

THE COUNTY RECORD.

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The deadly mock marriage has again claimed two victims. This time in Jacksonville, Ill.

So much litter and dust are left behind on London Bridge by the tramp over it of 200,000 pedestrians and the rattle over it of 20,000 vehicles daily, that three or four carts are required to carry off the fine debris from leather soles and iron tires. By the incessant traffic, it is said, twenty-five cubic yards of granite are each year reduced to powder. This affords a striking illustration of the wear and tear, the attrition and grind, incident to human life in general.

Science corroborates common sense in declaring that the short skirts are more healthful than the long. Experience has taught all women that they are more comfortable and cleaner. Most women realize that they are more becoming. Yet the Texas and Connecticut authorities are foolish to waste time trying to induce women to wear them. No woman worthy of the name will do that unless they are fashionable, and then nothing could prevent her from doing it.

The Spanish chart of the Cuban coast has been found to be utterly unreliable, and a complete geodetical survey of the waters surrounding the island will soon be undertaken by the United States Navy Department. On the chart now in use the Isle of Pines is represented as being seven miles from its true location, and other errors equally surprising make the navigation of the Cuban coast without a competent pilot exceedingly precarious. It will take about three years to complete the proposed resurvey.

Although the Western red man is still in leading strings as an agriculturist, his stock raising abilities render him a factor of no little consequence in the development of the nation's possibilities of food supply. Some of the best beef supplied to the Government for army use has come from Indian cattle breeders, who have discovered that cows pay better than corn. The tremendous problem of the country's future meat supply may involve in its solution the installation of the American Indian as the chief cattle raising agency on the Western prairies.

The question is being asked why the taste of American fruit has become insipid. A common observation is that as the fruit stands grow large and fine, and the fruit offered for sale more beautiful to the eye, its edible quality becomes poorer and poorer. The reason of this, doubtless, is American enterprise. The same genius which enables us to get out Christmas papers by Thanksgiving Day, to spread winter fabrics on our counters for sale in August, accomplishes the freak of nature which puts strawberries in our mouths when peaches are in season, feasts us on watermelons in January, grapes in May and snow-apples in July. In our fierce determination to keep up with the times we have overshoot the mark, and are always ahead of the seasons, observes Harper's Bazar.

Germany is gradually lightening the hours of labor for its people and especially for the small tradesman, who has been expected to be in his shop at all hours, one might say, of day and night. Several years ago Berlin tradespeople were compelled to shut their shops on Sundays, caterers for household wants being allowed to keep open for five hours on that day. There was a great outcry against this, but in time the hausfrau adapted herself to the new arrangement, and everything went smoothly. Now, since October 1, the tradespeople have been compelled by law to close their shops at 9 o'clock in the evening on every day in the week. With this "early" closing on week days and a half holiday on Sundays the Berlin clerk thinks himself particularly happy and fortunate.

CONGRESS AT WORK.

Daily Proceedings of the National Lawmakers.

SENATE.

First Day.—In the Senate Monday the work of the short session of the Fifty-sixth Congress was successfully launched. The original purpose of the Senate to announce the death of Senators Gear, of Iowa, and Davis, of Minnesota, immediately after assembling and then to adjourn and to receive the message of the President tomorrow was put aside in order to gain one day in a session when that much time may be of immense importance. Aside from the reading of the message and the administration of the oath to Wm. P. Dillingham, the new Senator from Vermont, who succeeds the late Justin S. Morrill, no important business was transacted. The other new member of the body, former Representative Jonathan P. Dolliver, who succeeds the late Senator Gear, of Iowa, was present.

The Senator then, at 3:45 o'clock, upon motion of Mr. Allison as an additional mark of respect for the memory of Senator Gear and Senator Davis, adjourned.

Second Day.—The programme of the Senate leaders for a business session was taken up in earnest and material progress was made. The ship subsidy bill was made the unfinished business of the Senate instead of the Spooner Philippine measure and the discussion of it was opened by Mr. Frye, of Maine, chairman of the committee on commerce, from which the measure was reported. Mr. Allison presented the credentials of Jonathan Prentiss, the credentials of Jonathan Prentiss Dolliver, who was appointed to succeed the late Senator John Henry Gear, of Iowa. The oath of office was administered to Mr. Dolliver by President Pro Tem. Frye. A bill was passed to encourage the holding of an Inter-State and West Indian Exposition in Charleston, S. C., in 1901. It appropriates \$250,000 and admits exhibits free of duty.

The Senate, at 3:55, held a brief executive session, after which it adjourned.

Third Day.—Senator Frye closed his speech upon the ship subsidy bill. He devoted his attention principally to a technical explanation of the various provisions of the measure, explaining with especial care that provision which would admit to American registry foreign-built ships, upon which much of the forthcoming debate will rest. Mr. Berry, of Arkansas, presented the credentials of Samuel D. McEnery, elected a Senator from Louisiana for a term of six years from March 4, 1903. Mr. McEnery then himself presented the credentials of Murphy J. Foster, elected a Senator from Louisiana for six years beginning March 4, 1901. Both sets of credentials were filed.

Fourth Day.—The Senate transacted no business of importance in open session. Throughout almost the entire afternoon it was in executive session. The Ship Subsidy Bill therefore received no consideration. Mr. Hoar presented a resolution of the Massachusetts Legislature in favor of the purchase by the United States government of Temple Farm and Moore House at Yorktown, Va.

Mr. Martin (Va.) expressed gratification that the project had met with favor in Massachusetts, and said a bill would be presented at an early day intended to carry out the purpose of the resolution.

Mr. Clay (Ga.) presented the credentials of Hon. A. O. Bacon, his colleague re-elected to the Senate for a term of six years beginning March 4th, 1901. They were filed.

Mr. Carter (Mont.) gave notice that on Tuesday next he would call up the pending resolution relating to the contested Montana seat in the Senate, claimed by W. A. Clark and Martin Maginnis.

The Senate then, at 12:40 p. m., on motion of Mr. Lodge (Mass.), went into executive session and at 4:30 p. m. adjourned.

Fifth Day.—The Senate committee on military affairs continued its hearing upon the anti-canteen provision of the military bill, hearing in addition to a number of short speeches in advocacy of the provision, a protest against it from Rev. Mr. Miller, who served 14 months as an army chaplain in the Philippines.

Mrs. Thatcher, of New Jersey, appealed for the abolition of the canteen on financial grounds, saying that it caused soldiers to squander not only their health and their time, but their money as well. Mrs. Kells, of Mississippi, spoke for the mothers of the soldiers, saying that all of them favored the suppression of the liquor traffic.

HOUSE.

First Day.—Girded by overflowing galleries, bathed in light from the stained glass windows overhead, the hall of representatives presented a brilliant spectacle when Speaker David Broomer Henderson called the second session of the Fifty-sixth Congress to order at noon. The desks of half of the members were freighted with flowers. The wealth and beauty of the capital, gowned in smart winter frocks, were in the galleries. The floral pieces were of infinite variety. The great proportion were on the Republican side. As the hands of the clock opposite the Speaker's desk pointed to noon, the Speaker ascended the rostrum and called the House to order. Then the blind chaplain lifted up his voice in prayer. He referred feelingly to the deaths of the late Representatives Daly, of New Jersey, and Hoeffcker, of Delaware, which occurred during the recess. After the prayer

the clerk called the roll.

Second Day.—The session of the House was of brief duration.

Three bills were passed under the call of committees, the most important being one to provide for the detail

Fourth Day.—The House of Representatives today at the end of a long sitting passed the Army Reorganization Bill by a vote of 166 to 133. Pennsylvania, and Underhill and Clayton, of New York—voted with the Republicans for the bill, and Mr. McCall, of Massachusetts, with the Democrats, against it. Otherwise it was a strict party vote.

The passage of this bill was the only matter of importance disposed of by the House before adjournment.

Sixth Day.—Under a special order, adopted at the last session, the house devoted to-day after 1 o'clock to paying tribute to the memory of the late Representative Alfred Charmer, of Pennsylvania. When the house met a bill was passed to include cherries in the list of fruits from which brandy can be distilled under section 3565 of the revised statutes. At the conclusion of the eulogies the house, as an additional mark of respect, adjourned.

Paris Exposition Expenses.

Washington, D. C., Special.—Commissioner Peck's report of the expenditures of the Paris Exposition commission for the year ending November 15, 1900, was sent to the Senate. The total amount expended was \$939,465. The principal items were: Experts' salaries, \$147,604; building, \$191,427; jury, \$53,778; clerks' salaries, \$63,145; general employes' salaries, \$49,965; guards, \$34,951; traveling expenses, \$52,530.

Cotton Acreage Not Increased.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—Commissioner of Agriculture Stevens, who returned from a trip over the State, said the cotton acreage next year would not be any larger than that planted this year. "Diversified crops are beginning to tell," said Mr. Stevens. "I find the farmers are planting large quantities of wheat, more than ever before. This I regard as a good sign. The cotton in Georgia has been nearly all picked and now there are but a few hundred bales left in the fields."

To Prohibit Sale of Firearms.

Washington, D. C., Special.—The Woman's Christian Temperance Union convention, in session here, adopted resolutions against the army canteen and prepared a petition to the President, another to Congress and identical petitions to all the great powers against the sale of firearms and the importation of liquor and opium into the Philippine Islands or the island possessions of the other powers addressed.

Double Killing in Alabama.

Selma, Ala., Special.—News has been received in this city of a double killing in Wheeler's Store, a small settlement in Lowndes county. George Wheeler shot and instantly killed A. Waldrop and Calvin Harris, both white men. Waldrop had been farming on shares for Wheeler and went to his store to have a settlement. Some dispute arose over money matters at the time and Wheeler says Harris tried to reach a Winchester rifle which was laying on a counter when he shot him dead.

W. C. T. U. Adjourns.

Washington, D. C., Special.—The national Woman's Christian Temperance Union convention came to a close Friday night. Most of the closing day was devoted to superintendents' reports. A resolution was adopted declaring that the Union should work for the adoption of a constitutional amendment prohibiting polygamy. Columbus, O.; Fort Worth, Texas, and Portland, Me., each ask the honor of entertaining the convention of 1901.

A Ghastly Find.

Milledgeville, Ga., Special.—The woman's building at the State convict farm, near here, was destroyed by fire late Friday afternoon. The flames were first discovered in the hospital and are supposed to have been of incendiary origin. All the inmates of the building were gotten out in safety and with the help of volunteers from this city, the flames were prevented from spreading. In the excitement some of the convicts made a dash for liberty and several of them escaped.

Weekly Bank Statement.

New York, Special.—The weekly statement of averages of the associated banks for five days shows: Loans \$804,498,100; increase \$11,778,000; deposits \$864,410,900; increase \$13,019,600; circulation \$30,670,000, decrease \$18,200; legal tenders \$60,073,400, decrease \$310,200. Specie \$166,895,000, increase \$2,152,500; total reserve \$226,968,400, increase \$1,842,300; reserve required \$216,102,725, increase \$3,254,900; surplus reserve \$10,865,675, decrease \$1,412,600.

The city of Hamburg is about to negotiate a loan of \$10,000,000 on its own account, without waiting for imperial assistance, for the purpose of deepening the River Elbe and retaining the immense foreign trade which the port possesses.

FELL FIVE STORIES.

Baltimore Fireman Has a Narrow Escape from Leath.

RESCUED WITH SLIGHT INJURIES.

The Baltimore Bargain House and Other Property Destroyed—Heavy Losses Sustained.

Baltimore, Special.—The extensive stores and stock of the Baltimore Bargain House at 212 to 220 West Baltimore street, were totally destroyed by fire Saturday morning and the stock and building of Grotjan, Lobe and Company which adjoins it, were considerably damaged. The fire was discovered shortly after three o'clock a. m. and burned fiercely all the balance of the night and far into the morning, completely obstructing traffic in the busiest part of the city during the early morning hours. Several firemen made narrow escapes from death, but none was seriously injured. The Baltimore Bargain House, of which Mr. David Epstein is the head, is one of the largest concerns of the kind in the South and had a large holiday stock on hand. Mr. Epstein is as yet unable to give an accurate estimate of the loss on stock, but believes it will be \$50,000. Grotjan, Lobe and Company estimate their loss at \$5,000, while the loss on the building will probably swell the total to be \$300,000, all being covered by insurance.

Fireman John Flynn had a miraculous escape from being killed. He fell five stories from the rear of the Western section of the series of buildings included in the Baltimore Bargain House. Flynn was on the roof of the building. When overcome by smoke he lost his balance. His companions who saw him topple backward and fall felt sure that every bone in his body would be broken. In his fall the fireman struck three different times on a zig-zag arrangement of rain spouts. Each section that he struck gave way, but each broke the momentum of this fall.

As he struck the piece of rainspout nearest the ground, his fireman's helmet of aluminum fell off and he struck upon the helmet, mashing it as flat as a piece of pasteboard. When his companions picked him up he was unconscious, but revived shortly, when it was discovered that the only injuries he had received were a number of bruises on his shoulders and a broken ankle.

To Revise the Creed.

Washington, D. C., Special.—After two hours' deliberation the Presbyterian Committee concluded its discussion of the revision of the Westminster Confession of Faith and adjourned.

The committee find on examination of the returns from the Presbyteries the following facts:

1. That the returns plainly indicate that the church desires some changes in its credal statement.
 2. The returns indicate plainly that no change is desired which would in any way impair the integrity of the system of doctrine contained in the confession of faith.
 3. These returns also indicate, that a large plurality desire that changes should be made by some new statement of present doctrines.
 4. The returns also indicate a desire upon the part of many Presbyteries for some revision of the present confession.
 5. It was therefore unanimously agreed by the committee to recommend to the General Assembly that some revision or change be made in our confessional statements.
- The committee will convene in this city on February 12th next to finally prepare the statement to the General Assembly in May.

Superintended the Looting.

Berlin, By Cable.—The Pekin correspondent of The Deutsche Zeitung writes that several German marine officers discovered Sir Claude MacDonald, former British minister, at Pekin, and Lady MacDonald, personally superintending coolies who were carrying off treasures from the Chinese imperial palace to the British legation buildings.

Telegraphers Strike.

Chicago, Special.—Six hundred telegraph operators on the lines of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad struck in sympathy with the operators on the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railroad, a branch of the Atchison system, who went out last Thursday. The foregoing statement is according to the best information obtainable from the company's officials to-night. The entire number of operators on the system is 1,200, of whom 900 are said to be union men. Of the 900 members of the union, 300, it is stated, refused to strike, leaving the system with about one-half its men at work.

INDUSTRIAL CONVENTION.

Meeting in New Orleans—Address by Gen. Gordon.

New Orleans, La., Special.—The Southern Industrial Convention opened here Tuesday, with a fine attendance. President H. H. Hargrove called the convention to order and Bishop David Sessums opened the proceedings with prayer. Governor W. W. Heard delivered the address of welcome in behalf of the State. The roll-call of State was called and among the others who responded were General John B. Gordon, of Georgia. His address was pronounced the most eloquent ever heard here. He said in regard to politics, advertising to the subject through indirect reference to the motto of the convention, "No politics, no sectionalism, but business;" that he wanted to say that whatever the people of the South had been in favor in the past they were no longer in favor of a narrow or contracted national policy. At the conclusion of General Gordon's address President Alderman, of Tulane University, then read his paper, entitled "The Southern Industrial Convention."

Three Constitutions Presented.

Havana, By Cable.—The Cuban constitutional convention resumed its session Tuesday. Three complete constitutions were submitted by General Rivera, Senor De Quesada and the colored general, Morua, respectively.

General Rivera's proposed constitution provides for a President, a Senate, a House of Representatives, a governor for each of the six provinces, a legislative body for each province and one member of the House of Representatives for every 30,000 inhabitants, with an election by popular vote. His scheme called also for the election of three electors in each municipal district, whose duty it shall be to elect a legislative body of eleven for the province in which they reside. This legislative body shall elect the governor and four members of the Senate. Finally, the six legislatures will meet and choose the President, who must be a native Cuban. Candidates for senatorial honors must have incomes of at least \$1,500 a year. General Rivera's plan is to have the power vested in the central government and the convention virtually pledged itself to one State government at yesterday's secret session.

Senor De Quesada's proposal would centralize the government in a President, Senate and House of Representatives elected by the people, suffrage being restricted to educational qualifications.

General Morua offered for approval the constitution of the United States, with the exception that any one who fought in the war might be chosen President. His proposal leaves the question of an army and navy to be decided by Congress.

Senor Zayas offered a clause providing that a judicial body higher than the Supreme Court should be elected by popular vote and providing that any officials removed from office should have the right of appeal to this body.

Senor Ferrara submitted a general educational scheme.

A Fatal Wreck.

Sacramento, Cal., Special.—A work train, carrying its crew of between 25 and 30 track repairers, backed into a freight train a few miles east of Sulz, on the Southern Pacific and in the wreck which followed nine men were killed and twenty more injured, many of them seriously. From the meagre reports received it appears that the freight train had the right of way and was running at full speed in order to meet and pass another freight at Sulz. The work train should have been on a siding and was making for it at a good rate of speed when it collided with the freight. A heavy fog was prevailing and it was impossible to discern objects for any distance and the shock of the colliding trains was terrific. All the casualties are reported to be among the men of the working crew, as the engineers and firemen jumped and saved themselves. Over 200 feet of track was torn up and the cars were smashed and piled upon each other in every conceivable shape.

Soldiers Return.

Norfolk, Special.—The United States transport Rawlins arrived at Pinner's Point Tuesday from Porto Rico. There are aboard ten officers and 287 enlisted men of the Eleventh Infantry, en route for Fort McPherson, and will leave in the morning for Atlanta on a special train over the Southern Railway.

Telegraphic Briefs.

Herr Debring has been appointed Commissioner of Chinese Customs at Tientsin, succeeding E. B. Drew.

The naval tug Hercules will blow up a sunken derelict at Five Fatton Bank Light, off the Virginia coast.

The promoters of the Innocents' Club, whose fleecings of members of the German aristocracy have been a year-long scandal, were sentenced at Berlin to short terms in prison.

While trying to stop a fight, Robert Leach, colored, was shot and killed by Oscar Cassell.

Colonel W. J. Samford, who is very ill, was sworn in as Governor of Alabama at Opelika, Fla.