above referred to there are quoted conclusions said to have been reached by experts of the United States Treasury department as follows:

"First—That the best types of safes or vaults are not invulnerable to the attack of the expert burglar.

"Second—That the ordinary or obsolete types of safes or vaults constructed relatively a few years ago are not invulnerable to the attacks of the amateur burglar.

"Third—That should, by any combination of circumstances, sufficient opportunity be afforded expert crackmen, any safe or vault can be opened.

"Fourth—That a satisfactory form of electrical protection is both obtainable and desirable for all vaults and safes wherever applicable and constitutes a form of protection superior to that afforded by the construction of the vaults or safes themselves."

After reading the articles above referred to we had our representative, Mr. Rodman, call upon Secretary Taylor at Washington, D. C., who had a very satisfactory interview with him in which he learned that these newspaper reports that are going the rounds have no foundation in fact. In order to get at the bottom of the matter, we addressed the following letter to the secretary of the treasury:

"OMAHA, March 26.—H. A. Taylor, Assistant Secretary United States Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.: Dear Sir—Certain articles have been published in the New York Herald and other papers within the last week or ten days regarding experiments on metals used in safe and vault construction, with a compound called thermite and with electricity, by experts of the United States Treasury department, in which articles the announcement is made that no safes or vaults are burglar proof.

"Having had no official notification of these tests we request to be informed as to whether your department or your experts have conducted or witnessed any tests with thermite or electricity upon manganese steel or upon safes and vaults constructed of this material, and is

manganese steel included in the above mentioned tests?"

To the above we received the following reply:

"TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Washington, March 27, 1902.—J. J. Deright & Co., 1119 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb.: Sirs—Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 25th instant, requesting to be informed as to whether any tests have been made by this department, or its representatives, with thermite or electricity upon manganese steel, or upon safes or vaults constructed of that material, and in reply you are advised that no actual tests have been made upon safes or vaults of any manufacture. Respectfully,

"H. A. TAYLOR,
Assistant Secretary."

We also find that we were not alone in making inquiry of the Treasury department, but that Mr. S. D. Drury, treasurer of the Northampton Institution for Savings, Northampton, Mass., wrote a letter to the Treasury department regarding the electrical experiments reported to have been made for them by this man Haeschke, and received the following reply:

"Sir—Replying to your letter of the 24th

instant, inclosing a clipping from the Springfield Republican of same date in reference to vault and safe protection, etc., you are advised that the department has made no investigation relative to the invention of Julius E. Haeschke, therein referred to, and has no knowledge as to its merits."

Beyond all of this, a short time ago this matter was brought to the attention of the American Bankers' Protective association, who were requested to make an investigation. They did so and made two official reports, which are somewhat lengthy, copies of which we have, in which they pronounce the whole matter a fake.

It is plain, then, that whoever is trying to advertise some form of electrical burglar alarm has seriously overstepped the mark. We have kept a list of over 400 bank robberies that have occurred in the last five years, and not a single instance was there where the safe was robbed with an electrical current.

Trusting that you will give this as prominent a position in your paper as you have the other articles, we are, Yours truly,

J. J. DERIGHT & CO.

Episodes and Incidents in the Lives of Noted People

IT is said that the one thing of which Christian Dewet, the elusive Boer general, is really vain is his descent from De Witt, the great Dutch admiral of the seventeenth century. There is no doubt of the relation between the two, and the man of today seems to be quite worthy of his ancestor. Admiral Blake, the great English sailor, once said that he would rather meet Van Tromp or DeRuyter with sixty sail than DeWitt with half that number, for "he is the cunningest rascal of them all."

Some years ago Herbert Gladstone, who was married recently, was addressing a woman's suffrage meeting in Leeds one afternoon, and in the course of his speech he paid a graceful compliment to the eloquence of the women who had addressed the meeting. He further gallantly remarked on the great pleasure which it gives the other sex to listen to women

talking. Pausing for a moment after this observation, Mr. Gladstone, like his audience, was thrown into an unexpected state of merriment by a male voice, which proceeded from the back of the hall, and proclaimed in the broadest Yorkshire dialect: "Eh, lad, thou'rt noan wed yet, I see'st!"

Teek S. Yen, a high-caste young Chinaman, is believed to be the first of his race to be received into the Masonic order in this country. Yen is a graduate of Lehigh university and a civil engineer. He received his first degree last week in Covenant lodge, No. 456 of Philadelphia, his sponsors being Frederick Poole of the Chinese mission and Secretary Bond of the Christian league.

Piccolomini, the composer who died in poverty the other day in London, was once in the French army and later the organist of St. Peter's, Rome. He was grandnephew to Cardinal Piccolomini, cousin to the prima donna of that name,

and a descendant of the famous imperial commander in the thirty years' war. He wrote about 400 pieces of music and his "Snowflakes" was sung by Mme. Titiens before many large audiences and before one very small one—before Queen Victoria and her household.

General Jacob H. Smith, who has been charged by Major Waller with ordering the extermination of all natives of Samar over the age of 10 years, for which he is to be court-martialed, entered the Second Kentucky infantry in 1861, and was made a captain in that regiment in 1862. He was mustered out in 1863 and became a captain of the Veteran Reserve Corps, being mustered out from that organization in 1865. He was commissioned a captain in the Thirteenth infantry in 1867. He was promoted to major the same year and made judge advocate. In 1894 he was appointed major in the Second infantry. His promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel was made in 1898, when he was assigned to the

Twelfth infantry. He became colonel of the Twelfth infantry in October, 1899, and since then has been on duty in the Philippines. He was commissioned brigadier general of volunteers in 1900 and on reorganization of the army he was promoted to a brigadier generalship in that service.

According to John Wanamaker, who has just returned from Europe, during which trip he was received in person by Pope Leo XIII, that venerable prelate intends to live for many years yet.

"While I was standing near him," says Mr. Wanamaker, "a woman of high position in society approached him and asked respectfully after his health, his holiness replying that he was very well, considering his years.

"And how many may they be?" inquired the woman.

"Ninety-two," came the answer, with a smile that bespoke no little pride.

"Is it possible?" exclaimed the other,

and then she added, "May you live, sire, to be a hundred."

"What, madame," returned the pope, "would you limit me to that?"

Victor Emmanuel, king of Italy, enjoys nothing more than to imitate Haroun al Raschid and wander about in disguise among the subjects, hearing good and evil of himself and his ministers. Anarchists are numerous in Italy, so the police keep a close watch on the sovereign, but hardly a week passes that he does not steal away by himself.

Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire was a practicing physician for many years before his election to the senate. In emergencies he has frequently been called on to treat patients at the capitol and he always responds to such emergency calls with a keen professional interest. Senator Deboe of Kentucky has graduated in both medicine and law. He practiced medicine a short time and then turned to the law.