

QUAINT NEWS OF THE YEAR

Odd and Interesting Happenings Bunched for Review.

BARIOUS "BUGS" OF HUMANITY

Coincidences and Capers of Infatigable Variety Which Serve as Spice for Current News.

"Human Interest."

The newspaper reader, consciously or not, is always looking for it, and it takes no long experience to show him that he is not apt to find it "first page, top column." History may be chronicled there, but as good Hannah More once wrote: "The trifles make the sum of human things," and "back" in his paper, half-buried, perhaps, among the real estate items, will be usually come upon the unconsidered "little things" which best tell the joys and sorrows in response to which the world's heart beats.

Nineteen ten has proved this over and over again. January began the story on its very first day when a Philadelphia man, Frank Angelo, reported himself at the Pennsylvania hospital for treatment. His heart was giving him no end of trouble every time he looked at a pretty girl. He'd turn dizzy and the pavement would rise and fall like the deck of a ship at sea. The doctors said they hadn't had a case on the records like it since '31, and Angelo, when dismissed, took a solemn vow always to look the other way when passing the Quaker City maidens.

To jump across the continent, the same initial month of the twelve, brought the odddest of happenings to P. V. Severson of Portland, Ore. Back in '99, rather than lose a week's wages and a shotgun, which he had lent his employer, he took (under protest) a corner lot, 5x100 feet. On the day in question it sold for just \$250.00. Looking for her share of something of a like sort, Mrs. Sumner Dennis of Dadeville, Ala., entered a claim for a pension in January, and lo! the bureau's annals showed that her very patriotic husband had died three times; in 1815, after service in the war of '18; in '47, after having been present at all the Mexican fighting, and now (again) a few years ago, with a civil war experience for a grateful government's consideration.

A Solemnness Rule.

Under the identical date of this last dispatch, Indianapolis told the world of a local Solomon, Mayor Shank, hearing two cases of violation of the saloon closing law, ordered the saloons in question shut up until the owners had attended church on at least one Sunday morning and had remained throughout the service. The clergyman must attest the fact in writing.

Alderman Donohue of Wilkesbarre, Pa., did as well as this when, last March, he decided that John Buckson, arrested for drunkenness, couldn't fairly be fined the usual dollar as he had a wooden leg, which naturally was not affected. "You're probably two-thirds drunk," was the decision. "It'll cost you just \$7 cents."

When Judge Mulveyney of Washington, examining William Thomas as to the state of his mind, asked him the name of the president of the country, and heard the reply: "Ah doan rightly know, Judge. There's Mist' Taft an' there's Teddy!" he found the man wholly sane.

Most curious of all the legal causes of the year, however, was one reported from Stockholm, where Albert Vystrom had been fighting in the courts for his skeleton. Some years ago he signed a contract with the Royal Institute of Anatomy making over his body, after death, in return for a present sum of money. Then he came into an unexpected fortune and tried to cancel the deal. The case was not only decided against him, but he was ordered to pay damages to the party of the second part for having had two teeth extracted without their permission.

Another couple of items of not dissimilar sort were these: Judge Lea of El Paso showed his regard for St. Patrick by releasing all Irishmen brought before him on March 17 under bail of a shanahan rock each, and at East Liverpool (Ohio) grand jury found George Brown's theft of some ostrich plumes, valued ordinarily at \$5, only a petit larceny, as it was a bargain day when he helped himself—the plumes had been marked down to \$5. (And possibly the figure suggested the attempt!)

W. Spencer Smith of New York, dining at the St. Charles at Atlantic City, made a bet better bargain on January 25, for in a single oyster he bit upon no less than nine pearls, which later proved worth several hundred dollars. A fortnight later, Andrew Carnegie announced, "I've made up my mind not to make any more money if I can help it." It's a matter of point-of-view as to which happening was the odder.

Novel Bargains.

Somewhat like the Swede and his skeleton was a Chicago man who offered his corpse (when there should be one) to the highest bidder, and a poet-chap in Omaha who advertised to lease himself for a year under any reasonable terms, but Cornelius Pace of Beverly, N. J., went all these a few better. He was selling a shoemaking business to one Antonio Plourera, and his wife deciding that she preferred Plourera to Pace, she was thrown in" for full measure, shop, wife and all changing owners for \$60.

This naturally brings the ladies into the question, and 1899 made several entries concerning them. In the first place there was Mrs. Elena D. Smith, who for five years passed successfully as a man, all to win a \$2,000 bet from a Boston physician. Then there was Mrs. Amy D. Winship of Racine, Wis., who, in spite of her 80 years, elected the Ohio State university at Columbus, electing philosophy, psychology and literature as studies best suited to supplement the time she had just been spending at a summer school near her home.

In October, South Bend, Ind., witnessed the marriage of Grace Gilbert and Gile E. Calvin, the out-of-the-ordinary detail here being that the bride had a beard eighteen inches long, while the groom could boast of no more than a very slim mustache.

But Dalhart, Texas, beat all of these with a new version of the widow's curse parable. Mrs. Josie Pettis lives near there, her little farm barely supporting her. Late in January, during an unusually severe and severe thunderstorm, a bolt of lightning ripped up her hillside pasture and uncovered a spring of crude oil that has ever since been running a couple of hundred barrels a day.

Yet another of the fair sex to figure in the twelve-month's news was Miss Olga Frobrajshalska, who has been appearing at the London Hippodrome, "supported by twenty dancers." The number was not much to be wondered at considering her name, and yet she has not wished to change it.

Not so with a Beaton Norwegian (that is, he had been naturalized in the Hub of the Universe, having served up the North Cape for goods, who applied to court to change the name he had then chosen. Kruse was his name, but Kruse was he naturalized, and Robinson being his first name he found the combination tiresome.

ERDMAN JURY IS STILL OUT

Reports at Noon that it is Unable to Agree on Verdict.

ESTELLE ORDERS THEM BACK

Foreman of the Jury Says No Headway Was Made During Twenty-One Hours the Men Had Been Out.

Hopeless disagreement over the question whether or not Frank Erdman is guilty of attempting to murder Tom Donelson with an infernal machine on May 23 was reported by the Erdman case jury to Judge Estelle in district court at 11:25 Tuesday afternoon, after the case had been in the jury's hands for twenty-one hours and forty minutes. Judge Estelle instructed the jury to resume its efforts to agree and sent it out again. Jury Bailiff Kirkendall then took the twelve men to lunch, the party returning at 1 o'clock.

The jury's report confirmed the "dope" of speculators on the result who at 3 o'clock Monday night declared their belief that the jury would "hang." The theory was that the jury became so divided Monday afternoon that there was but one hope, that being that inspection of the Denison and Deutsch premises might change the opinion of one side or the other; that instead of so doing the inspection merely convinced each side more firmly that its view was the correct one.

But Hockesberg, Warren county, takes the palm. The cover was left off the apple-mash trough at the cider mill in October and ten up-to-the-ears innocent cows got at it. Their friskings, their attitudes, and at last their don-care lethargy was the talk of the country side, and a nearby "vet" had a busy hour bathing bovine heads in hot water.

Hen Happenings.

Vineland and Hockesberg do not, however, monopolize the chicken and cow dispatches. Half the country has been interested in Washington's riddle, "Is a hen a bird?" raised by an egg importer who wanted to get around the Payne-Aldrich tariff tax. Then came Michael Singer of Chicago with a hen minus the beak, instead of which the lady had almost human lips, with a first-rate imitation of a human nose above them; she had to be fed by hand, quite naturally. Finally, Tomkinsville, Staten Island, produced a sociable tale of a partnership home run by a hen and a cat. There were eight chicks, and there were four kittens, and these, with the two fond mothers, shared one, and when pirate rats came nosing after grain Tabby took them in, thereby both protecting one set of youngsters and feeding the others.

As for cows, who could be more so than the story Stamford, Conn., now tells of Maude, once owned by Dairman William Gimstead? She had been deserted by her husband, her only child had been rudely torn from her, and as melancholy settled darkly down she came upon a box containing four sticks of dynamite. What follows is a foregone conclusion. Maude ate the dynamite—and that's all.

The comet brought yet another hen-happening. William Scott of Ithaca keeps chickens and never have they acted as chickens should not till the Halley talk began to fill the papers. Then a hiterto perfectly proper member of the flock laid a comet-egg, with a well-developed tail of a good two inches, covered with something noticeably harder than mere shell.

Adam Toma, residing in the outskirts of Budapest, committed suicide because of the aerial visitor, leaving a note saying he preferred to die by his own hand rather than be killed by a wondering star.

Quaint Mixups.

Lawrence, Mass., set a record in July, when Mayor White wrote to jail for three years, convicted of conspiracy to bribe, and there continued to fulfill the mayor's duties, even to appointing an excise commission within an hour of being locked up. In September a record of another sort was announced from Bowling Green, Ky., when the hair of 7-year-old Irving Covington turned pure white without rhyme or reason, and Richmond, Ind., has produced, in Mrs. Everett Parker, a grandmother at 28. Herself married at 13, her 15-year-old daughter, now Mrs. Charlie Lane of Indianapolis, became a mother in March. Mrs. Parker's mother and grandmother are both living, so that five generations now figure in the family's present-day history.

L. M. Raynor of Riverhead, L. I., away back in 1908 lost a watch and chain in the woods near his cottage, nor did several searches bring them to light. Last June, passing through the grove, he suddenly saw the watch dangling from a stout twig at about the level of his eyes. He believes he must have bent the branch down when passing there eighteen months ago, and that it picked his pocket for him.

A Detroit woman, with a new hat in mind, drew \$20 from a bank, and a gust of wind drew it from her and sent it flying across the street. A small boy, driving a goat, chanced by, and Nancy calmly and expeditiously ate the ten. The woman charged the small boy with the theft. A policeman was called in, and the youth proved his innocence by killing the goat. Then the Treasury department issued the woman a new bill. No one has as yet issued the boy a new goat.

In October there were married in the national capital a couple who separated within an hour of their nuptials, never intending to meet again. Miss Eugenie Sauer of Vienna found herself heiress to a dead uncle's fortune, but it was stipulated in the will that she should become a wife within forty-eight hours of the announcement of her legacy in order actually to obtain possession of it. She advertised for a highly temporary husband, offering \$500 for his brief services at the altar. Seventy-eight offered to accommodate; a likely fellow was chosen; the service was read; chilly good-bys were exchanged (and two new \$100 bills) and the bride started for the steamer which was to take her to Austria.

If there is here obvious material for a new novel under the well-worn title of "Maid, Wife or Widow?" surely, too, it must appear that there is much raw material for romance as well as humor through all the "little events" of an average year.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

SASONOFF DEAD IN PRISON

Information Given Out by Russian Officials that Death is Due to Suicide.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 12.—The report that M. Sasonoff, who on July 28, 1904, assassinated Minister of the Interior Von Plehve, had died in the prison at Zarautul was officially confirmed today. The death is attributed to suicide. Recently rumors that Sasonoff had been fatally injured by a flogging were in circulation. According to the governor of the prison, the officers discovered a plot to release the political prisoners en masse. A large sum of money had been collected, of which \$50 had been smuggled to Sasonoff. The authorities thereupon reinforced the prison guards and stopped all communication between the convicts and the outer world. They also ordered corporal punishment of two convicts. As a protest against these measures, three of the prisoners severed the arteries in their wrists and three others, including Sasonoff, took fatal doses of morphine.

Earthquake Reported from Lower California

Nine Shocks Recorded by the Seismograph at the St. Louis University.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 12.—Nine earthquake shocks were recorded by the St. Louis University seismograph between 4:10 and 7:20 o'clock this morning. The center of the disturbance was estimated to be 280 miles southwest by west of the lower coast of California.

Washington Records Earthquake. WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—An earthquake of moderate intensity lasting over an hour and a quarter was recorded today by the seismographs of the weather bureau. It began at 7:05 o'clock this morning. Officials estimated the origin of the disturbance was at a distance exceeding 4,000 or 6,000 miles from Washington. An accurate estimate could not be made owing to the absence from the record of certain characteristic features. The motion was chiefly in the east-west direction and maximum occurred at 7:25 a. m.

THREE NIGHT RIDERS GO FREE

Gray, Bossert and Hawkins Acquitted on Charge of Helping to Murder Cooper.

EDDYVILLE, Ky., Dec. 12.—The jury trying the "night rider" cases this morning returned a verdict not guilty as to Bart Creek murder, Alonzo Gray, Jim Bossert and Bryan Hawkins.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

F. A. Seaman, claim agent for the Great Northern railway company, is in the city on company business.

Colonel J. C. Gallup, who has been at Excelsior Springs several weeks for his health, returned last week greatly improved. Colonel Gallup is one of the most popular and most successful stockmen of Nebraska.

Barber Shot in the Back

Peter Betolmi Instantly Killed When He is Out Trying to Collect a Bill.

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