

The Italian ministry of posts and telegraphs has received authority from the parliament to establish telephonic connections between Brescia and Bergamo; Lecco and Bergamo; Cremona and Piacenza; Genoa, Pisa and Leghorn; Naples, Foggia and Barletta; Naples, Reggio, Calabria and Messina.

The Japanese have a race of silkworms to which they apply a name the equivalent of "the beggar." These worms feed greedily upon withered or otherwise spoiled leaves, which one of the self-respecting races of silkworms wouldn't touch. Yet their larvae remains as vigorous as those of the more fastidious races.

The international road over the Grand St. Bernard Pass was opened on August 25, 1904. For the first time, on that day a carriage starting from the Hotel du Mont Blanc, in Martigny, Canton of Valais, Switzerland, for Absta, Italy. Italy has been some 12 years building this road, which marks the route followed by Napoleon in 1800.

Only the very rich have fences around their farms in Japan. The Japanese do not like to spare the square feet a fence would take up. If a border around a field is necessary, it is made of mulberry trees, the leaves of which are good for silkworms. It is said that 190,000 acres that would otherwise be taken up with fences are thus used.

It is estimated that 5,000 cases of preventable typhoid fever have occurred in Philadelphia within a year, 10 per cent of which resulted in death. By figuring the money value of each life lost at \$1,000 and computing the expenses and loss of time it is found that the total charge against this disease in this one city for the period of a year is over \$1,550,000.

An expert statistician figures that there are to-day some 5,000,000 of adult males that is, one out of every three, in this country who carry life insurance, outside of the fraternal orders and the like. There were, at the end of last year, nearly 19,000,000 policies in force. There are only a little more than twice as many adult males to-day as there were 40 years ago.

In spite of the fact that man is not an instinctive swimmer, as is the case with most of the lower animals, he excels all of the latter in aquatic endurance. It is reported that, in attempting to swim the English channel recently, a man covered 30 miles before he succumbed to exhaustion. The only land animals that are known to be able to approximate such a feat are the bear, horse and deer.

Most of our maps of Asia are drawn to a small scale, and on such maps, the Japanese archipelago fills little space. But she is larger than England and more populous. She has 6,000,000 more people than France. She sent six armies over sea within six months, every one of which was as big as either army that met at Waterloo. She has sent to Manchuria twice as many soldiers in six months as England sent to South Africa in two years.

The heavy falling-off in exports of wheat from the United States since the 1903 harvest has probably been the most unexpected and surprising occurrence of equal importance in the foreign grain trade of the United States in many years. And there have been few years, if any, when such an unanticipated shortage of American wheat in the world's markets would not have produced serious results. The United Kingdom, as is well known, is the heaviest importer of wheat and flour in the world.

Abyssinia is being provided with the telephone—another advance, surely, of civilization. Nearly 800 miles of wire have been put up, and 1,000 more are in process of construction. It would seem, however, that the contractor who is doing the work for the Abyssinian government has had to encounter unusual difficulties. Tropical rains wash out the poles, white ants eat away the parts in the ground, and when iron poles are substituted for wood the natives steal them to make tools. Monkeys find the wire delightful swings.

It is the consensus of opinion among members of the Panama commission and others who have studied the situation that Americans, both in the United States and Panama, have greatly exaggerated the increase of population which will result from the construction of the canal, and the number of men who will be employed by the commission. It is not probable, in view of the modern systems to be employed in construction, that there will be over 12,000 or 15,000 men employed as ordinary laborers along the line of the canal.

Why does the dog hate the cat? Scientists have been investigating the enmity between these animals, and they believe that the instinctive hatred which certain beasts feel for each other is due to inheritance from ancient times, when the animals met in a wild state and preyed on each other. The enmity between cats and dogs seems to be due more to hatred on the part of the dog than of the cat. The latter animal apparently hates dogs because dogs chase her, while the dog hates the cat because she is a cat.

FIGHT IS STOPPED BY BAD WEATHER

OPPOSING ARMIES IN MANCHURIA ARE GIVEN A MUCH NEEDED REST.

Battle Raged for Ten Days and Was Worst of War—Losses Enormous—The Victory of the Japs Was Undecided.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 20.—There has been an end, for the time being, of the fighting on a large scale which began when, on October 9, Gen. Kuropatkin announced to his army that the time had arrived for an advance against the Japanese. Heavy rains and consequent bad roads have made military operations on either side extremely difficult, if not impossible. The interruption, according to advices received at St. Petersburg, is being utilized by both the Russian and Japanese commanders in making new dispositions of forces, and new objective points are likely to develop when active operations are resumed. Practically, last week's battle has ended, and it goes into history as a Russian defeat. When operations are resumed a new battle will begin.

There is a popular impression here that affairs at Port Arthur are reaching a crisis, and it is believed that the end is only a question of days. No accurate estimate of the losses during the ten days of awful fighting can be made. It is, however, not an exaggeration to say that the total of killed, wounded and captured on both sides will reach 50,000 men.

Storming of Lone Tree Hill. The storming of the Lone Tree hill for valor and slaughter will occupy a place by itself in military annals. The hill is a precipitous rocky height, and although the Japanese had occupied it only a short time they had thrown up very strong defenses. The river running at its foot increased the difficulty of the task, but it was scaled and carried successfully against the unprecedented opposition of a Japanese division, 14,000 men, with many guns. The Russian losses were terrible. The fighting on the crest of the hill was altogether with cold steel. The Russian officers, with swords aloft leading the scaling column, were literally lifted in the air by the Japanese bayonets and the Japanese then bayoneted the first of the Russian soldiers who piled in the trenches. All the dead in the trenches were bayoneted, their weapons bearing the marks of the dreadful combat.

An Awful Spectacle. The battlefield of Lone Tree hill presents the most awful spectacle that can be conceived. Russian and Japanese dead are mingled in heaps in inextricable confusion. The ground is strewn with broken rifles that had been smashed in hand-to-hand fighting. Everything seems to have been utilized as weapons. The Russian doctors are working heroically on the slopes of the hill in the attempt to save those of the wounded who still survive, but the Japanese keep up a sniping fire and render the work of relief difficult and dangerous.

Still Shelling Port Arthur. St. Petersburg, Oct. 22.—News from Port Arthur brought to Chefoo by a junk which left there October 19 says a fierce bombardment which began October 16 was still progressing without interruption. Many buildings had been damaged and ships in the harbor had also been hit by the shells, but the character and extent of the damages are not stated. The Japanese main forces are now posted at Liudziatung. They have placed guns of large caliber on Lunjida mountain. The Russians continue making sorties successfully and inflicting heavy losses on the besiegers, whose losses since the commencement of the siege are said to have been 50,000.

LEAPED TO HIS DEATH.

While Suffering from Nervous Trouble Noted Surgeon Jumps from Hospital Window.

Philadelphia, Oct. 21.—Suffering from acute nervous disorders, Dr. George H. Purviance, of Washington, D. C., assistant surgeon general of the marine hospital service, jumped from the fourth story window of the Orthopaedic hospital in this city Thursday evening and was instantly killed. He was about 63 years old and came to the hospital August 8 to be treated for neurasthenia and general breakdown. A nurse who attempted to prevent the doctor from leaping to the sidewalk had a thrilling escape from death. The nurse, who was closely watching the patient, saw him open a window on the fourth floor and step out on a small balcony. She followed quickly and grasped the doctor on the shoulder as he was climbing over the balcony rail. He tried to free himself and then caught the nurse around the waist and was slowly dragging her over the rail when she managed to break his hold. Before she could again seize him the invalid plunged head foremost into an area-way below the sidewalk. He was dead when picked up.

Democratic Nominees Endorsed. New York, Oct. 21.—Letters were sent Thursday to Messrs. Hearst, Sulzer, Towne, Baker and Laughlin, nominees for congress on the democratic ticket in this city, officially notifying them that they also have been nominated by the people's party.

Suicide of County Official. Bloomington, Ill., Oct. 21.—Matthew Cunningham county recorder, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head. A representative of a bonding company arrived to investigate an alleged shortage of \$488.65 in the accounts with the county.

DEATH IN PLACE OF TRYST.

Woman Goes to Meet Lover and Is Confronted by His Son—Fatal Fight Follows.

Peoria, Ill., Oct. 22.—Mrs. Nellie Thomason, wife of a formerly prominent real estate dealer in this city, died at Lacon Thursday night as the result of injuries received in a sensational encounter with Richard and Jennie Higgins, children of John G. Higgins, a prominent member of the board of supervisors of Peoria county. The Higgins children intercepted a letter written to their father by Mrs. Thomason, 11 is said, in which she is said to have asked him to meet her at the station on the Rock Island road in this city. Higgins was at St. Louis, and his son opened the letter. The missive asked Higgins to be in the waiting room. When Mrs. Thomason arrived she was confronted by young Higgins and his sister. "Some time later the woman asked C. A. Brant, the ticket agent, to assist her to the train. He did so, and when she was gone he found the floor of the waiting room covered with blood. The woman lingered in great agony at her home in Lacon until Thursday night, when she died.

Higgins is under arrest on a state warrant charging him with murder. Mrs. Thomason had lain in a comatose condition since Wednesday night, rallying enough to speak a word or two at times. Her body presented a horrible appearance. Her lip was severed, both eyes were blacked, one shoulder was dislocated and her back was covered with bruises, evidently inflicted with a boot or heavy instrument.

The attack on Mrs. Thomason occurred Saturday noon. Young Higgins is 24 years old and his sister is 20 years old. Higgins wept when placed in jail. "We had been trying for years to break up the relations between my father and this woman," he said. "When we got that letter my sister and I went down to see if we could not make arrangements with her. We met her in the waiting room. I went up to her and touched her on the shoulder. 'Mrs. Thomason, I believe,' I said. She turned quickly and said: 'Oh, it's you, is it?' and drew out her hatpin. I then struck her sharply on the side of the face and knocked her over a chair. My sister then pulled me away and told me that I would be arrested—that we could not do anything with her. That's all there was to it."

VICTIM OF AUTO ACCIDENT.

Machine Plunges from Bridge and Driver Is Killed—His Companion Badly Injured.

Rockford, Ill., Oct. 22.—George A. Bennett, one of the most prominent citizens of Marengo, Ill., was killed in an automobile accident at Harmony, six miles southeast of Marengo, Friday afternoon. Robert Willard, his cousin, who accompanied him, was so severely injured that his recovery is doubtful. During the ride Mr. Bennett touched a lever with the intention of stopping the automobile, but in his confusion caught the wrong one and turned the machine sharply to one side and over a small bridge, the drop being about ten feet. The machine toppled over on the men. Mr. Bennett was unconscious when removed and lived only about one hour. Mr. Willard was horribly mangled about the head and chest. Both victims of the accident are among the most widely known residents of the county. Mr. Bennett was for many years supreme secretary of the Patrons of Industry. He entered the United States mail service some years ago and at the time of his death was rural route inspector for northern Illinois.

DROPPED DEAD.

Guest of Hotel in St. Louis Stricken Down at the Telephone.

St. Louis, Oct. 22.—While standing at a telephone in his room at the Buckingham hotel Friday, endeavoring to summon assistance, Albert Sherwin, of Leadville, Col., dropped dead from heart failure. Mr. Sherwin's son, William, was standing in the hotel office when the operator called him to the phone, saying: "Your father says he is dying and wants to speak to you." Young Sherwin without waiting to go to the telephone hastened to his father's room and found him lying dead on the floor, immediately below the wall telephone.

Boy Wins First Prize.

St. Louis, Oct. 20.—The world's fair jury decided that in the contest for kites to rise to an altitude of at least 500 feet with 800 feet of line, awards should be made as follows: First prize (\$500), J. B. Wardwell, of Stamford, Conn.; second prize (\$300), J. N. Patout, of St. Louis; third prize (\$200), H. B. Bristol, of Webster Groves, Mo. The winner of the first prize is a boy of 16 and the only contestant with the exception of his father, who used a box kite, the others using Edy kites.

Helen Keller Honored.

St. Louis, Oct. 19.—"Helen Keller day," named in honor of Miss Helen Adams Keller, of Boston, who, born deaf, dumb and blind, has acquired national fame through her educational success, and the only person in whose honor the Louisiana Purchase Exposition company has designated a special day, was celebrated at the world's fair grounds Tuesday with exercises participated in by prominent educators of the deaf, dumb and blind from all parts of the United States.

Renominated.

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 21.—Congressman Alfred Lucking has been renominated by the democrats of the First congressional district.

THE SLAUGHTER IN MANCHURIA.



"Every Interest of Humanity Demands the Proclamation of Peace."—Diplomat in Tokio.

OFFICERS FIGHT WITH A BAD GANG

UNDERTAKE CAPTURE OF SUSPECTED ROBBERS IN A ST. LOUIS HOUSE.

Letter Open Fire and When Battle Is Over, Two Officers and a Suspect Are Dead—One Detective and a Suspect Wounded.

St. Louis, Oct. 22.—Two city detectives are dead and another is not expected to live, while one train robber suspect is at the morgue and two others are in the city hospital, one probably fatally wounded and the other badly beaten up, as the result of a desperate battle Friday between five officers and three men whom they tried to arrest.

SAVED HIS SWEETHEART.

Young Man Loses His Life in the Performance of a Heroic Action

McKeesport, Pa., Oct. 21.—James L. Curley, aged 21, a draughtsman at the East Pittsburg works of the Westinghouse Electric company, at a late hour Wednesday night gave up his life to save his sweetheart. Curley and a companion named Myers were escorting Misses Walters and Kesler to their homes and while crossing the Baltimore & Ohio tracks at Eleventh street a switch engine suddenly bore down upon them. Curley gave the alarm in time for Mr. Myers and Miss Kesler to reach safety, but he and Miss Walters were a step or two behind the first couple and Curley seized Miss Walters and threw her bodily clear of the track. Before he could recover his balance the engine cut him to pieces.

FIVE AMERICANS KILLED.

Mexican Indians, Angered by Encroachments of Whites, Go on Warpath.

Chihuahua, Mexico, Oct. 21.—Five Americans have been killed by bands of Yaqui Indians in the vicinity of La Buita. One of the victims was J. R. Martin, superintendent of the Barranca Coal company. The Indians are angered over the encroachment of white men in their territory, and they have been killing off Americans whenever the opportunity came. White men are now taking precautions to resist the bands, and fighting between the Indians and whites may result at any time. The five deaths occurred within three weeks.

GOES TO PRISON.

Son of the Author of "America" Sentenced in Iowa for Embezzlement.

Davenport, Ia., Oct. 19.—Ex-Mayor S. F. Smith, of this city, son of Samuel Francis Smith, author of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," stood before Judge House in the district court Tuesday afternoon to receive sentence on two indictments for embezzlement and one for perjury. Smith was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the penitentiary at Anamosa. As trustee of large estates, Smith recently acknowledged embezzlement of \$120,000.

Death of a Veteran.

Washington, Oct. 20.—Gen. George D. Ruggles, retired, for several years manager of the soldiers' home in this city, died here Wednesday night.

HIS MISSION IS VERY IMPORTANT

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ASKS SECRETARY TAFT TO VISIT REPUBLIC OF PANAMA.

Wishes to Explain Our Policy and to Assure People That Undue Advantage Will Not Be Taken of Our Treaty Rights.

Washington, Oct. 20.—The following letter has been sent by the president to the secretary of war after a conference with the secretary of state and the secretary of war in respect to the conditions in Panama:

"By executive order of May 9, 1904, I placed under your immediate supervision the work of the Panamanian canal commission, both in the construction of the canal and in the exercise of such governmental powers as it seemed necessary for the United States to exercise under the treaty with the Republic of Panama in the canal strip.

Natives May Be Alarmed.

There is ground for believing that in the execution of the rights conferred by the treaty the people of Panama have been unduly alarmed at the effect of the establishment of a government in the canal strip by the commission. Apparently they fear lest the effect be to create out of part of their territory a competing and independent community which shall injuriously affect their business, reduce their revenues and diminish their prestige as a nation. The United States is about to confer on the people of the state of Panama a very great benefit by the expenditure of millions of dollars in the construction of the canal.

Must Not Create Suspicion.

"But this fact must not blind us to the importance of so exercising the authority given us under the treaty with Panama as to avoid creating any suspicion, however unfounded, of our intentions as to the future. We have not the slightest intention of establishing an independent colony in the middle of the state of Panama, or of exercising any greater governmental functions than are necessary to enable us conveniently and safely to construct, maintain and operate the canal under the rights given us by the treaty. Least of all do we desire to interfere with the business and prosperity of the people of Panama.

Our Intentions.

"However far a just construction of the treaty might enable us to go, did the exigencies of the case require it, in asserting the equivalent of sovereignty over the canal strip, it is our full intention that the rights which we exercise shall be exercised with all proper care for the honor and interests of the people of Panama. The exercise of such powers as are given us by the treaty within the geographical boundaries of the Republic of Panama may easily, if a real sympathy for both the present and future welfare of the people of Panama is not shown, create distrust of the American government. This would seriously interfere with the success of our great project in that country. It is of the utmost importance that those who are ultimately responsible for the policy pursued should have at first hand as trustworthy information as can be obtained in respect to the conditions existing in Panama and the attitude and real interest of the people of that state.

Asks Taft to Visit Country.

"After a conference with the secretary of state and yourself, I have concluded that it will be of great advantage if you can visit the Isthmus of Panama in person and hold a conference with the president and other governmental authorities of the Republic of Panama. You are authorized in doing this to take with you such persons as you desire, familiar with the conditions in the isthmus, who may aid you with their counsel. The earlier you are able to make this visit the better.

The secretary of state will instruct the United States minister at Panama to render you every assistance in his power, and the governor of the canal strip, Gen. Davis, will of course do the same thing. You will advise the president of the republic what the policy of this government is to be, and assure him that it is not the purpose of the United States to take advantage of the rights conferred upon it by the treaty to interfere with the welfare and prosperity of the state of Panama, or of the cities of Colon and Panama. You will make due report of the result of your visit on your return.

"Very truly yours,

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT,

"To the Secretary of War."

Gives Satisfaction.

Panama, Oct. 21.—The news from Washington that Secretary of War Taft is to come to the isthmus next month, accompanied by Minister Obaldia and William Nelson Cromwell, counsel of the Panama Canal company, to arrange the matters in controversy between the United States government and Panama and the declarations of President Roosevelt on the subject, are received with satisfaction in all circles. President Amador is in receipt of messages of congratulation from all parts of this republic.

Children Suffocated.

Milwaukee, Oct. 21.—Clarence and Edward Skinner, aged respectively four and 2½ years, were suffocated by smoke in a clothes closet in the garret of their home, 738 Franklin street, Wednesday evening. It is presumed that the children were playing with matches and that the fire resulted from carelessness. When the flames began to spread the children went into the closet, closed the door and were soon suffocated.