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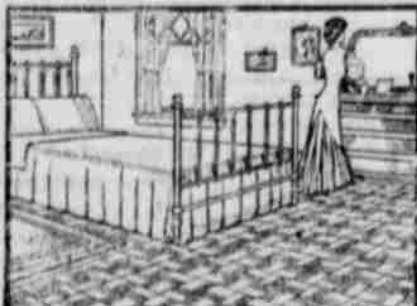
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INTERESTING STORIES FROM WASHINGTON

(United Press Licensed Wire.)

Washington, Sept. 12.—Down in old Mexico they like hot-stuff in literature.

Consul General Gottschalk writing to the department of commerce and labor says the people there want to read translations of Edgar Allan Poe's creepy creations, or neurotic French novels—the consul general politely dubs the latter "emotional works"—and no tame love idylls or character sketches find sale in the book mart.

If it isn't something racy, then it must be stirring. Briefly, the Spanish temperament won't stand for pastels in words. Needless to say, Henry James is tabooed.

But they take to the works of Theodore Roosevelt. Gottschalk declares naively, "Occasionally works of thrilling contemporaneous interest have grown popular * * * such as 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' and, of recent years, President Roosevelt's published works." The "Struonous Life" appeals to the devotees of the "Simple Life" in Tabasco land.

Unfortunately Gottschalk does not mention the six best sellers in Mexico City, but he does approximate that 300 miscellaneous works, 1000 of current fiction and 1000 of standard authors, with 3000 technical books, including those on games and books of travel—all importations from America—are sold every year in Mexico City alone. In addition nearly 5000 copies of various American daily papers, and 2350 monthly magazines, are sold in the capital each month.

It would appear that the Spanish-American is intolerant of "Sunday school stories." He wants the kind of a book that flushes the cheek or makes shivers run up and down the spine. He thinks the favorite books and plays of Americans "too phlegmatic," according to Mr. Gottschalk, and that our art and literature has too little of the impulsive and dramatic.

Consul Legation, of Tuxpan,

who also writes the department on the same subject, thinks Hackettesque plays and Dumas-like novels best suit the Mexican taste.

"Chivalrous sentiment," he says, "is a prominent characteristic among all classes in Mexico, and novels of all kinds strongly appeal to their nature if at all worthy of being read and the price is moderate."

It is somewhat paradoxical that the Spanish-American, who is generally horribly averse to exertion, to hardship, and is, in fact, rather indolent, should demand stories brimming with action, seething with strenuousness, or palpating with hardship.

That he should love romance and stories of the tender passion are to be expected in a Latin temperament, but why does he take an interest in the works of Theodore Roosevelt?

Crank Communications.

Probably no branch of the government service receives so many "crank" communications as the department of Justice.

Hardly a day passes but the post-man brings queries from citizens seeking solutions of some legal situation, denunciations of governmental policy, offers of assistance and advice on how to run things, and, oftentimes, pathetic little messages of disappointment and life failure.

Assistant Attorney General Russell recently returned from Oklahoma where he went to settle up certain Indian land disputes. In the course of his work there, he issued subpoenas to a great many settlers. Upon his arrival here he found a curious letter. One of the men on whom a subpoena had been served wrote, "I pray you my honor have pity on me and tell thy servant the matter whereof I am complained against and charged with." It was addressed "To the Hon. Melville W. Fuller, chief justice of the supreme court of the United States of Ameri-

ca, at the city of Muskogee"—the form of salutation with which the government's subpoenas were headed. The writer was pathetically frightened. He interspersed "my Lord," and "your Honor" throughout, and wound up with an appeal for an audience, stating his willingness to find out what the accusation was. Judge Russell explained the matter by letter.

A South Boston (Mass.) man recently addressed 42 close-spaced typewritten pages to the department, detailing his martial vicissitudes—and they were of the variety defined by General Sherman's famous epigram about war.

The other day quite the most puzzling of the recent letters was received. It read:

"Madison, Wis., Attorney General Bonaparte. As a family we have been d-neged most of the time for the last 20 years.

"MRS. —"

The late J. Sterling Morton was "and of relating the story of a letter he had received when secretary of agriculture. A young western farmer was assiduously courting the daughter of a neighbor—also a farmer—at whose home he was wont to indulge in an occasional game of cards. The girl's father was a voluntary weather and crop correspondent, and as such was furnished with franked envelopes and stationery of the department of agriculture.

One evening the young man marked the score on one of the department's envelopes. Later, in idly examining it, he was horrified to discover the words "\$300 penalty for private use," in the upper right hand corner. Filled with dreadful thoughts of prosecution, the prospective beneficiary sat down and wrote an appealing letter to the secretary, the burden of which was "Please Mr. Morton don't prosecute me." At the end his sweetheart wrote, "Please Mr. Secretary, if John has to pay his fine we won't never be able to get married, as it will take every cent he has saved."

The pathetic side of the case appealed to Morton. Of course, there was a ridiculous side too, for the penalty clause on an official envelope refers only to its use through the mails. He therefore dictated a long, fatherly letter to the young

man, taking care not to wound him by pointing out the ridiculousness of the situation, but merely explaining it clearly. And he closed the letter by asking for a wedding invitation.

Panama Rainfall.

Four and one-half inches of rainfall in one hour, and 1.15 inches in only ten minutes, is going some, but that is what they had down in Panama one day last month.

They called it a shower, but admitted that it was the heaviest that has been recorded on the isthmus since the American occupation. It began about noon and lasted until 9:45 p. m., but the heaviest precipitation was between 2:30 and 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon. During those three hours there were 7.62 inches of rain.

A part of the roadbed of the Panama railroad was washed away and the main of the Union Oil company pipe line was broken.

Fortunately the precipitation was greatest at points where little or no excavation is in progress. Except for momentary troubles with sunken tracks and the natural difficulty of handling mud, the work on the canal proceeded as usual the day after the storm.

From the Americans began a systematic investigation of the isthmus of Panama in 1904 up to July 1, this year, 36.12 miles of borings have been made to determine the geological structure along the line of the canal. By means of these borings suitable foundations for locks and dams have been found, and the character of excavation has been determined in advance of the actual excavation work.

White Plague.

Startling figures as to the spread of the "white plague" will be presented to the International Congress of Tuberculosis which is to meet in Washington this month.

"Every 24 minutes there is a death from consumption in the state of New York," is the remarkable statement which will appear on one of the charts to be shown in the New York section of the exhibition, which will be a feature of the congress.

For more than 20 years scientists have claimed that tuberculosis is not only not hereditary, but that it is

WOULD WIN GIRL'S LOVE BY MAKING HER A PRISONER

Long Beach, Cal., Sept. 12.—The police are today looking for George Artemus, a Greek, who lives in Oakland, who is accused by Miss Jennie Parsons, a pretty Oakland girl of 18 of having subjected her to terrible cruelties, in an effort to force her to marry him.

The girl ran into the police station almost fainting last night, and begged for protection. She said that Artemus had made love to her in Oakland, and that she had repulsed his wooing.

One night, she said, she was slung on the streets, and when she regained consciousness she found herself in a room guarded by an old man who could not speak English. Artemus visited her often, she said, and made violent love to her, promising her freedom if she would consent to marry him.

She was a prisoner for three weeks, she said, when the old woman fell in a fit one day and she escaped. She came here and thought she was safe. Last evening she met Artemus and ran several blocks to the police station for protection.

COLONEL STEWART IS PREPARED TO UNDERGO HARD RIDING TESTS

Haachuca, Ariz., Sept. 12.—Colonel William F. Stewart, "the American Dreyfus," the Fort Grant exile, is in the pink of condition today for the 90-mile test ride prescribed for him by the war department, after having made a 15-mile preliminary jaunt last night.

Accompanied by Major Foster, an attache of the post, Colonel Stewart mounted his horse at Fort Haachuca and dashed across the country to Haachuca siding. An hour and 26 minutes later he drew rein at the fort, having made the round trip of 15 miles. Despite the pace at which he traveled, the colonel showed no signs of fatigue at the end of the trip, and his horse was in almost as good condition as when it left the fort.

Friends of Colonel Stewart were delighted today when they learned the outcome of the ride. They do not hesitate to express their belief that he will have no trouble in passing the 90-mile test, and are ready to wager that his horse will finish in better condition than the mount of any other officer riding under similar conditions.

Colonel Shuyler, commandant of the post, who is entertaining Colonel Stewart during his stay here, refused to discuss his guest's chances of passing the test. It is known, however, that he shares the belief that Stewart will be successful.

The test required by the war department that a mounted officer cover 90 miles in 24 hours actual riding. This is divided into three days, with eight hours riding each day. Many officers have taken the test successfully and seen nothing difficult in it, but they did not encounter the conditions which confront Colonel Stewart. He will not canter along a smooth, well-kept, shady road. Thirty miles in eight hours on the Arizona desert is entirely different.

This season the thermometer seldom registers less than 100 degrees, the sun's rays are blistering. Alkali bites the throat and nostrils of rider and horse. The dust rises in a cloud and myriads of gnats swarm in the air.

FATALLY BURNED IN OFFICE FIRE

(United Press Licensed Wire.)

Chicago, Sept. 12.—Miss Etta Oaks, 27 years old, and George Frost, 16, were fatally burned and five persons seriously hurt by the explosion of gas today at the offices of the Wall Adding Machine Company.

The vault was lighted by a gas jet, which had not been turned off properly last night. The gas collected in the vault all night, and when a match was struck today to light the jet, the terrific explosion shook the whole building and shattered the window of the office structure.

The offices of the Adding Machine Company were wrecked. Everyone who was there at the time was more or less hurt. The office fixtures and books were scattered about the room into which the vault opened as if whirlwind had struck it.

Miss Oaks and Frost were unconscious when carried out, and there is no hope for their recovery. Of the five seriously injured it is feared several will die.

ing the experiment would have succeeded." Th utter folly of it they can learn nothing or prove nothing by the experiment, as this statement would seem to admit, why do they do it?"

Housaton Baseball Seats.

Housaton bleachers at ten center bleachers are still legal in Washington.

A few days ago James McAllister, who owns a home adjoining the American league park, and who has been doing a profitable business renting roof seats to all comers, was arrested on the charge of "maintaining an entertainment enterprise without a license."

The legal shams of the District government tried their best to prove McAllister guilty, but the police judge finally decided that he had committed no offense in the eyes of the law. It is assumed that the case did not consider the variety of his outfit up by the Nationals to be in the category of "entertainment."

Want Law to Oppose Vivil Section.

The anti-vivisectionists, headed by Thomas Nelson Page, the novelist, are preparing to urge upon the coming session of congress the passage of a bill prohibiting or regulating the cutting up of live animals in the District of Columbia "in the interests of science." The bill is to serve as a model for similar legislation to be pushed in the various states by branches of the Anti-Vivisection society.

That dogs rounded up for the pound have been turned over to medical students for experimental purposes, and that they have been subjected to cruel tortures, oftentimes without the administration of an anesthetic, is freely charged by leaders of the society here.

"It is the absolute uselessness of the infliction of the suffering upon the helpless animals today," said Mrs. Harry H. Tolson, one of the officers of "the society," "that is the strongest argument against vivisection, and try as they may, its advocates cannot adduce a single instance wherein it has proved of assistance in discoveries which have augmented medical science.

"In the heart massage experiments being conducted at one of the Washington hospitals, in the course of which rabbits are tied down to the operating tables and cut to pieces while agony racks their bodies until at last merciful death comes to relieve them, the results, by the words of the surgeons themselves, can prove nothing.

"A rabbit dies under the knife, but the surgeon is delighted and says: 'If it had been a human be-

A solemn warning has been issued by the civil service commission to the army of government employees in Washington and elsewhere against side-stepping their work for the same in order to indulge in the unproductive game of politics.

It seems that in past campaigns it has been the practice of a good many government officials and clerks to resign so that they may run for office in their home communities, or otherwise become actively engaged in political work, then to be reinstated on election day—if the job still looks good to them.

But this year there will be no reinstatements, says the commission. The order reads as follows:

"The commission desires to inform each of the departments and independent executive offices of its attitude toward employees in the classified service who resign to become candidates for office or to engage in active political work, and who afterwards seek reinstatement.

"Inasmuch as the issuance of a certificate is discretionary with the commission, no certificate will be issued in any case where the party seeking reinstatement resigned with a view of running for office, or indulging in a degree of political activity which would be prohibited if he had remained in the service."

(Continued on Page 5.)