

ODDS AND ENDS OF INTEREST FROM FAR AND NEAR

RECORD BREAKING LOAD OF WOOL.

A RECORD load of wool, as regards both weight and bulk, is shown in the accompanying illustration. The wagon truck in this case carries 121 bales of wool. Under ordinary conditions a single bale of wool is a difficult bundle to handle.

The wool is from the Boorooma Station, in the State of Victoria, Australia. England possesses twenty-eight cows for every hundred of the population. Australia has 28.

Safeguarding King Edward.

WHEN it is decided that King Edward shall travel from one point to another over a line of railway, instructions to that effect are sent to the general manager of the company whose system is to be used.

Medicine in the Kitchen.

EXPERIMENTS have shown that drugs which are now used only in formally prescribed mixtures or pills are capable of introduction into the more welcome output of the domestic kitchen.

Fish Destroyers.

THE most important of the fish destroyers is the common porcupine, or razor-back, so well known to herring fishermen, and whose presence is rather dreaded on the fishing grounds, since it becomes an abundant capture of herring, it reaches the length of sixty or seventy feet.

How to Judge Dogs.

THE average man is greatly puzzled to find one dog awarded a first prize, and another dog awarded a second prize, and quite as fine a specimen, awarded no prize at all. A man who knows the relative values of the different points in all breeds of dogs is a veritable walking encyclopedia.

Disappearing Plants.

IN the Southern mountains certain flowers have been lost for nearly a century and rediscovered by chance in a different locality, thriving and abundant. In some cases the plants have been shorter, and, on the other hand, all of them have not been found yet.

OUTDOOR MIDWINTER ATHLETICS.

A SMALL club which has been much benefited by the public in the last few years is the Brookline Swimming Club, of Brookline, Mass.

Original Fakir at Work.

THE streets of the larger cities of India are full of fakirs of all classes, and of every description. Originally the word "fakir" had a religious meaning, but to-day it is mostly applied to the beggars, nondescripts, and mountebanks of India.

A Freak Chicken.

WILKINSON JOSEPH LUSSIER, of Wilkinton, has a queer freak chicken, the appearance of which is so peculiar that it is a matter of fact to describe it.

In the National Italian Lottery.

A German trader living at Naples recently drew a prize of \$30,000. At a ball in Bermuda a wonderful dress was worn, the making of which over 30,000 stamps were used.

AN EGG WORTH \$1,500.

THE most valuable egg in the world to-day is that of the great auk. The record price paid for one of these eggs is \$1,500.

What Artists Say.

IT is not very often that the quaint sayings and anecdotes of artists get into print. This worthy is generally very retiring, and their puns and sayings are generally among themselves.

Alonso Cano's Brilliant Bon Mot.

THE following amusing anecdote is related of Alonso Cano—in 1658 he received a commission to carve a statue of St. Anthony of Padua for a Judge of Granada.

Highest Priced Picture.

IT may not be generally known, perhaps, that the highest price paid for a picture has not been in modern times, but was at so remote a period as that of Alexander the Great, who gave Apelles a sum equal to \$21,000 for painting his portrait.

Barrel American Plant.

OF all rare plants in America the most rare is the buckeye, which has disappeared from all known places except two—Paint Rock, in North Carolina, the refuge of plants in hiding, and Wolf Creek, in Tennessee.

What Forest Fires Cost.

OUR forest fires cost us about \$5,000,000 a year. In New York State, in the spring of 1902, the forest fires in the Adirondacks was estimated at \$3,500,000, without counting \$1,000,000 spent in fighting the fires.

Machine Gun of 1830.

THE machine gun is of very recent manufacture, yet the idea of such a weapon dates back to a surprisingly remote period. The mitrailleuse gun, which is generally supposed to have been invented in 1824, was, as a matter of fact, anticipated by more than three hundred years.

English Elections.

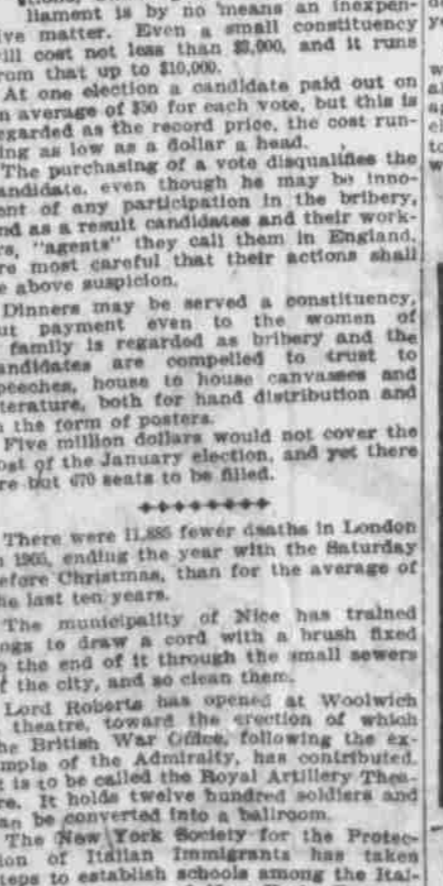
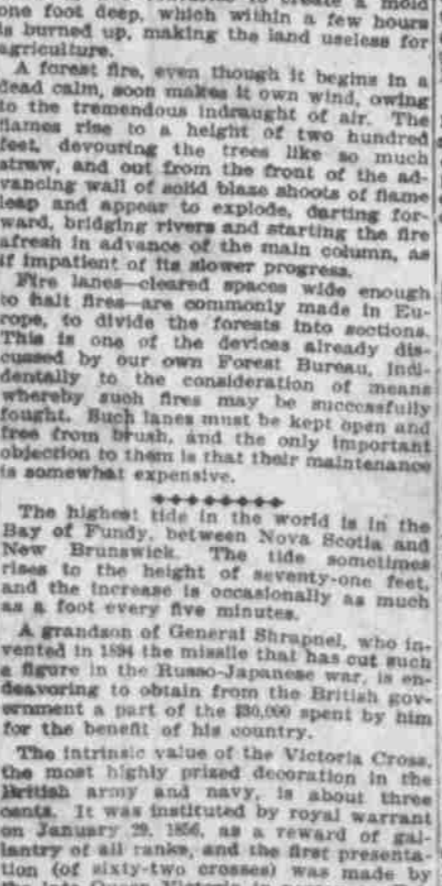
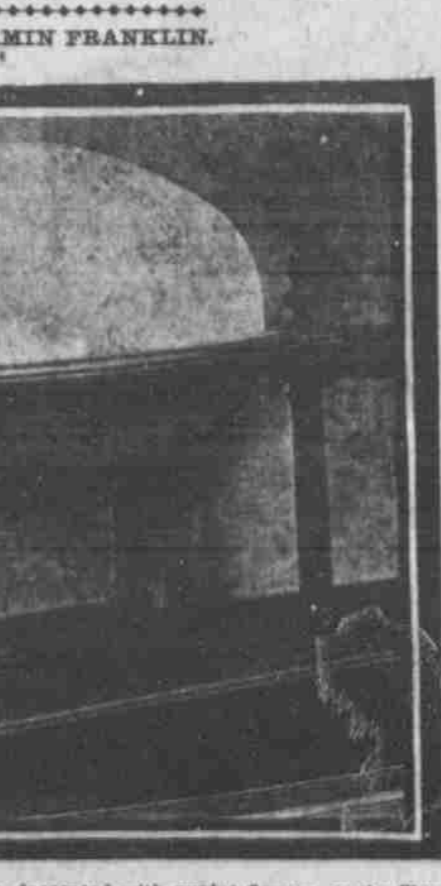
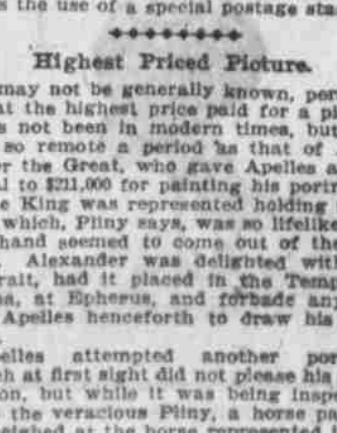
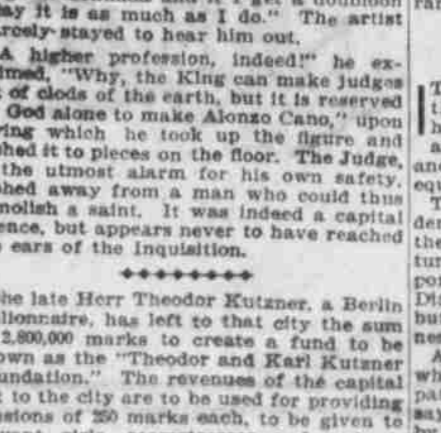
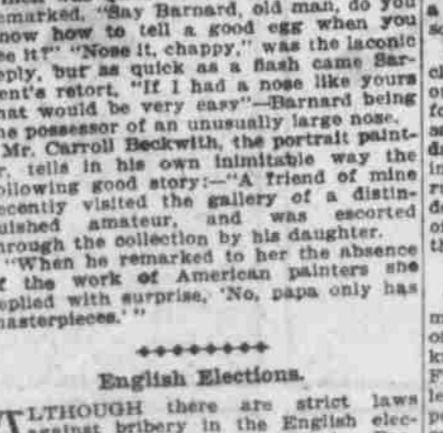
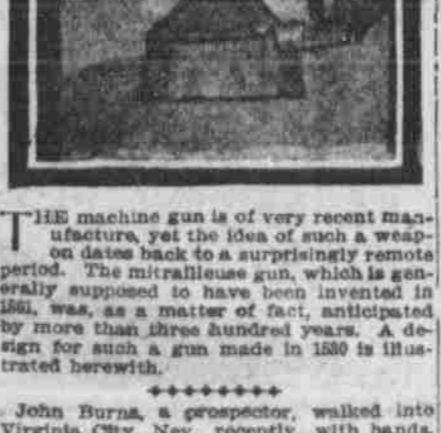
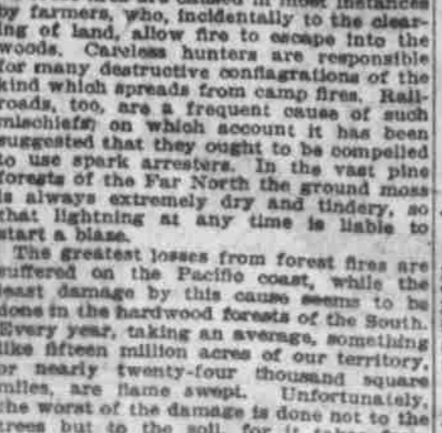
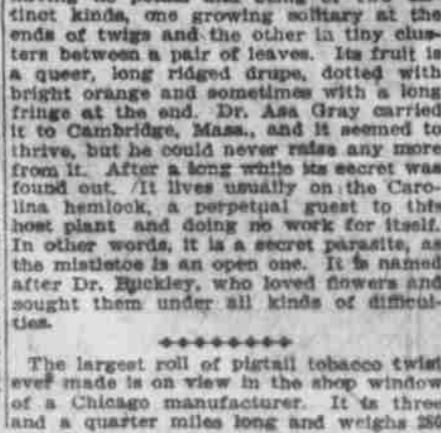
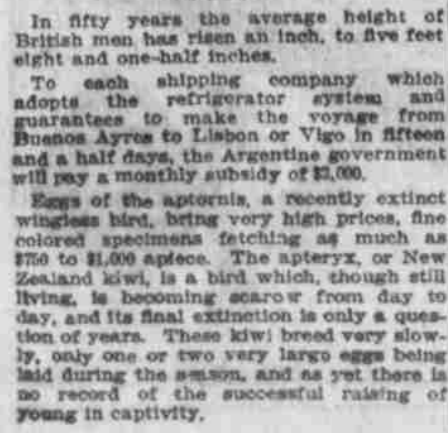
ALTHOUGH there are strict laws against bribery in the English elections, standing for a seat in Parliament is by no means an inexpensive matter. Even a small constituency will cost not less than \$2,000 and it runs from that up to \$10,000.

RELIC OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

THE quaint old keg illustrated herewith was once the property of Benjamin Franklin, and it is believed was for many years used by the great philosopher. The keg was made of china and

REMARKABLE JAPANESE WORKMANSHIP.

THE fan in its most artistic development is found in Japan, where for centuries the best artistic skill has been employed in their manufacture. Here is a fan, for example, which was made about the year 1900 in Japan, which has scarcely an equal in any other country. The fan measures nearly two feet across when



THE quaint old keg illustrated herewith was once the property of Benjamin Franklin, and it is believed was for many years used by the great philosopher. The keg was made of china and decorated with quaint figures, as the illustration shows. The position of the keg was intended to facilitate one in the process of drawing off its contents. Needless to say, the keg is considered a priceless relic.