

## NEW YORK NEWS LETTER

New York, Oct. 22.—Supported by nearly all of the leading lawyers of New York, Sheriff Branger will make an effort to have the next legislature abolish that relic of medievalism, the debtors' prison of New York, by repealing the law permitting arrests in civil cases. The sheriff hopes that a sufficiently strong public sentiment can be aroused in support of the measure. Before the present sheriff went into office the civil-suit prisoners were treated as if they were convicted criminals. Now, they are well fed; their cells, or, rather rooms, are comfortable and neat, and they are free to come and go as they please within the boundaries of the prison. The ease with which a person can be put in jail here for debt makes no man secure against the debtors' prison, and once within its walls there is no chance of escape unless one submits to the demands of the sharp-practice man and the blackmailer. It is occasionally a matter of life imprisonment for no crime.

Unless steps are taken soon by some of the historic societies, the old headquarters which Washington occupied at the battle of White Plains will be demolished. A New York realty company has purchased the tract of land on which the building stands and is engaged in cutting it up into building lots. There is some talk of getting the board of supervisors to buy the old landmark and preserve them in the form of museums, but as yet nothing has been done. The buildings are very dilapidated. Windows are broken out, doors are torn off and tramps sleep there at night. Many of the relics of the famous revolutionary struggle which took place in the neighborhood have been dug up recently, among them cannon balls and British and Hessian coins. The entire section is rich in historical interest. The house which was the headquarters of General Washington is occupied most of the time by Italians.

One of the many odd characters who ride regularly on the New York elevated trains is a good-looking old man whom the elevated guards have dubbed "Bluebeard" from the fact that his beard is dyed a blueish black, although his hair remains white. He wears a frock coat and gray trousers which have seen better days, but still lend an air of gentility to the wearer. His shoes are always polished and his hat neatly brushed. What attracts attention to the old man is his habit of collecting abandoned newspapers and his manner of doing so. Whenever he finds a paper he looks furtively around, and when he thinks no one is watching him seizes the paper and thrusts it under his long coat. This maneuver is repeated until he is portly with newspapers. When he can get no more under his coat he leaves the train. The railroad guards are not sure whether he is a half-demented creature with a hobby or a news-dealer seeking to acquire a stock at small expense.

An addition to the lion family in Central Park is expected in a few days, and a large warm box has been built in lioness Rosie's cage for a nest for the expected little ones. Rosie is the mother of all the lions in the park zoo, but is as lively and as youthful-looking as many of her offspring. Sultan, the aged sire, looks with stolid indifference upon every addition to his family, though he is proud enough of his mate.

The chief of the New York fire department has a glittering white official helmet for fires, so that his subordinates may know instantly that orders coming from the man with that helmet are authoritative. Chief Croker, however, prefers a disreputable brown felt hat, with a high, uncreased crown and its brim bent any old way. The distinctive outlines of this peculiar headgear, even when seen through the smoky glare of a night fire, point out the chief even more surely than a white helmet, for the battalion chiefs wear helmets, too. It is only at very big fires where Croker intends to plunge into the thick of the fight and needs the protection of the neck guard that he dons the official headpiece. His estimate of the condition of a fire and the time when it becomes "under control" may be inferred from whether he puts on the helmet and when he takes it off again. He does this last at the earliest possible opportunity.

Louise Homer is a metropolitan prima donna who is never described as arriving from Europe or sailing for that continent. Mrs. Homer is an American and stays in her own country, where she is usually kept busy when she does not want to rest. She has a country home at Oteora, and sang both this spring and last summer in the various music festivals throughout the country. Mrs. Homer is doing much to prove that it is not necessary, after all, for an American prima donna to go to Europe every summer, merely as a commercial proposition, as if that really were her home.

Just as the curb-brokers in Broad street were about to finish their trading the other afternoon a hearse drove up to a neat-by building. Undertaker's men jumped out and hurried into the building. Brokers and messenger boys stopped to wonder who could be dead, and waited to see the body brought out. The guesses as to who had died ranged all the way from the janitor up to some of the famous financiers who have offices in the building. The curious crowded into the hallway. They were about to go upstairs in their eagerness to find out, when one of the undertaker's men came down carrying a pile of chairs. A copper company had been holding its annual meeting in the building. The undertaker had furnished the chairs and had sent the only vehicle he didn't have in use to remove them. It didn't take long for the crowd to melt away.

Bob Fitzsimmons is out with the announcement that he is through fighting and acting. By next year Bob hopes to be restoring health to broken-down millionaires. He also is desirous that a few wealthy people contribute to a plan he has for organizing a \$200,000 stock company. The money is to be used in purchasing and establishing a health farm near this city. Fitz says that he already has an option on a fine tract of land in New Jersey, and that he will erect a hotel thereon, which will accommodate 200 guests. Fitz says that the place is to be so arranged that a man will not only seek to recuperate there, but will bring his wife and family along. With this end in view he has engaged Mrs. Wilson Cunningham, who won the all-around championship for women in England last year. She is to look after the women and children, while Fitz will instruct the male guests.

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## CITIZENS TRACTION COMPANY

Adds New Machinery to Street Car Barn—Yew Park Line

The Yew Park street car track is related to a point almost opposite the Southern Pacific passenger depot, and the company hopes to be able to complete the line to Morningside addition before November 1st. The new standard gauge line will be greatly appreciated by the people of the districts mentioned, and the company will maintain a good service on the line. The street car repair shop is now located in the second story of the office building south of the Willamette hotel, and is being fitted with the latest improved machinery. This morning a new lathe arrived, and will be placed in position. With other new machines recently added, the company will be enabled to make all the necessary repairs to their cars in their own shop, thus saving a large amount of time in hauling defective parts to outside machine shops.

RURAL FREE DELIVERY.

Republicans Alone Deserve Credit for Inaugurating the Service—Democrats Ignored the Law.

When Democrats assert that their party is the "father" of rural free delivery, they willfully misstate the facts. It is charity to call their assertion a plain falsehood, for it is a deliberate lie, uttered with the intention to deceive many persons. Rural free delivery had its origin under the Harrison administration, and Postmaster-General Wannamaker was its "father." He proposed and established the first experimental route. When the Democrats came into power, under President Cleveland, they did everything possible to kill rural free delivery; in fact, they absolutely refused to expend any of the \$10,000 congressional appropriation for its nourishment, and both Postmaster-Generals Bissell and Wilson, in their annual reports, did their utmost to discredit it. President Cleveland also threw cold water on it in a hostile message to congress. When McKinley became President, rural free delivery was pushed to the front as a Republican policy. This policy has been continued under President Roosevelt, until now there are about 27,500 routes in operation. No farmer need be deceived by Democracy's false claim; for the record shows that to Republicans alone belongs the credit of inaugurating and fostering a mail service that is of incalculable benefit to rural communities.

For Western Development.

St. Louis, Oct. 22.—The fifteenth annual session of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress is to be held in St. Louis during the coming week and a number of the officers and leading members of the organization have already arrived in the city to complete the arrangements for the gathering. Owing to the central location of St. Louis and the added attraction of the world's fair the congress this year promises to be the best attended and the most successful ever held by the organization.

The program calls for addresses by many men of note. James R. Garfield, of the department of commerce, is expected to be present as the personal representative of President Roosevelt. Hon. F. J. Hagenbarth, president of the American Live Stock Association, will be present and discuss the range interests before the congress. William E. Curtis, the well known newspaper correspondent, will tell of irrigation work in India. Other speakers will be Charles Jerome Bonaparte, president of the National Municipal Reform Association; F. H. Newell, chief of the reclamation service department of the interior; Gifford Pinchet, chief of the bureau of Forestry, and Martin Dodge, director of road inquiries, United States department of Agriculture.

A Love Letter.

Would not interest you if you're looking for a guaranteed Salve for Sores, Burns or Piles. Otto Dodd, of Ponder, Mo., writes: 'I suffered with an ugly sore for a year, but a box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured me. It's the best Salve on earth. 25c at J. C. Perry's drug store.'

Change of bill tomorrow night at the Edison.

To St. Louis.

The Southern Pacific have made additional sale dates for the sale of world's fair tickets, as follows: October 27th, 28th and 29th.

W. E. COMAN.

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Stray Notice.

Notice is hereby given that I have taken up and impounded the following described animal found running at large within the City of Salem, to-wit:

One dark brown horse, about 12 years old, right hind foot white, and anchor brand on left hip.

The owner of said animal can have the same by proving property and paying the legal charges and expenses of taking up and keeping etc., and in default thereof for five days, I will proceed to sell the said animal at public auction as provided in ordinance No. 200 of the aforesaid city.

Dated Salem, October, 20.

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