

BULLOCK WANTS PARDON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—President Taft is today considering an application for pardon made by J. L. Bullock, convicted at Tacoma recently on a charge of defrauding the government in connection with contracts for supplying coal to army posts in Alaska.

HISTORIC ROMAN CHURCH IS NEAR COLLAPSE.

ROME, Feb. 19.—With its subsoil waterlogged and its walls cracked in every direction, the celebrated Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere, near here, is near collapse today. Further use of the church has been forbidden.

The ancient pile is said to have been started by Pope Calixtus, the First, in 499 A. D., on the identical spot where a mysterious spring of oil appeared at the time of the birth of Christ.

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS WORK IN HARMONY.

AKRON, O., Feb. 19.—For the first time in their history, the I. W. W. and American Federation of Labor are working hand in hand here today in their endeavor to organize the rubber workers on strike.

A decision was reached last night that neither side should attempt to influence the strikers against the other.

BULGARIAN-ROUMANIAN WAR CLOUD DISSIPATES.

PARIS, Feb. 19.—It is believed here today that the threatened conflict between Bulgaria and Roumania over rectification of their frontiers, has been averted, both having agreed to the principle of mediation by the powers.

Through joint action by the powers it is believed that Italy and Russia will be appointed as mediators of the dispute.

EDITOR WHO LIBELED KING CAN ENTER U. S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Edward F. Mylius, the British editor who served a jail sentence for libeling King George, was permitted to enter the United States today by United States Judge Noyes. Immigration officials who sought to bar Mylius from the country, alleged that his offense was a criminal one, while attorneys for the editor argued that it was of a political nature.

Judge Noyes, however, held that Mylius' offense did not involve moral turpitude, and that the editor, therefore, could not be classed as an undesirable citizen.

MAY NAME RECEIVER FOR PROSPEROUS CO.

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 19.—Despite the fact that it is making money, the Union Bag Paper company, a \$37,000,000 corporation here, may go into the hand of receivers, following charges of mismanagement.

It is stated that the assets, although constantly expanding, are being wasted by the board of directors.

"SQUEALING" WITNESS MAY LOSE TONGUE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Loss of his tongue probably will befall Luigi Tancredi, a state witness in the police graft investigation, if he does further "squealing" according to admissions Tancredi has made to District Attorney Whitman today.

"KID" MCCOY MAY BECOME EVANGELIST.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—"Kid" McCoy, evangelist. This is the way the inventor of the "cork screw punch" will have his name inserted in the city directory hereafter.

Thursday night the public-hobo-deputy sheriff-adventurer will make his initial appearance as a savior of souls. He will talk on a health topic from one of the public forums of the Civic Center, and will endeavor to form a connection between the earth's and divine in uplift work in which the Center is engaged.

FASTIDIOUS AUTHORS.

Campbell Took a Twelve Mile Tramp to Change a Comma.

It is surprising how pedantic some authors have been with respect even to the smallest detail of their manuscripts. Dickens was a perfect terror and would make enough fuss over an error of punctuation to drive a poor "comp" out of his wits.

Tennyson too was most particular that not a comma should be omitted or misplaced, while his revisions were never finished. Perhaps the greatest terror of the compositor was Thomas Carlyle, for he would cover every square inch of vacant space, both in the margin and between the lines, with minute additions and emendations, and not once, but a dozen times.

Victor Hugo was equally difficult to please and satisfy. Of one of his famous works he made the printers supply no fewer than eleven successive revised proofs, and the last half dozen were furnished in order to make quite sure that the commas were in their right places.

But perhaps Thomas Campbell, the famous poet who wrote such stirring masterpieces as "Hohenlinden," "The Battle of the Baltic" and "Ye Mariners of England," takes the cake in this respect. He was fastidious to a degree, which fact probably accounts for the small quantity and perfect quality of his literary output. It is said that he once walked six miles to his printers and six miles back in order to have a comma changed into a semicolon.

But an equally careful and fastidious literary workman owed a great improvement in the opening line of his most famous poem to a printer. This was Thomas Gray, whose "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" is probably the best known poem in the English language. Its first line reads, "The curfew tolls the knell of parting day," but when Gray sent it to the press his manuscript read, "The curfew tolls, the knell of parting day." The thoughtful compositor did not understand the word "tolls" as an intransitive verb, so dropped the comma, thinking the poet had put it in by mistake, and when Gray read the line his sensitive ear at once caught its new, sustained melody, and he adopted the compositor's correction.

A Puzzler.

"I've a new car that's a beauty," said Green. "Runs so smoothly you can't feel it. Perfectly noiseless, no odors and, as for speed, it whizzes—you can't see it go by!"

"My word!" replied Green's friend. "Can't feel it, can't hear it, can't smell it, can't see it. I say, how do you know you have a car at all?"—London Telegraph.

Destiny of the Stuarts.

The figures "88" play a weird part in the rise and fall of the Stuarts. James III, was killed in flight near Bannockburn in 1488, Mary Stuart was beheaded in 1588, James II, of England was dethroned in 1688, Charles Edward died in 1788 and James Stuart, the "Old Pretender," was born in 1688, the very year that his father abdicated.

Islands of Leisure.

Between the island of Madagascar and the coast of India there are 16,000 islands, only 600 of which are inhabited. In most of these islands a man can live and support his family in luxury without working more than twenty-five days in the year, or at all, as nature provides the food, and no clothes are required.

Neutrality.

A proclamation of neutrality, the first in our national existence, was made by Washington April 22, 1793, citing the fact that a state of war existed between Austria, Prussia, Sardinia, Great Britain and the United Netherlands of the one part and France on the other and warning citizens to avoid all acts in breach of neutrality.

Tower of Skulls.

In 1806 the Servians rose against Turkish rule, and 5,000 of them were massacred by the Osmanli. The dead were beheaded, and as a warning to others the Turks built the heads into the walls of a tower, face outward. Today a small portion of a wall remains with a skull here and there, a grim reminder of what Servia suffered under Ottoman oppression.

Hydrophobia.

Hydrophobia used to be called St. Hubert's disease, in memory of a nobleman of Aquitaine, who, at one time a famous hunter, renounced the world and lived as a hermit in the forest of Ardennes. In memory of his career he became the patron saint of the chase and dogs, and his shrine was noted for many cures, especially of people who had been bitten by mad dogs.

If There Be Bats in the Wood.

No matter how deep and muddy a hole be, if it be known that bats are to be caught there, the people will get into the mud and search for them. So, no matter where you were born or how lowly your station in life may be, if you are men of character, scholarship and ability, you will be sought after.—Ninonnya Sosnky.

Mining labor at Collier shaft.

A Biased Opinion.

Jim—Here's a Frenchman who says man has six times as much lung power as he needs. Joe (he married man)—Then I'll bet woman has twenty times too much.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Lord Bacon's Dream.

Lord Bacon, the wisest of mankind, was superstitious and had firm faith in "signs and tokens." When in Paris he dreamed that he saw the family home in England covered with black mortar, and he insisted that it was a sign of death. In due time he received the announcement of the death of his father, who had passed away the night of the dream.

Vanishing the Avalanche.

Along the side of an Alpine railroad an ingenious device has been put into use to prevent avalanches from falling upon the track. A wall has been built which intercepts the sliding snow and forces it to precipitate itself in a leap, whereby it clears the roadbed and huris itself into a canal upon the other side.

APPRECIATION.

Love never seems so clear and easy as when the heart is beating faster at the sight of some generous, self-risking deed. We feel, no doubt, then what is the highest prize the soul can win; we almost believe in our own power to attain it.—George Eliot.

SERVIA AS A NATION.

It Originated in the First Half of the Seventh Century.

The birth of Servia as a nation, settled in or near its present home, may be dated in the first half of the seventh century. About 600 A. D. when the Avaric empire of desolation was established on the Danube, two tribes, the Croats and the Serbs, retiring before the ravages of the Tartar horsemen, settled in the countries now known as Croatia, Bosnia and Servia.

They were Slavs, but the Croats perhaps had, like the Slavs of Moesia in after years, adopted the name of a Tartar tribe. Both, fleeing from the Avars, were naturally hostile to them, and it is possible that they settled in the empire with the consent or even at the invitation of the Emperor Heraclius I. At any rate, they appear to have been considered as vassals of the empire. Their first settlements lay rather westward of the country now called Servia, the Drave, the present western boundary, being the dividing line between Bulgar and Serb in the eighth century. Here the Serbs dwelt more or less uneventfully for three centuries. They generally formed a loose confederacy under chiefs called zupans. They were commonly, in a loose fashion, loyal to the eastern empire mainly through fear of their dangerous neighbors, the Bulgarians. About 840 they united under a chief named Vlastimir to repel the latter.

The country rose to great heights under Stephen Dushan, the czar of the Serbs, but after his death Murad I. conquered the country, and it was not until 1815 that the Serbs partially threw off the Turkish yoke.—Exchange

PRECIOUS MUGS.

The Crucibles Used in the New York Assay Office.

In the government assay office on Wall street, New York, there is a corner that looks very much like a mug rack in a country barber shop, where every customer has his individual mug highly decorated in gilt letters.

On this rack are perhaps fifty crucibles for melting down gold. The crucibles are decorated with erude initials and numerals and are the property of the biggest gold mining corporations in North and South America. The reason for the individual mugs is that the clay of crucibles takes up a considerable quantity of gold in the process of smelting which otherwise would be lost to the customer bringing the gold to the government to be refined. After two or three smeltings the clay is saturated and takes up no more gold. When it is finally succeeded by a new crucible it is returned to the customer to be broken up for its hidden gold.

Mugs that are used for melting down random lots of gold are carefully preserved by the government refiners and sold. Uncle Sam pockets the proceeds. As in these random lots there is no way of estimating to what amount each of perhaps twenty customers may be entitled. It is only the smelting concern that sells the government enough gold at one time to monopolize a single melting that obtains the right to a mug on the rack.—New York Tribune

The Curious Elephant.

"The fact that the elephant's feet are padded renders his step noiseless, in spite of his great weight," a naturalist tells us, "and his extraordinary blindness seems almost incompatible with his great bulk."—Our Dumb Animals.

Climbing.

Rich Man to clerk—I started in at the lowest rung of the ladder. My first wife got only \$5 a week alimony. Now look at me! Paying \$300 to my last, and I haven't stopped climbing yet.—Puck.

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TWENTY-THREE YEARS A RESIDENT OF THE ROGUE RIVER VALLEY.

INJURED MILITIAMAN PENSIONED BY STATE.

SALEM, Feb. 19.—Raleigh C. Wilson, a militiaman, who, during bat-

tery practice at Fort Stevens, was run over by a caisson and crippled for life, has today been granted \$1,000 in cash and an annual pension of \$300 under the terms of a house bill passed by the senate.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—Deputy County Clerk Hennessy was puzzled when a woman who called to register stated that she was 21 years old and later said she had lived in the state for 28 years.

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