

THE OBSERVER

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NEW ELECTION PLAN.

By a decision of the Ohio supreme court the nomination and election provisions of Cleveland, Ohio's new charter have been upheld. A feature of this instrument is the value which makes possible the so-called preferential system of voting, perhaps more accurately described as the "second choice plan."

The voters this fall will select their mayor and councilmen by the preferential system, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "Candidates will be nominated by petition without a primary. This will mean getting accustomed to a new form of ballot and new methods of counting. Voters and election officers will have new responsibilities. Patience may be needed till the new system gets to working properly."

Wisconsin was the first state in the Union to apply this plan to the election of state officers. According to the explanation furnished in "The Wisconsin Idea," a book by Charles McCarthy, chief of the Wisconsin legislative reference department, the system is more complicated from the counting officers' than from the voters' point of view. By it the citizen is given two choices for each office covered by the act. The final result is reached by the gradual elimination of the men lowest in the voting. It is contended for the innovation that it tends to make the final selection more nearly representative of the real voting majority.

The system was adopted by Minnesota in 1912 and forms a part of the laws of Idaho, Washington, North Dakota and other states. The basic object is to prevent the capture of nominations by minority factions within a party. Its greatest strength lies in the fact that it can be substituted for the often unsatisfactory primary.

English police stations have been equipped with billiard rooms and shooting galleries. English policemen must have some recompense for fighting suffragettes.

Vice President Marshall says that if that is so the vice president ought neglect causes people to turkey trot.

to be one of the most ardent turkey trotters in the country.

If Thaw could only have lingered in Canada a few years there would have been a great increase in attendance at the Canadian law schools.

One can hardly afford to have hay fever and an automobile at the same time.

Six midnettes of Maris made a fashionable gown in twenty minutes. Considering all that enters into one of these newest creations, that was not much of a feat.

Secretary Daniels is writing a biography of Woodrow Wilson. This secures his job in the cabinet at least until the biography is completed.

Placing fiddle strings on the free list is no particular boon to the common people.

Wireless Eyes Is New One.

San Francisco, Oct. 9.—If the "wireless eye" does all that M. C. Blum says it will do, navigation is on the eve of just such another revolution as it experienced with the discovery of the wireless telegraph, in the opinion of seafaring men who have examined the "eye" with which its inventor, S. Spitz, is experimenting at Vallejo. Blum and W. Rode are financing the invention and have taken out 27 patents on it.

The instrument, which works only at night, reflects on a mirror a moving picture of everything within a radius of several miles. It receives its impression from a web of wires erected on a tall mast. It is useless by daylight, however, for the reason that the wires register only the "stygian rays."

"The navigator of a ship so equipped could see on the darkest night the surface of the ocean all about him," said Blum. "He could observe other ships approaching or the proximity of rocks, shoals or icebergs. A coast guard could see an enemy's scouts approaching long before the scouts had found what they were seeking."

"During a recent test at Vallejo, the observers saw in the mirror the ships on the river, the railroad trains passing up and down the valley, people walking about and even the sentries pacing their beats on the island." Mr. Spitz was formerly a wireless expert on Mare Island.

Fire Prevention Practiced.

Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 9.—Throughout Indiana and several other middle western states, "fire prevention day" is being formally observed today. The date is peculiarly appropriate. Forty years ago today the disastrous Chicago fire in which more than 300 lives were lost, \$200,000,000 property damage done and 17,450 buildings destroyed, started when "Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over an oil lamp in a stable in the outskirts of the city."

Fire drills were held today in every public school in the state, premises were inspected and drills held in thousands of factories. The day was observed as "fire prevention day" by proclamation of the governor. It will be an annual event.

VANISHED MOUNT MAZAMA.

It Was One of the Loftiest Peaks in the United States.

The highest mountain in Oregon is Mount Hood, 11,225 feet above the sea level. Compared with Mount Whitney, to the south in California, and Mount Rainier, to the north in Washington, each rising well above 14,000 feet, Mount Hood does not appear as a skyscraper. However, according to the geologists of the United States geological survey and other authorities, Oregon had at one time, probably before the dawn of life upon the earth, a great volcano which towered as far above Mount Hood as does Mount Rainier, possibly even several thousand feet higher. This was the great Mount Mazama. But thousands of years ago the mountain disappeared into the bowels of the earth, and all that is left today is the huge rim around Crater lake.

Crater lake is the caldera of this extinct and collapsed volcano and is nearly six miles in diameter. The inside walls of the rim of the ancient mountain are in places nearly 4,000 feet high and almost perpendicular. The lake itself is in places 2,000 feet deep, and parts of the wall rise above its water another 2,000 feet. A restoration of the mountain in fancy, using as a basis the angles of the lower slopes, which still remain, shows that the apex could not have been far from 15,000 feet in height, so that Mount Mazama was one of the most lofty and majestic peaks in the United States.—United States Geological Survey.

MARKS ON THE BAGGAGE.

They Tell Waiters Abroad the Kind of Man the Owner Is.

Much traveled persons who carefully examine their trunks will find thereon a number of esoteric marks which they probably put down to the wear and tear imposed on the baggage. As a matter of fact, the signs come, not of chance. They are placed there by the waiters at the various hotels whereat the traveler has stayed and have a direct meaning.

A sort of freemasonry exists among waiters at European hotels. They have a system of marking baggage so as to tell other waiters the manner of man that the traveler is as regards tipping.

The traveler who arrives at a hotel with his baggage marked with a straight upright line on either side of the locks is sure of good attention. He is classified as "very liberal." A horizontal straight mark in the upper right hand corner of a trunk means that the owner is no good at all, while if this mark is accompanied by a V mark it signifies that the traveler is the limit—entirely hopeless.

A cross mark on the lower right hand corner conveys the intelligence that the owner of the trunk is rather eccentric, but worth paying attention to. A diagonal mark in the lower left hand corner speaks of a person who is eccentric without being liberal.—London Answers.

Three Castes in Bolivia.

Bolivian society is composed of three strata. Firstly, we have the "gente decente," or white people who show no trace of Indian blood. This class is small, but necessarily influential; indeed, all the government of the country is in their hands. Next comes the "cholos"—those of mixed Spanish and Indian blood—and lastly the pure Indians, who form an immense submerged class—superstitious, ignorant, downtrodden, yet splendid workmen and one of the chief sources of national wealth. It is estimated that of the 3,000,000 people who comprise the Bolivian nation only about 200,000 can read and write. The great mass of these illiterate people belong to the "gente decente," while the "cholo" and Indian classes are almost totally submerged in ignorance.—Christian Herald.

Wellington as a Shot.

"The hero of Waterloo," says Lady Frances Shelley in her "Diary," "was a very wild shot," and goes on to tell what happened once at Maresfield, where he was visiting her:

"After wounding a retriever early in the day and later on peppering the keeper's gaiters he inadvertently sprinkled the bare arms of an old woman who chanced to be washing clothes at her cottage window."

"I was attracted by her screams, and took in the situation at a glance and went to the cottage door."

"I'm wounded, my lady," she cried. "My good woman," said I, "this ought to be the proudest moment of your life! You have had the distinction of being shot by the great duke!"

Ma Was Different.

A boy wrote a composition on the subject of the Quakers, whom he described as a sect who never quarreled, never got into a fight, never clawed each other and never jawed back. The production contained a postscript in these words:

"Pa's a Quaker, but ma isn't."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

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OLD ENGLISH JURIES.

They Were Fined or Beaten For Not Reaching a Verdict.

Not always enviable was the lot of the old time jurymen, for there was always the prospect of trouble if the verdict did not gratify the higher powers. Thus the failure of a jury to convict Sir Nicholas Throckmorton made Queen Mary "ill for three days," and she came out of her sick chamber to fine the disobedient jury (meanwhile confined in prison) the sum of \$10,000 a head.

Elizabeth followed the same plan, and the practice of fining English juries did not cease until 1870, when a fine inflicted by the notorious Jeffreys was rescinded on appeal.

In some old time "courts of quarter sessions" the injunction to lay their heads together had to be carried out by jurymen in literal fashion. When they began to consider the verdict they were supposed to dive beneath the level of the jury box and remain in that cramped position until a decision was reached.

Meanwhile the court usher stood near the box armed with a long wand of willow. If any jurymen ventured to emerge above the surface before the twelve minds were agreed down came the wand on the head of the offender.—Chicago News.

MOTIONS OF PLANTS.

Some Forms of Vegetable Life Have the Power of Choice.

One of the chief distinctions between vegetable and animal life is that animals have power of choice and of voluntary motion, while vegetables and plants grow only mechanically by natural law. But the microscope seems to show that many vegetable forms can move as easily as can animals.

There is a plant called Volvox globator, so minute that millions of it could be put in a wineglass, which is seen to whirl like a top across the field of the microscope. Some plants found in our ponds, which are still more minute, move habitually, as with an apparent purpose.

Darwin, who gave closer study than any other naturalist to climbing plants, stated that these seemed to exercise the liberty of choice. Their tendrils, in climbing over pieces of wood with holes, will try one hole after another until they find one that pleases them. He saw one tendril withdraw itself after having located itself in a hole for thirty-six hours.

Other plants will run a long way over the ground, refusing to climb the trees in their path until they come to a peculiar species of tree, to which they at once cling.—Harper's Weekly.

INSTINCT AND INTELLECT.

The Broad Difference Between the Acts of the Two Powers.

For many years it has been the custom to think of instinct and intelligence as set over against each other. The former represents the inherited reactions of the animal; the latter signifies those acts which the animal learns in the course of its individual life and its power to learn in this fashion.

Instinctive acts are "perfect the very first time," while intelligent acts are slowly acquired. In so far as an animal is dependent on its instincts, it is the victim of its ancestry and of its immediate environment. In so far as it is intelligent, it can adapt its environment to itself, can rise above its immediate surroundings and act in the light of a distant end to be accomplished.

Instinct is blind as to the outcome of its action. Intelligence foresees and modifies its behavior in the light of its foresight. The supreme example of instinct has been the wasp going through an elaborate course of action to provide food for its yet unhatched offspring, seeking out a particular species of caterpillar, stinging every segment just enough to stun the animal, but not kill it, and then depositing the worm at the bottom of its newly made nest where it has laid its egg, covering up the cell and then leaving, never to see the larvae nor to live to do the same act another season. The supremely intelligent animal is man, possessing the earth by the genius of his intellect.—M. E. Haggerty in Atlantic Monthly.

BROKEN ENGLISH.

Wrestling Match a Frenchman Had With One Little Verb.

He was a hard working and intelligent Frenchman, but the verbs still troubled him.

"Ah, yes, m'sieur, I saw Mrs. Brown the other day," he said to an English friend, "and she told—I mean, told me that her school was soon to break down."

"Break up, surely?"

"Ah, yes, break up! Your verbs do trouble me so yet! Break up—that was it?"

"Why was she going to let her school break up so early?"

"Because influenza had broken down."

ARMORER'S TOOLS.

Fine Relics of Ancient Times in New York's Art Museum.

Very few people are aware that in the heart of modern New York is a complete armorer's shop, writes E. A. Suverkrop in the American Machinist. It is in the basement of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and is equipped with a complete outfit of over 600 armorer's tools. Many of these are very old, having descended from master to man or from father to son through many generations. Their workmanship is excellent. Where steel faces have been welded to iron bodies the welds are clean and perfect, and the junction of iron and steel is distinguishable only by the difference in luster of the two metals.

The tempering of the steel faces seems to be good and uniform, as neither cracks nor dents are apparent. A cursory glance at these tools will at once apprise us of the origin of many of our modern sheet metal workers' implements. The working faces of all the tools are highly polished, so that they do not "grip" the metal being worked, which is free to "slide" to the shape desired by the armorer.

Every collection of ancient armor requires technical care for its upkeep. The objects must be kept free from rust, occasionally remounted, and from time to time restorations must be made to preserve these priceless specimens. In order to carry out this work the museum has arranged the shop referred to so that these necessary operations may be carried on. The armorer's tools once belonged to Daniel Tachaux, but are now the property of the museum. Mr. Tachaux brought them to this country when he came from Paris in 1909 to make some repairs in the museum's collection of armor. The outfit consists of over 600 tools and includes nearly 100 kinds of stakes and a great variety of hammers, swages, etc.

Alike, but Different.

Mrs. Nubridge—My dear Jack is so handsome; he resembles a Greek god. Mrs. Longwood—So does my husband.—Bacchus.—Boston Transcript.

He scolds best that can hurt the least.—Danish Proverb.

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