

The death plant of Java has flowers which continually give off a perfume so powerful as to overcome, if inhaled for any length of time, a full-grown man, and which kills all forms of insect life that come under its influence.

Nature's infinite variety is well illustrated in the collection of photographs of snow crystals made during the past 20 years by W. A. Bentley, of Vermont. He has now more than one thousand photographs of individual crystals, and among them no two are alike.

A new field for the bicycle seems to have opened in South Africa. A correspondent of the London Globe says that the loss of so many horses in the Boer war has made the price of horses high, and that, therefore, many Boers and no small number of Kaffirs have taken to the bicycle. Among the Kaffirs, who ride barefooted, the "rat-trap" pedal is not a favorite.

The people of Korea are neither Japanese nor Chinese. They are Mongolians, and have a polysyllabic language, with a phonetic alphabet. They have a recorded history of undisputed authenticity, which claims for them a continuous existence as a Korean people of about five thousand years, the earlier part of which, of course, is shrouded in the mists of tradition and fable.

The Japs are evidently preparing to continue the war to the bitter end, irrespective of time and season, for they have just finished a submarine boat intended to blow up men-of-war in ice-bound harbors. The boat can travel immense distances under the arctic ice, then rise to the surface and act the part of a torpedo to again vanish before the enemy can realize what struck him.

It is announced that a New England Yankee has succeeded in making a substitute for willow ware, tough and durable, which will supplant the German willow ware, of which we import millions of dollars worth annually. Whether this invention is a practical one or not, there is no reason why American farmers can not raise all the willow rods which this country can consume in the way of baskets and willow work.

The latest type of burglars is the impersonator of an employe of the fire department. With brazen boldness he enters a hotel, informs the clerk that he has been sent to inspect the fire escapes, is given a guide and goes from apartment to apartment, sending the shivering guide out on the fire escape to perform some sort of stunt which takes him out of range of vision of the pseudo fireman, while the latter gathers unto himself everything valuable in sight.

Two marble columns of beautiful design and antiquity, belonging to a church in the town of Cave, near Rome, which previously formed part of some ancient monument, were bought by a Florentine agent recently and taken to Rome, prior to being shipped to an American customer. The Italian government discovered the contemplated exportation of a work of art, and seized the columns, refusing to refund to the antiquarian the sum he had paid for them.

The report of the tests of structural steel at the Boston insurance experiment stations shows that if structural steel is encased in a sound covering of good concrete it is proof against corrosion for a period of years which is so long as to make the subject of more interest to our great-grandchildren's children than to us. Steel, properly covered with concrete, may be expected to last until the substitution of yet more modern construction necessitates the removal of the building.

There is a jeweler in New York city who makes a specialty of curing sick and sulky gems. All jewels except diamonds, he says, are liable to maladies. Rubies, sapphires and pearls have their separate ailments, but diamonds are immune from their great hardness. Precious stones are all affected by surrounding conditions. The general cure is the application of acids, but it requires an expert to do it. Pearls suffer most. They age early and lose all their value in reflection of beautiful colors.

Albert Herpin, born in France in 1863, and for 15 years a resident in Trenton, N. J., declares he has not slept a wink during the last ten years and his eyes were seldom closed in slumber for several years preceding. He is in perfect health and does not seem to suffer any discomfort from his remarkable condition. He goes to bed regularly, but says he never closes his eyes, or at least never for an instant loses consciousness of all that is going on about him. In the morning he arises refreshed.

At last we have obtained a satisfactory war food," said Commissary General Weston. "It is a mixture of fresh beef and fresh vegetables put up in a dry state—a concentrated ration, healthful and palatable, which can be supplied to our troops wherever they go. During the last few weeks we have been feeding it experimentally to the soldiers at a number of posts in the West, and it has proved in all respects acceptable. What is needed in time of war, to keep the fighting men healthy, is fresh vegetables and fresh meat."

CZAR'S SQUADRON MAKES ITS ESCAPE

VLADIVOSTOK SHIPS DYNAMITE WAY THROUGH ICE AND PUT TO SEA.

Japanese Attack on Newchwang Expected and Plans Are Made to Resist It—Little Damage Done by Port Arthur Bombardment.

London, March 19.—The report comes from St. Petersburg this morning that the Vladivostok squadron dynamited its way through the ice in the harbor last Tuesday and put to sea. The report states, further, that it is conjectured at St. Petersburg that the fleet has gone to Saghalien island. If the news is true it proves that the squadron was really inside the harbor at Vladivostok when the Japanese fleet bombarded that port on March 6.

Ready to Resist. All advices from the far east this morning indicate that Russia is making hurried preparation to resist a Japanese attack on Newchwang. It seems to be conceded by the Russians that Japan has landed a large force of troops in the Liaotung gulf, and that Newchwang is to be the first objective.

Fleet Fails to Escape. Tokio, March 19.—The report that Admiral Makaroff attempted to make a dash out of Port Arthur for the purpose of uniting the remnants of his fleet with the Vladivostok squadron is officially confirmed.

On the night of March 10 Admiral Makaroff, with the few undamaged and repaired vessels under his flag, crept out of the outer harbor. The night was dark. On the next morning, however, Makaroff's vessels were discovered by Togo's scouts, and, knowing that the strong Japanese fleet had them shut off from the north, the Russians returned to Port Arthur, where they still remain.

Little Damage Done. St. Petersburg, March 19.—A correspondent, who has just visited Port Arthur, telegraphs from Mukden as follows: "Despite the various bombardments at Port Arthur the external aspect of the city remains unchanged, although the enemy fired an enormous number of projectiles. The enemy in endeavoring to stand as far as possible outside the range of the Russian batteries, rendered their own fire ineffective. Six hours of firing by the heaviest guns during the last bombardment did not demolish a single building, but cost a few lives."

Japanese Wounded. According to information received from Russians at Shanghai during the fighting at Port Arthur February 10 and February 11 the battleship Mikasa was struck by ten projectiles and seriously damaged. Two Japanese battleships and two cruisers have been docked for repairs at Nagasaki and Sasebo and 2,000 wounded men are said to be in the Japanese hospitals.

No Japanese in Manchuria. Newchwang, March 19.—Rumors that the Japanese have established themselves in southern Manchuria are unworthy of credence. No Japanese have been seen north of the Yalu, and none of their scouts seem to have been there since the beginning of the march. On the other hand, the Russians are reported to have crossed the Yalu to the south, leaving a small force to guard the river. Mounted messengers pass both ways daily.

WOOD CONFIRMED. Long Contest Over His Appointment to Be Major General Ends in His Favor.

Washington, May 19.—By the action of the senate in executive session yesterday Gen. Leonard Wood became a major general, taking the rank from August 8, 1893, the day President Roosevelt made the promotion. The contest against his confirmation has been a notable one, beginning November 19, 1903, soon after congress convened in special session, and continuing through the present session until Friday, when by a vote of 45 to 16 the nomination was confirmed. Five democratic senators voted with the majority in favor of confirmation and two republican senators voted against.

Good Effect of Avalanche. Seattle, Wash., March 19.—An avalanche in the Cascade mountains in the recent storm opened one of the largest veins of bituminous coal ever found in Washington. The big snowslide occurred in a lonely part of the mountains. It covered a mountain road for a quarter of a mile to a great depth, and timber cruisers estimate that it carried down 2,000,000 feet of timber from the mountain side.

Survivor of Light Brigade Dead. New London, Conn., March 16.—William E. Miller, who claimed to be a survivor of the light brigade which made the famous charge at Balaklava in 1854, is dead at his residence in Groton. He was born in Scotland in 1828. He served in the United States navy during the civil war.

Blast Kills Three. Chicago, March 16.—A box of percussion caps exploded in the factory of the Chicago Toy & Novelty company, causing the death of three persons and the injury of many others. Fire followed the explosion and the plant was practically destroyed.

Ex-Senator Moody Dies. Los Angeles, Cal., March 18.—Gideon C. Moody, who was the first United States senator from South Dakota, died at his home in this city yesterday, aged 72 years.

CONDITIONS FAVORABLE.

Dun and Bradstreet Find Much Encouragement in Business Situation of the Country.

New York, March 19.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: "Improvement in trade and industry continues, favorable reports largely outnumbering adverse influences. The most important event of the week was the two-thirds vote by bituminous coal miners to accept the proposed reduction in wages. This will probably prevent a serious struggle that would paralyze manufacturing just when it is beginning to revive. Complications have arisen in the local building trades that retard structural work, but a settlement is anticipated and the open weather is stimulating outdoor work at other points. Retail distribution of Easter goods steadily expands and dealers' stocks are being depleted because of conservatism in initial purchases. This promises large supplementary jobbing and wholesale orders as the season advances."

"Failures this week numbered 229 in the United States, compared with 220 last year, and 21 in Canada, against 22 a year ago."

Bradstreet's says: "The backwardness of spring trade, generally attributed to almost interruptedly bad weather, tinges most reports from distributive centers, but several developments of the week have been notably favorable."

COTTON KING DETHRONED.

Daniel J. Sully, Famous Operator, Forced to Suspend and His Losses Are Heavy.

New York, March 19.—Daniel J. Sully, the cotton king of the world, failed to meet his margins on the Cotton Exchange yesterday and his firm announced a suspension of business. It is estimated Sully had lost \$5,000,000 in the last ten days on declines in the prices of cotton in a speculative market where he traded as a persistent bull. Despite his herculean efforts, prices dropped still further yesterday morning and in the afternoon he was overwhelmed with cotton offered for sale. Then his firm announced its inability to trade further. After the day's excitement was over Sully announced that he would "soon be on his feet again."

FIVE TRAMPS KILLED.

Broken Rail Causes a Fatal Disaster on Colorado & Southern Road.

Trinidad, Col., March 19.—Five unknown tramps, who were stealing a ride, were killed in a freight wreck on the Colorado & Southern railroad at Mayne, a small station 40 miles north of here Friday night. The engine and five cars of the train are piled in a ditch, and the bodies of the victims of the wreck have not been recovered. The accident was caused by a broken rail. The crew escaped.

Defeat for Balfour.

London, March 16.—By a brilliant coup engineered by the Irish members, Premier Balfour's government was defeated yesterday in the house of commons by the combined nationalist and liberal vote. The government reverse was due to the prohibition by Mr. Wyndham, chief secretary for Ireland, on the teaching of Gaelic in the junior grades of the Irish nationalist schools. Mr. Balfour, though defeated by a majority of 11 on this question, will not resign.

Mail Sacks Stolen.

La Crosse, Wis., March 19.—It has just been reported in local post office circles that two sacks of registered mail were stolen from a night train on the Milwaukee road at New Lisbon, Wis., Wednesday night. The mail sacks were taken to the woods near the town and completely rifled of their contents. It is reported that the mail contained several thousand dollars, but local post office authorities will make no statement as to the exact amount.

Held for an Inhuman Crime.

Edwardsville, Ill., March 16.—A coroner's jury returned a verdict holding Gust Simek, aged 21, on a charge of having killed her baby. The woman came from Bohemia and has only been in this country a short time. The members of the family with whom she was living discovered her poking the kitchen stove and upon investigation found the half charred remains of the baby.

Didn't Believe in Banks.

Morgantown, W. Va., March 17.—Three burglars entered the home of James Pickenpaugh, a farmer living at Chestneck, near here, early Wednesday, and after torturing their victims secured \$1,100 in gold and silver and escaped. Pickenpaugh had no faith in the stability of the banks, and carried the money, which represented his savings for 20 years, strapped about his waist in wallets.

Press Congress.

St. Louis, Mo., March 18.—The programme for the national and international press congress at the world's fair, beginning May 16, has just been completed. It is expected that 4,000 newspaper men will be in attendance, and of these more than 100 will be editors of leading foreign papers. The others will be members of 30 or more press associations.

Renominated.

Meadville, Pa., March 19.—Arthur L. Bates was renominated for congress by the republicans in the Twenty-fifth district Friday without opposition.

NO STRIKE AMONG THE COAL MINERS

REPORTS SHOW BIG MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF ACCEPTANCE OF WAGE CUT.

The Ballots Show That 98,514 Employees Favor Operators' Proposition and 67,373 Voted Against Accepting Two Years' Contract.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 19.—Secretary-Treasurer W. E. Wilson, of the United Mine Workers, announced yesterday that the tellers had finished the count of the referendum vote of the miners on the operators' compromise proposition, which provides for a reduction of 5.55 per cent. from the present scale, which resulted in a majority of 31,141 in favor of accepting the two-years' contract with the reduction. The total vote cast by the miners' local unions in Indiana, Ohio, western Pennsylvania, Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia and Iowa was 166,887, of which 98,514 voted in favor of accepting the reduction, while 67,373 voted in favor of a strike. No official call will be made for the meeting of the joint subcommittee, which will be held at the national headquarters of the miners' organization Monday, for the purpose of signing the new wage scale, which becomes operative April 1, continuing for two years. The work of counting the vote continued from ten o'clock a. m. until ten o'clock Thursday night, beginning again at eight o'clock Friday

FIFTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

Summary of Work Done in Senate and House by the Lawmakers of the Nation.

Washington, March 14.—The senate on Saturday considered the fortification appropriation bill and passed a bill having for its purpose the prevention of the desecration of the American flag by its use for advertising purposes. In the house Speaker Cannon appointed a select committee to conduct the investigation of the Bristow postal report. The conference report on the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill was agreed to.

Washington, March 15.—The fortification bill was before the senate all day yesterday, the provision for the purchase of a submarine boat of a designated type taking up the entire session. Legislation for the District of Columbia and the post office appropriation bill occupied the attention of the house. The rural free delivery service received most attention. Both sides declared their friendship for it.

Washington, March 16.—The senate passed the fortification appropriation bill yesterday with an amendment authorizing the purchase of sites of defense works in the Hawaiian islands. In the house the post office appropriation bill was further discussed.

Washington, March 17.—Another day of the senate was devoted to consideration, in executive session, of the nomination of Gen. Leonard Wood to be major general. In the house, during the discussion of the post office appropriation bill, Mr. Spight (Miss.) discussed the negro question, and declared unjust the attacks on the people of the south who had been charged with brutality and barbarism toward the colored race.

Washington, March 18.—The time in

WARE MAKES NEW PENSION RULING

DECISION OF COMMISSIONER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OLD SOLDIERS.

Claimants Beyond Above Age Will Not Be Required to Undergo Examination—Great Saving Expected Under the Order.

Washington, March 17.—Commissioner of Pensions Ware, with the approval of Secretary Hitchcock, on Wednesday promulgated the most important pension ruling that has been issued in a long time. It directs that beginning April 13 next, if there is no contrary evidence and all other legal requirements have been met, claimants for pension under the general act of June 27, 1890, who are over 62 years old, shall be considered as disabled one-half in ability to perform manual labor and shall be entitled to \$6 a month, over 65 years, to \$8; over 68 years, to \$10, and over 70, \$12, the usual allowances at higher rates continuing for disabilities other than age.

The Commissioner's Views.

Commissioner Ware, just before leaving for a trip south for his health, spoke as follows regarding the order, which he said would save both the old soldiers and the government a great deal of money and time: "There has long been in the bureau a rule fixing a maximum age limit at \$12 for 75 years. This was made during Mr. Cleveland's administration by Commissioner Lochren, now federal judge in Minnesota. The 65-year minimum limit has been a long while in force in the bureau, but I am not advised by whom it was established nor is it particularly material since it met with general acquiescence. The act of congress, which was passed in the latter part of January, 1887, and approved by President Cleveland, put all the Mexican war veterans on the pension roll 39 years exactly after the end of the Mexican war.

Entitled to Like Treatment.

"It would seem that if 39 years after the expiration of service a Mexican war soldier was entitled to a pension at 62 years, and no other requisite for drawing a pension should exist except age, that to soldiers of the civil war who fought vastly more and longer, at least as good a rule ought to apply. The Mexican war limit of 62 years was probably brought about by the well-known army limit of 62 years at which officers are retired. There seems to be a general consensus of opinion that at 62 years the disabilities of old age have set in. The order could not have been issued earlier, because it is only now that the 39 years fixed by the congressional limit has been reached. The civil war ended April 13, 1865, and in enlistments in the loyal states those who enlisted after that time are held to have no pensionable service during the war of the rebellion. Hence the 39 years would expire on the 13th of next month, and it is very proper that the order should be issued fixing the sixty-second year as the minimum age limit and the Biblical three score and ten as the maximum.

Will Save Money and Time.

"There is an advantage and saving to the government in the use of this order, because every old soldier who has reached the age of 62 years is able to prove almost without possibility of doubt that he is one-half disabled from earning his support by manual labor. This being so, it seems unwise to put a soldier to the expense of time and transportation to go to a place where a medical board can examine him to find that fact out, and on the other hand it seems unnecessary for the government to keep boards established, and then pay six dollars for the examination of a soldier when the result of the examination can be so accurately foretold. I am of the opinion that this order will save the government a good deal of money. Of the 200,000 examinations in the last year, if one-fourth of them were saved it would make \$300,000, and perhaps an equal amount in time and transportation to the old soldiers, who would have to go and be examined."

Banker Indicted.

Sioux City, Ia., March 17.—W. E. Brown, president of the First National bank of Storm Lake and owner of the Farmers' and Merchants' at Lynn Grove, the Farmers' and Merchants' at Sioux Rapids, and the Bank of Royal, all failed, was indicted Wednesday by the Buena Vista county grand jury on eight counts for receiving money after he knew the banks to be insolvent. A. J. Wilson, receiver of the banks, testified that Brown's liabilities were over \$500,000.

Domestic Troubles End in Tragedy.

Chapman, Kan., March 17.—Robert Kenney, a wealthy young farmer, shot and killed his wife Alice Kenney, at their home here Wednesday and then killed himself. Two years ago Kenney was sued for breach of promise by the woman he killed and a judgment of \$6,000 rendered against him. The suit was compromised by his marrying her, but recently she sued him for divorce, alleging cruelty.

Overdue Steamer Arrives.

Halifax, N. S., March 17.—The French line steamer Pro Patria, thought to have been lost, arrived at St. Pierre Wednesday. She had been out more than two weeks from St. Pierre bound for Halifax. She was caught in the ice and remained helpless for many days.

Illinois Democrats.

Springfield, Ill., March 18.—The call issued for the democratic state convention in Springfield, June 14, provides for 1,341 delegates.

THAT PUZZLING DIPLOMACY.



RUSSIA—I Wondersky Whatsky He Is Thinking Aboutovitch?

morning and lasting until 12:40 Friday afternoon.

Officers Pleased.

The national officers of the organization, who advised the acceptance of the proposition at the recent convention, feel that the organization has won a signal victory, and that the miners are assured of peace under an advantageous contract for the space of two years at least, the acceptance of the reduction carrying with it a contract for that length of time.

For National Highway.

Erie, Pa., March 18.—Going on record as not being opposed to the improvement of any roads the first annual meeting of the New York and Chicago Road association closed Thursday with the adoption of a resolution favoring the building of a national highway between the two cities named above through the southern tier of counties of New York and westwardly along the lake shore through Cleveland and Toledo to Chicago.

Cannon's Little Joke.

Washington, March 16.—While Mr. William Alden Smith was nominating Speaker Cannon for the presidency in the house Friday Mr. Cannon's county convention was endorsing President Roosevelt enthusiastically. This endorsement reached the speaker Monday and he immediately forwarded it to the white house with his compliments and this memorandum: "If I was so soon to be done for what was I ever begun for?"

Election Laws Changed.

Columbus, O., March 18.—There will be no municipal elections in Ohio this spring. Gov. Herrick has signed the Chapman bill abolishing spring elections, and it is now a law. The terms of all elective municipal officers, which would have expired in April, have been extended until after the elections next November.

Father and Son Arrested.

Toledo, O., March 17.—Myron E. Townsend, postmaster at Edison, O., and his son, Alfred E. Townsend, were arrested Wednesday, the former charged with embezzling post office funds to the amount of \$750, and the latter, his deputy, charged with riding registered letters.

the senate yesterday was again occupied in discussing the nomination of Gen. Wood. In the house the post office appropriation bill was further considered.

Washington, March 19.—In the senate yesterday the appointment of Leonard Wood to be major general was confirmed. In the house the post office appropriation bill was further discussed and a resolution providing for an investigation of the trust question by a committee of five members of the house was introduced.

Signed the Bill.

Baltimore, Md., March 19.—Gov. Warfield has approved the so-called "Jim Crow" bill relating to railroad and steamboat travel in the state, and the act will go into effect. The bill requires companies to provide separate coaches for colored passengers except on express trains and trains with Pullman coaches attached.

Cleveland Celebrates Birthday.

Princeton, N. J., March 19.—Former President Cleveland quietly observed his sixty-seventh birthday at his home here Friday. There was no celebration, except that he received some of his most intimate Princeton friends, who called to offer their congratulations. He also received a number of congratulatory telegrams.

Death of Henry Thurber.

Detroit, Mich., March 18.—Henry T. Thurber, a well-known attorney of this city, who was secretary to President Cleveland during his second term, died here yesterday. He was operated on for appendicitis two weeks ago. Mr. Thurber was born in Monroe, Mich., a little over 50 years ago.

Boston Celebrates.

Boston, March 18.—The one hundred and twenty-eighth anniversary of the evacuation of Boston by the British troops was observed here yesterday. The guest of honor was Secretary of the Navy William H. Moody.

Policemen Indicted.

St. Louis, March 19.—Eight members of the police force have been indicted on charges of aiding and abetting in the intimidation of voters and ordered by the chief of police to appear in court today.