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THE EVENING HERALD

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THE POSTOFFICE.

It Seemed to Be Located in a Rather Lonely Place.

A veteran stagecoach driver in Idaho used to tell of an incident that happened when he drove the stage over to Boise City from the Union Pacific line. He had on one trip only a single passenger, a little tenderfoot of a New England schoolman going to take charge of a school in that town. She had never before been farther from Boston than the Hudson river. Along about dusk one evening as she sat on the box by the driver and the team wound its way around the shoulder of a bleak mountain a highwayman suddenly stepped into the middle of the road and held up his hand. A cocked rifle rested easily in the hollow of his arm and its muzzle pointed straight at the driver's head. He quickly pulled up.

"Throw over Wells-Fargo's box!" said the man with the gun. The driver reached down and flung the box into the road; then he started to gather up the reins.

"Hold on!" the other cried impatiently. "Where's the mail bag? Don't you think I want that?" For reply the driver swiftly kicked it overboard.

"All right," said the man on the ground in affable tone: "you can drive on now."

For half a mile they rolled along in silence, schoolman and driver. The former seemed to be in deep study. At last, turning to the driver, she said, "I don't know anything about the west, of course, but that certainly does seem to be an awfully lonesome place to have a postoffice."—Washington Post.

His Marathon Record.

"Colonel," asked the beautiful girl, "did you ever ride a horse ninety miles in three days?"

"No," replied the veteran of two wars, "but I once ran twenty miles in about thirty minutes, which, I think, was going some, considering the fact that the underbrush was thick, and I was in so much of a hurry that I forgot to throw away a knapsack that weighed nearly fifty pounds."—Chicago Record Herald.

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STAGECOACH ROBBERS.

How the Express Companies Deal With Old Time Highwaymen.

It was the treasure box of the Wells-Fargo company which transported practically all the gold and silver from the mining camps that was the special object of the old time stagecoach highwaymen. A shrewd band of robbers would not hold up a stage unless they had good reason to think it carried a large shipment of gold, and they used every means to find out when these shipments would be made. The company, on the other hand, tried to deceive and trap them, and there was a war of wits as well as weapons. A favorite method of the company when their stages had been repeatedly robbed by some band whose success showed they had inside information as to the time of shipment was to let a rumor leak out that on a certain day a large amount of gold dust would be secretly sent out by special stage. This, of course, would reach the ears of some of the band and a robbery be duly organized. A spy would see a number of heavy boxes placed aboard and report all well. When the highwaymen halted the stage the driver and guard would meekly give up and crawl to the ground. Then just when the bands had grown careless from easy success there poured from the looped coach a deadly fire that was a decoy, filled not with gold, but with men expert with the rifle. In 1898 three bands were thus blown to perdition on the old stage line between Virginia City, Nev., and Sacramento.—Washington Post.

THE STORE BUYER.

His Task of Selecting "Good Sellers" Is a Hard One.

Whoever has had difficulty in deciding which of two or more articles on a counter he will purchase may be able to appreciate the task which confronts the buyer of a stock of merchandise, says a writer in Collier's. The numbers of varieties offered for selection are almost beyond belief. In the toy department of a large wholesale house the following figures were obtained in regard to the goods actually being shown at one time in the sample room:

Magic lanterns, 250 varieties; boats, 300 varieties; horns, 1,000 varieties; Christmas tree ornaments, 2,000 varieties; dolls, 12,000 varieties. In gathering this assortment of Christmas tree ornaments it was necessary to deal with 750 manufacturers throughout Europe, and the selection of 2,000 samples represents only a fraction of the samples submitted by manufacturers. When it is considered that almost every person uses dishes at three meals a day and that the prices of plates may range from a few cents each to \$1,000 or more a set, it is not surprising to learn that the same wholesaler would display in his sample rooms over 250,000 varieties of articles in china.

The buyer has within such ranges of variety opportunity to "make or break" the patronage of a store by the wisdom he uses in making his selections.

Kettledrum a Perfect Instrument. The kettledrum, Gabriel Cleather contended, was perfectly competent to produce atmosphere as well as rhythm. Even to tune the instrument three things were required—a perfect musical ear, a fine sense of touch and five years' experience. After playing over a kettledrum melody written eighty years ago from Meyerbeer's "Robert le Diable," Mr. Cleather continued, "I venture to say that outside of the musical profession not one person in a hundred of those who listen to an orchestra in England today knows that timpani have notes and can give out a melody." No instrument, he added, had a greater range of power than the kettledrum, for none could be played more softly and none had greater penetrating power.—London Standard.

A German Memorial to Napoleon. It will come as news to most persons that there exists in Germany a monument to Napoleon I. This curiosity is to be found about eleven miles from Alseny, in the grand duchy of Hesse. The monument is situated near the Vorholz hunting lodge, at the summit of a wooded hill, and the spot is known as Napoleon's garden. It is a dwarfed pyramid of three sides, rather more than three feet in length. Upon it stands the inscription, in Latin, French and German, showing that it commemorates the marriage of Napoleon I. to Marie Louise, grand duchess of Austria, on April 1, 1810.—London Globe.

Went Papa One Better. "I love you very much, papa," said five-year-old Willie as he crawled up on his father's knee. "And I love you, too, Willie, when you are good," replied the father. "But, papa," continued the little fellow, not to be outdone, "I love you just the same, even when you ain't no good."

He Was Warned. Mrs. Jones—Did you really expect me to accept you the night you proposed? Mr. Jones—Yes, love. Just before I got to your house I heard a dog howl three times, saw the moon over my left shoulder and walked under a ladder.—Manchester Guardian.

MILITARY SYSTEM.

The Way Germany Handles Her Reserves in Case of War.

Nobody who has visited Germany can fail to have been struck by the large official signboards at the entry to each town or village. These contain full information as to exactly which official in the community to apply to should the magic word "mobilize" be spoken. Wherever the German reservist may chance to be when the order to mobilize is given—assuming, of course, that he is not out of the country—he has only got to ask the first inhabitant or walk to the end of the village and look at the directions on the signboard to find out his own particular place in the military scheme. He will see that he must go to Herr Schmidt at 40 Schutzen street. Herr Schmidt will tell him exactly in which town he has to go in order to rejoin his own unit and what is still more important, will give him the money and the railway pass to take him there. Arrived at his destination, he will find his uniform, arms and accoutrements piled neatly in a heap, with a label bearing his name and regimental number on the top of the heap. He has only to put it on and take his place among the comrades with whom he did his military service some years ago. This destination was arranged upon many years back, and the exact time schedule for marching and railway journeys was compiled long since.—Pearson's Weekly.

THE BASQUES.

An Interesting People Who Are a Puzzle Among Nations.

The Basque provinces lie in the north of Spain, and, although for centuries students have tried to trace the real origin of the people and find a key to their language, they have failed to do so.

All other known tongues spoken by the sons of men have been shown to possess a common origin, traceable to the Arabic and Semitic. But the Basque language has entirely resisted the philologist. In some aspects the vernacular shows traces of a Chinese admixture. In others it is clear that North American Indian terms are native to it. It also shows traces of barbaric languages spoken on the east coast of Africa.

The people themselves bear physiological traits found in those who speak the said tongue. The native name of Basque is Euzkara, and their motto is "Iruarabat" or "Three in One." Nor is their political structure anything like that of any known political body, though they belong, of course, to Spain. Each Basque province is governed by a parliament composed of representatives—selected partly by election, partly by lot—among the householders of each country parish or town. Their laws are essentially peculiar to themselves and are conceived on no known code either of ancient or mediæval times. They are a puzzle among nations and number half a million all told.—New York World.

Paper Which Is Waterproof. In Japan there is a paper made which is impervious to water, being made of bamboo fibers and eucalyptus mixed with the fibers of the gampi and some other shrubs. The fibers are first torn apart, made dry, cleaned and scraped, boiled in a weak lye and thoroughly washed in water, after which they are beaten and then mixed with certain roots made into a viscous state. A solution containing resin, esoutheuc and camphor is also added. A sort of pulp is thus formed and then made into sheets, which are run through a calendaring machine heated to various temperatures. The result is that a paper is produced which is exceedingly tough, light and which may be washed. The Japanese use it for leather imitations and indigo rubber.—Pathfinder.

Northern Australia. Australia's huge northern territory has a tropical, almost an equatorial, climate, and the heat is very enervating to Europeans. Its capital, Palmerston, contains more Chinese than Caucasians. The former are the ruling race and the employers; the whites are the servile and the employed. Large herds of buffaloes roam about the silent plains of this enormous territory, which would be a sportsman's paradise but for the wild natives, who are exceptionally fierce and treacherous and have killed a number of the hunters who came to hunt the buffaloes.

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REAL THREAD OF LIFE.

A Tiny Wisp of Tissue Imbedded in the Heart's Walls.

According to tradition, it was Atropos, the blind Fury with the abhorred shears, who slit the thin spun life, and many of Milton's readers may have wondered whether there was any thread in the anatomy of man the severance of which would be immediately fatal. Injuries to the brain and heart, in both of which the principle of life has been supposed to reside, may be survived for shorter or longer periods; but, as an article by Dr. G. E. Lea reminds us, physiologists have of late years discovered a nerve or bundle of nerves which might well be described as the thread of life. One of the developing sciences of our time is cardiology, the science of the heart beat. The heart, as most people are aware, is divided into auricles and ventricles. The ventricles are the pumping chambers; the auricles are the collecting chambers of the blood and, like the stroke of a racing engine, set the rhythm of the heart beat. A little instrument called the sphygmograph is placed on the wrist pulse and magnifies its movements and traces them with a recording pen in a zigzag curve, telling the observer what the ventricles are doing. Another instrument, the polygraph, placed on the jugular, records the more delicate vibrations of the auricle. With the aid of these two instruments the physician can find what all the four chambers of the heart are doing. Now, the auricular contraction acts as a stimulant or starting shock to the ventricular contraction. Most stimuli are conveyed along nerves. Therefore a little nerve in the heart to act as a telegraph wire between auricle and ventricle was to be expected. Such a thing has been found by physiologists; but, rather than a nerve, it is a specialized sensitive portion of the heart muscle itself. It is a little wisp of tissue not an inch long and only one-twelfth of an inch thick. On this delicate communicating wisp, called the auriculo-ventricular bundle, hangs existence itself. Evolution has arranged that it shall be so small and so sheltered in position in the heart that it is rarely damaged even by large injuries to that organ. But if it is severed then the ventricles must stop and life must instantaneously cease.—London Post.

Kept Him Busy. "Did you do much sightseeing when you went abroad?"

"No," answered Mr. Cumros. "Mother and the girls did the sightseeing. I had to put in my time finding the places where they cash letters of credit."—Washington Star.

Considerate Silence. "So your boy Josh is workin' up to town?"

"Yep," answered Farmer Cornstossel. "Ever go up to see him?"

"Nope. After all them funerals he's got off to attend on days the home team played it wouldn't do fur any of his relatives to show up alive."—Washington Star.

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