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Patricides, matricides, infanticides, and many other varieties of "icides" appear to be popular pastime during the present age. It has been remarked that never before in the history of mankind has there been so much killing of relatives as is daily reported from all over the country.

The first reports from Pueblo, Colo., indicated that 500 persons had lost their lives in the flood. A specific instance of 200 deaths was given in the washing away of two passenger trains stranded on the tracks. The official reports, issued Sunday last, however, gave the number losing their lives at 49. The imagination of the reporters covering this catastrophe must certainly have been great.

The Herald passes along the idea of poisoning the boll weevil by using the molasses method as information only. There is a wide difference of opinion, it seems as to the results obtained. Many farmers in Georgia state that the method has been productive of good results, while the Delta Laboratory, Tallulah, La., states that the molasses method has never produced anything but negative results. The best idea, it seems to us, is for the farmers to experiment with the plan itself. It is cheap. He can pursue the other methods of poisoning as well, and the comparative results can be noted.

Although the cost of living has gone down, prices of all commodities have been lowered, and people are poorer than they have been for several years, freight and passenger rates have recently gone up, and telephone rates have advanced. Where are we headed anyway? Freight and passenger rates are well-nigh prohibitive. It is fortunate that the people are no longer absolutely dependent upon the railroads for transportation. The high rates are causing people to travel by automobile more than ever before, as it is cheaper for a party to hire a car than to pay the passenger rate where the distance is far.

The government seems to be up in the air against Admiral Sims because of his alleged reference to American sympathizers of the Seinn Feiners. We hold no brief for Admiral Sims, but we fail to see that he has been guilty of any greater offence than many congressmen and senators, who have given utterance in the halls of congress to things as much out of place, it seems to us, in regard to the same question, about the only difference being that his views are opposite to theirs. It appears to be the position of congress that as much may be said as one desires in defense of the so-called Irish Republic, but that nothing must be said on the other side of the question. As a matter of fact all the talk about Irish affairs is out of place on the part of Americans. Irish propagandists should never be allowed in America, and American officials should not be allowed to dabble in this question. It is a matter that America has nothing whatever to do with, and it seems to us that Admiral Sims has been guilty of no greater breach in discussing the matter in London than American officials in discussing it in America.

The federal court has handed down a decision restraining the Georgia railroad commission from interfering with the Augusta-Aiken Railway and Electric company from raising its passenger rate in Augusta to ten cents. The commission had previously refused to allow the increase, whereupon the railroad took the case to the United States court. The ground for the order is, we believe, that the company is incorporated under the laws of another state, although the property involved in the increase is in the state of Georgia. Between the federal courts and the Interstate Commerce commission, the states have very few rights left to them. The people of Augusta are up in arms, and it appears to be certain that the railroad is going to lose heavily, rather than gain, by this procedure. The city council of Augusta is considering issuing free license to "jitneys" and fixing the fare at five and ten cents to combat the increased trolley rate. The railroad and electric company is a "foreign" corporation, with its offices and officers in New York. Charges have been made that the stock of the company is watered to make it appear the earnings are small, and the statement is made that the value of the company's holdings is far differently stated in the application for increase of rates than the value stated in the return for

state taxes. Needless to say, the company will hereafter have to pay far more taxes than it has in the past.

The fact that the people of South Carolina have been saved, not thousands of dollars, but hundreds of thousands of dollars, perhaps, in the cost of school text books during the past three years seems to have escaped the attention of the critics. When the state loses money through a contract the woods are literally full of the fault finders, but the praisers are few when money is saved. The present text book contract was entered into in 1917 for a period of five years, which ends in 1922. The contract was made just before the advance in price of books, and as a consequence the people of this state have bought books at prices which obtained before the war prices began. An instance of the present price of books, the local school depository was shown a bill Tuesday from an Atlanta concern for one Haliburton primer ordered by mail. The price was 64 cents. This book is sold through the local depository for 18 cents. Nearly all other books are priced in proportion, and practically all prices are from 50 to 400 per cent. higher than the state contract prices. The people of this county spend annually about \$5,000 for text books. It is safe to say that if the state were not under contract with the publishers these same books would cost not less than \$10,000. The publishers have lost heavily, and but for the fact that their reputation is at stake, many of them would have long ago forfeited their bond and broke their contracts with the state. However, it may be said, in justice to the publishers, that not one of them has absolutely broken a contract, although deliveries during the past two years have been very slow on some books, and a few books have been unobtainable. One of the popular primers was not on sale last season at all, but the publishers have advised that the book will be distributed this summer. An enormous loss is sustained by the publishers on every one of the cheaper text books, such as readers and spellers.

According to the latest tabulation, France has decreased in population a little over 5 per cent. since 1914.

There are 16 acres of land for each person in the United States, or 90 acres for the average family. It is estimated that the population of the country could reach a billion and we would still have plenty of room.

WRITING BY WIRELESS.

Message May Be Transmitted Four Thousand Miles Instantaneously.

A written message transmitted 4,000 miles instantaneously without wire or cable is the latest feat of wireless telegraphy.

The wireless writing machine, which will make it possible for a man in the wilds of Alaska to capture the news of the world in written form by merely setting a trap for it, so to speak, and by which all explorers might locate his position on the face of the earth by wireless, within 33 feet of exact, is the invention of two government scientists working in the bureau of standards. Another government department, the Coast and Geodetic survey, expects to save by the use of it this summer, three times as much as it cost to perfect the invention and make two of the machines. The whole achievement is one more illustration of the value of scientific research by the government departments, which gets mere scanty support.

The machine itself, a simple looking affair, which weighs about 25 pounds, exclusive of the two storage batteries and the metal chronograph drum, is the result of research work by Dr. E. A. Eckhardt and Dr. J. C. Karcher. Small in size, light in weight and easy to operate, it offers a solution to many of the vexing problems now existing in radio operation.

For example, under the present system of listening for the dots and dashes with a telephone receiver, two, three or more sending stations may, by sending signals out simultaneously, mix their messages in the ether, and "jam the air." The man at the receiving end, listening for one particular message, must adjust his apparatus to "tune" to a wave length as nearly as possible equal to that of the sender whom he wishes to catch. The other senders seriously interfere and often cause the receiver to lose or garble parts of the message. This new invention goes a long way toward eliminating that difficulty.

The machine was designed to meet the need of an autographic wireless time recording apparatus to obviate the expensive stringing of wires to places remote from telegraph lines and to eliminate the lag due to reception by ear, and removing of a signal by hand.

How it Works.

The recording is done roughly in the following manner, according to

the semi-technical explanation of the inventors.

Adjustment is made on a condenser or the particular wave length desired to be caught. As the signals sent out are gathered in by the antennae, which can be strung on any light poles reaching about 40 feet above the ground, oscillations are started in a local circuit, through an "electron tube." This local circuit derives its power from an ordinary storage battery such as those used in self-starters for automobiles. The starting of these oscillations releases enough direct current from the batteries to operate a small relay, or magnet set in some respects like the magnets in an ordinary electric door bell, but capable of more delicate adjustment.

This relay, or magnet set, makes and breaks power in another circuit derived from a second storage battery. This second circuit operates another magnet set, to which the stylus is attached.

The stylus in the present apparatus is an ordinary fountain pen. It is in contact with a revolving drum which has a sheet of paper placed on it. The dots and dashes are recorded as humps in the otherwise straight line. Short humps indicate dots, and long ones dashes.

The action can be readily likened to that of a machine gun which must be cocked each time before it is fired, which action takes place automatically and rapidly. The first circuit fires the gun and pushes back the hammer, ready to fire again, so to speak. As long as the circuit stays closed the "hammer" stays back. But when the circuit is broken, corresponding to pressing the trigger, then the secondary circuit is closed and the hammer or stylus goes on its way to make a mark.

The action of the mechanism is very much more selective than the receiving action not in use. It absolutely eliminates any chance of the message being garbled by wave lengths even closely approximating those which it wishes to gather and record.

Permanent Record.

The record thus made on paper is permanent, and the message can be deciphered at leisure. In a recent test, signals sent out from Lyons, France, 4,000 miles away, were caught in the heart of the residential district of Washington, and transferred to a record which even a person unskilled in the Morse code could readily translate.

The machine, that morning had been in the bureau of standards a few miles away. In the afternoon it was installed downtown, the antennae were run up on light poles, and the message caught 'n the drawing room of the house.

With this machine it is possible to record simultaneously, with the same pen, the records of local time, as furnished by the local standard chronometer, and compare them with the standard time as sent out by wireless from observatories, without any errors incident to "lag" of the instruments.

In this way the latitude of a spot far away from cables or wires, and out of touch with the world, can be determined to within two hundredths of a second of time, or about 33 feet on the earth's surface. This makes the invention extremely valuable to geographers and astronomers, and surveyors.

A machine designed to perform much the same functions has been turned out in France, but its complexity, and non-portability, together with its high cost, and irregular action, prevented it from being more than a laboratory experiment. German scientists tried to work out the problem during the last eight years, but it remained unsolved in any satisfactory way until our own government scientists got in the job.

The new instrument will possibly play an important part in the lives of many people living in isolated sections of the country. For example, a trading post in Alaska, apart from civilization, lacking all news of "doings back home" may be able to buy one of the machines when they get the manufacturing perfected, for about \$500. The instrument could be set up and tuned by a layman, in accordance with marks indicating sending stations which could be placed on the board of the condenser. By setting the machine for these certain wave lengths, everything which that station sent out would be recorded, and the paper drum would mark off all the news of the day, as it was flashed from Washington, Paris, London or Moscow. The record could then be deciphered at leisure.

Prices of farm products in cities could be collected each afternoon and sent out by radio under the supervision of the department of agriculture.

Newspaper offices will be able to catch radiograms direct from distant lands, transcribe the accurate record and give you even more rapid service than under present conditions.

Warships, equipped with the recorder, would avoid errors in the receiving of messages which are now possible. Should an admiral of the

fleet wish to send radiograms to the various ships the commanders will have a record of what was sent, which can be filed away and brought up in connection with the orders

should any slip occur. The responsibility now placed on the hearing of one or more men, on the receiving end, would be eliminated.

Merchant ships, by having the re-

order placed beside the ships' chronometer, would have an automatic check on their timepiece every day when signals are sent out from observatories.



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