

## MEN IN THE TOWERS.

### RAILWAY CROSSING WATCHERS HAVE THEIR TROUBLES.

Thrilling Experiences Where Many Lives Were Jeopardized—Story of Billy Goat that Jumped Aboard a Locomotive—Fine Work of Counting Men.

"Say, drive that goat off the track there," yelled the man in the signal tower at the side of the railroad track as he leaned out of his little window and waved one arm at two boys half a block away and another at a tall, lank billy goat with twisted horns that was standing squarely between the two rails. The goat had wandered from no one knew where down the track of one of the railroads running south from the heart of the city. He was nowhere near a crossing, so there was no gateman who could be appealed to. The tower man saw the animal about fifty yards down the track, standing and looking with great nonchalance at a passenger train flying toward him from the north. The man couldn't leave his signal station, and, with visions of a wrecked

goat rode to Homewood, where it jumped off and, it is said, went to a stable which was its old home before it ventured toward the heart of the city. It is supposed that the goat simply decided to take the train as being the quickest means of reaching the old homestead, to which it wished to return. The tower man declines, however, to vouch for the latter part of the story of the goat's adventure.

"I tell you, I thought once I was going to be the witness of the most horrible explosion that ever blew out lives and mangled human bodies," said another old tower man. "It was during the hottest days of the old American Railway Union strike and all kinds of bad rumors were floating through the air. Once in a while some of us fellows who were doing night work in the switch towers would get a little bit nervous over the prospect of being blown up, or of having our tower-houses fired or of being assaulted, bound and gagged while criminal hands grasped the switch levers and threw trains and passengers to destruction and death. So I suppose sometimes we were in a pretty feverish state. One night I had my head poked out of the window looking for a train that was due to pass my tower at about 2 o'clock in the

At the interlocking switch tower just out of the Northwestern station the switchmen and signal men say they are too busy to see anything but trains, switches, targets and semaphores. There are but two tracks in front of this tower, one for ingoing and one for outgoing trains, and over these two tracks must pass every one of the 250 trains which go in and out of the Northwestern station every day, making an average of one train in less than every six minutes for the entire day. Of course at night time there are comparatively few trains. In the busy hours of morning and night when the suburban trains are coming and going thick and fast there are times when several trains pass the tower and are plotted to the right tracks every few minutes. It is supposed that these two tracks are the busiest in Chicago, if not in the entire world. When a thick fog fills the atmosphere so that the switchmen cannot see where they have sent trains a unique device is brought into use. In a small glass case are eleven tiny red semaphores to correspond to the eleven tracks of the Northwestern's thirteen on which are sent most of the trains destined for no further a run than the Wells street station. By a mechanical device the arms of the toy semaphores are thrown up when the track is occupied, and when they are empty the arms fall.

By original signals the trainmen make known to the switchmen in the tower the track upon which they are to be thrown. Two of the tracks are lettered A and B and the others are numbered from one to nine. Placing the hands above the head in V shape means track A. Putting one hand on top of the head means track B. Tracks one, two and three are signified by placing the hands quickly together and then quickly removing them, one, two or three times. Four is signified by placing the hand in the air and holding the thumb with the other hand. Five is signified by simply throwing one hand with the five fingers spread out into the air. The rest of the signals are made by combining these properly.—Chicago Chronicle.

### CIGAR STUBS OF CRIMINALS.

They Have a Generic Similarity of Value to the Detective.

According to Professor Hans Gross of Berlin valuable clues toward the detection of criminals may be obtained through an examination of cigar tips. Of course this applies to those who smoke cigars, the tips of which they carelessly throw away in the street or elsewhere.

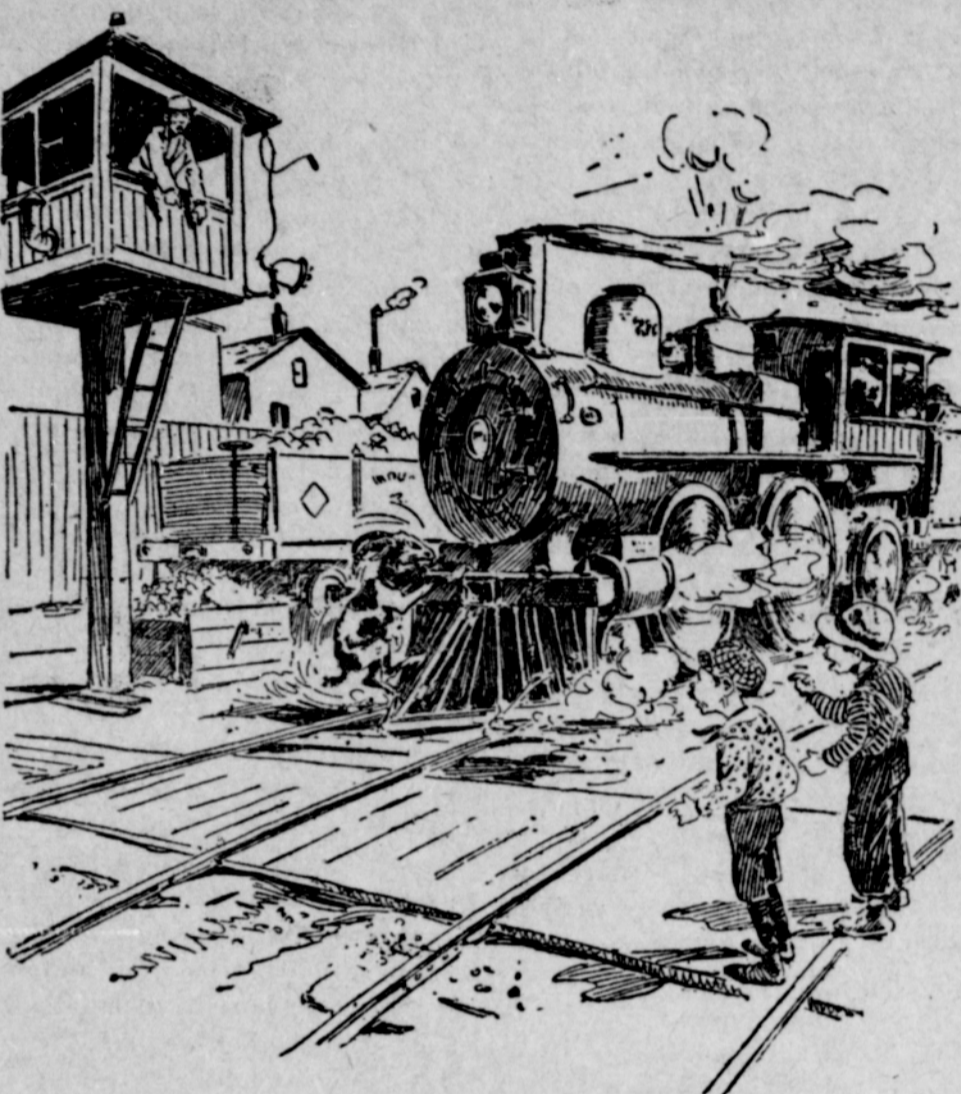
"If you pick up any tip," he says, "and examine it closely the chances are that you will be able to learn something as to the personality and social position of the man who threw it away. In the case of criminals the first point to be considered is the manner in which it was cut off from the cigar. If a knife or any other instrument was used for this purpose, then this instrument will doubtless be found on the criminal. If, on the other hand, it was bitten off with the teeth, a thorough examination of the tip will show what kind of teeth were used for this purpose.

"A man with a row of even teeth will bite off the end of his cigar squarely and evenly, whereas one with jagged, uneven teeth will bite it clumsily and in such a manner as to leave clearly visible the marks of his incisors. By comparing the marks on cigar tips with the teeth of suspected criminals prosecuting officers and detectives will be able to obtain much information which they could not possibly obtain any other way."

### Fish Eggs Hatched by Hens.

The hens of China lead busy lives. When not engaged in hatching out a brood of their own kind they are put to the additional and novel task of hatching fish eggs. Chinese cheap labor collects the spawn of fish from the water's edge, put it in an empty eggshell, which is then hermetically sealed with wax and placed under the unsuspecting and conscientious hen. In a few days the eggshell is removed and the spawn, which has been warmed into life, is emptied into a shallow pool. Here the fish that soon develop are nursed until strong enough to be turned into a lake or stream. Then the hen that hatched them may catch them if she can.

Sheet music—children crying in bed.



RAILROAD TOWER MEN AND THEIR DUTIES.

train before him, he called upon the two boys for help.

"Hurry up, there, boys, and drive that billy out of the way," shouted the signal man.

"Aw, dat goat's all right," answered the boys, not budging an inch.

"But there's a train coming from town full tilt and there might be trouble."

"Go on; don't let dat worry ye. Dat goat'll take care of hisself all right."

"Who gives a — for that mangy, old, moth-eaten goat. Get it off that track or a train load of people may be killed."

"Wat's de matter wid ye, anyway? Dat goat never killed anybody in his life. He won't hurt yer train. We've known him for a long time, and he never did nuthin' but butt over a few folks."

The man in the tower swore at the boys in his most expressive railroad dialect, but the boys declined to make a hostile move toward the goat. Then the train tore by with a rush. The tower man was glad to note that the train didn't jump the track and smash itself into kindling wood at the side of the rails. Then he began inspecting the track closely for pieces of little hoofs, twisted horns, slices of goat meat and patches of hair intermixed with blood. But there was neither hide nor hair of the goat. He had vanished as completely and as suddenly as if he had been thrown into the clouds. The railroad man scratched his head and rubbed his eyes and looked at the track again, but it seemed that not even the characteristic odor of the patron saint of the livery-stable remained. Then the switch tower man nodded his head in an "Oh, yes" manner, which was as much as to say that he had fathomed the mystery. He had decided that the train had hit the goat so hard that it had been tossed up to the top of the pilot dead and thus been carried away.

The signal tower man needed one more guess, however. The boys, who had stood far enough down the track to see what had happened, could have enlightened him if they had been so inclined, but they didn't feel under the obligation. When the train approached the goat had simply made a spring for the pilot, where he landed safely, nothing the worse for the jump, with the exception of a terrific knock on his forehead just below his horns. His forehead, however, is built for receiving hard jolts, and only a slight shake of the head betokened the fact that this blow was just a little bit "strong." The

morning. It was heavy freight, and sometimes came past a minute or two late. It was not quite time yet for the headlight to be in sight, and as I was peering into the darkness for it pictures of strikers overturning cars, tearing up tracks and so on danced through my mind. The headlight of the freight finally split open the darkness and afforded me a little relief. The engine passed, and but for the tiny caboose lights away at the end of the long train all was darkness outside again. I tried to penetrate the blackness and see more clearly the big black cars as they rolled along past me below the tower window.

"The train was rumbling along monotonously enough when suddenly there was a little flash of light from below. I involuntarily shut my eyes, expecting to be blown forty feet into the air the next second. But for some reason the explosion failed to come off, and I opened my eyes just as the caboose with its little green light was passing the tower. That flash of light worried me more than I cared to own even to myself, and I didn't rest until the train and its crew got back to Chicago again. I hastened to make guarded inquiries of the conductor and the brakeman as to all the happenings that transpired near Chicago that particular night. I found out that when the train reached Englewood the trainmen had caught a tramp comfortably stowed away between two cars smoking a pipe. That settled my scare, much to my disgust. The tramp had struck a match to light his pipe just as he was passing my tower window."

### TAKES NO CHANCES.



"Yes, sir, I don't take any chances with them pigs. Sunlight is hard on their eyes. Why, they tell me there's lots of blind ones in Chicago."—Chicago News.

### SOLDIER'S LIFE EASIER.

Protection, Weapons and Food Much Improved of Late Years.

Although soldiering would seem to be a more perilous business than it ever was before, in consequence of the greater force, rapidity and range of weapons, and the higher power of explosives, the result may show that modern battles are not more deadly than were those of the Civil War, since an attempt has been made to counteract the destructive forces by stouter protections in forts and by a system of tactics that replaces the old soldf formations with something like the skirmish order of former times. It may be, also, that the troops will fight at further distance, allowing for the longer carriage of bullets and shells.

But of one thing we are certain. If the perils of war have been multiplied the comforts of the camp have been increased until they are a partial offset. Clothing is stouter, if the millers choose to make it so; camp outfits include cooking apparatus that can be carried on the back of one man; the canning of meats, vegetables and fruits, the desiccation of other articles of food, and the general cheapening of many things that were luxuries a few years ago make it possible to live in camp almost as in a hotel. The substitution of aluminum for iron in utensils is another advantage, and in general there is a tendency to both lightness of outfit and extension of properties contained in it.

In addition to the articles provided by the government in its clothing and ration allowances, the man with a gun is now allowed to buy and have pipes, tobacco, soap, writing materials, pens, basins, blacking brushes, silk handkerchiefs, matches, towels and an addition to his menu in cheese, canned goods, dried fruits, deviled ham, preserves, white sugar, lime juice, Worcestershire sauce, pickles, jam, ginger, spices and cranberry sauce. Rum is discounted in hot countries, for it encourages sunstroke and intensifies other troubles peculiar to the climate.—Brooklyn Eagle.

### THE ART OF TALKING WELL.

Things to Say and Things to Leave Unsaid in General Conversation.

It is better to be frankly dull than pedantic.

One must guard one's self from the temptation of "talking shop" and of riding one's "hobby."

Whatever sets one apart as a capital "I" should be avoided.

A joke or humorous story is dependent upon its freshness for appreciation. Some emotions will not bear "warming over."

It is no longer considered good form to say a word against any one. An ill-tempered criticism is a social blunder. Gossip, too, is really going out of fashion.

True wit is a gift, not an attainment. Those who use it aright never yield to the temptation of saying anything that can wound another in order to exhibit their own cleverness. It is natural and spontaneous. "He who runs after wit is apt to catch nonsense."

Talk that has heartiness in it and the liveliness and sparkle that come of light-heartedness and innocent gaiety, is a fairly good substitute for wit.

Offer to each one who speaks the homage of your undivided attention. Look people in the face when you talk to them.

Talk of things, not persons. The best substitute for wisdom is silence.

It is a provincialism to say "yes, sir," "no, ma'am" to one's equal.

Have convictions of your own. Be yourself and not a mere echo.

Never ask leading questions. We should show curiosity about the concerns of others only so far as it may gratify them to tell us.

Draw out your neighbor without catechizing him. Correct him, if necessary, without contradicting him. Avoid mannerisms.

Strive to be natural and at ease. The nervousness that conceals itself under affected vivacity should be controlled, as should the loud laugh.—Ladies' Home Journal.

### When Bismarck Played Cousin.

The following is a story on Bismarck for which an aged Swedish lady is the authority. Nearly sixty years ago, when a girl, she went to Berlin, where she expected to meet a cousin, then studying at the university there. The cousin appeared, and proved to be a fascinating youth. For several days he was a constant escort and a charming companion.

It was only when she was on the eve of departure that he made the explanation: "You see, my dear cousin, I am not your cousin. My friend, your cousin, is so very busy preparing for an examination that he has asked me to take his place. My name is Otto von Bismarck." In 1886, when the lady made her next visit to Berlin, she called on the Chancellor, who remarked: "I have to thank you that I once succeeded in seeing the Berlin museums. I have never seen them again."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

When a family adopts a girl of sixteen, it means that they will have a kitchen girl in future without wages.

### Shipyards in Germany.

There are 39 shipyards in Germany, employing altogether nearly 50,000 men, and together they constructed last year 528 vessels of all kinds for the navy, the merchant marine and for river traffic of the larger description. Of these yards five are used for the construction of naval vessels, having an aggregate capacity for the simultaneous construction of over 40 of the largest ships, 28 torpedo destroyers and 30 torpedo boats.

Shade trees are neglected from the time they are put into the ground until they are large. Insects and diseases attack them, but as they bear no crops and are supposed to produce no profit they are left to the ravages of their enemies. The shade tree will be missed when it is gone however and its place cannot easily be filled. Spray the shade tree and save them as they add hundreds of dollars value to the farm.

### A Sure Thing for You.

Everybody's constipated now and then, and the only sure, pure, harmless cure is Cascarets Candy Cathartic. Buy and try! All druggists, 10c, 25c, 50c.

Eggs have kept up well in prices this year and considering the fact that fowls are almost self supporting in summer, eggs are almost clear profit compared with their cost. It is probable that when poultry receives as much attention as other stock more fowls will be regarded as invaluable adjuncts to farming especially as eggs sell for cash and are produced every month of the year.

When the bicycle came into popular favor many of the new apartment houses were constructed with rooms arranged for storing them, and now plans have been prepared for an expensive new apartment house on the upper West side, which is to have, among other innovations, a storeroom, or stable, as it may be called, for automobiles.

The Paris exposition of 1878 is commemorated by the Trocadero and that of 1889 by the Eiffel tower, both of which form part of the present exhibition.

### DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED

By local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that can not be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Before going to Kansas City to begin the practice of law in 1887, Webster Davis was a shoemaker in Gallatin, Mo., his boyhood home, and later an office boy in a local law firm, in which position he studied for his chosen profession. He did not stay in Kansas City long, but went to Colorado, but only to return to the Missouri city in 1889.

The people of New York buy daily the milk produced by 140,000 cows. It is brought from farms in New York state, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

I do not believe Piso's Cure for Consumption has an equal for coughs and colds.—JOHN F. BOYER, Trinity Springs, Ind., Feb. 15, 1900.

Horses that are not at work daily get but very little green food. They would highly relish anything of a succulent nature especially during the warm season. The dry food of winter and summer is not as conducive to digestion as when varied with green food of some kind.

The earliest meteorological record now known was made by the Rev. William Merle, for the seven years 1337-1344, and is preserved in the Bodleian library, at Oxford, England.

It is your duty not only to be good, but to shine; and of all the light which you kindle on the face, joy will reach furthest out to sea where troubled mariners are seeking the shore.—H. W. Beecher.

Many Americans in Paris are very much exercised over the sale of intoxicating liquors in the American cafe, which forms a part of their national pavilion.

## Biliousness

"I have used your valuable CASCARETS and find them perfect. Couldn't do without them. I have used them for some time for indigestion and biliousness and am now completely cured. Recommend them to every one. Once tried, you will never be without them in the family." EDW. A. MARK, Albany, N. Y.



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