

ILLINOIS STATE NEWS



WHITE ELEPHANT PARTY.

A most amusing little entertainment in a white elephant party. Invitations took the form of small-sized posters of gray cardboard, on these were painted elephants cut from white note paper, below which written in red ink was the following metrical stanza:—

"Twenty white elephants going for a song. Have you an elephant? Bring it along. Box it and tie it, a mark if you please, You'll be rid of your burden with laughter and ease."

The definition of a white elephant was added for the enlightenment of all such as failed to classify the troublesome possession under its proper head.

"A white elephant is something you don't like and have no use for, yet which is too good to throw away."

On the reverse side of the poster the conventional invitations were written, naming hour and date for the fun.

Accordingly one Winter's afternoon found twenty laughing women assembled in the house from which the posters were issued, each guest carrying a box of varying size and shape.

When the last expected guest had made her appearance the signal for exchange of the white elephants was given.

Each woman exchanged with someone else, then retired to some secluded corner to examine her prize. If this proved hardly more tempting than the elephant just disposed of, she was privileged to return it to its box and to continue the exchange.

By this time all elephants had exchanged owners several times, the most laughable confusion resulted. Players brought back by exchange their own burdens, or those previously examined, the exchange becoming, consequently, faster and more furious with every moment.

At the end of three-quarters of an hour each guest having made her decision, the exchanging was discontinued.

A merry sit-down contest was arranged when the entertainer distributed squares of white paper from which all were requested to tear (without recourse to scissors) the figure of an elephant. The maker of the cleverest animal won an elephant in hard chocolate as prize.

Light refreshments, among which cookies in the form of elephants tied with baby ribbon cut a prominent figure, rounded out a delightful afternoon.—New York Press.

RODE A CROCODILE AT SEA.

Warren Frazier, better known as "Alligator Joe," treated society folk at Palm Beach to a new sporting sensation. He towed a crocodile weighing 200 pounds well out into the Atlantic ocean, had a wrestling match with it, mounted it bareback, and brought it back to shore. The crowd, mostly women, gasped until it was over, and then applauded smartly.

The crocodile was about sixty to seventy years old and perhaps twelve feet long. "He's a young one," said Frazier, and he spoke truly, for the patriarch of his tribe is declared to be more than 400 years old. After towing it out, Frazier released it, then made a quick jump and landed stomach down on the creature's back. Over and over they went, like boys wrestling. The tail of the animal lashing about could be seen, and at times its forefeet were exposed as Frazier tilted it up.

Gradually Frazier worked the reptile to a steep bank. A rope was thrown to him. Keeping the crocodile under water, he tied the cord around its long snout in two places. It was then dragged ashore and its tail was tied to its head so that it could be lifted into a cart.

The reptile toward the end appeared to be completely fagged, but Frazier showed no exhaustion.—Palm Beach Dispatch to New York Times.

DEVIL BIRD OF CEYLON.

Most people who have visited the island of Ceylon and penetrated into its jungle fastnesses have heard the cry of the devil bird. This awe-inspiring sound resembles nothing so much as the scream of a human being undergoing the most terrible torture. Naturalists have identified it with the brown wood owl found in Hindustan.

But the devil bird, or ulama, as the Cingalese call it, is an elusive creature, and no one has had the good fortune to kill or catch a specimen. The Cingalese—naturally a superstitious race—regard the cry of this bird with the utmost horror; they believe that its scream heard at night presages the most dire misfortune, and they are in the habit of offering sacrifices to avert the approaching disaster.

Mr. Mitford of the Ceylon civil service studied the mysterious bird with great interest. "Its ordinary note," he writes, "is a magnificent, clear shout like that of a human being, which can be heard at a great distance, and has a fine effect in the silence of the closing night. But the sounds which have earned for it its bad name and which I have heard but once to perfection, are indescribable, the most appalling that can be imagined, and scarcely to be heard without shuddering. I can only compare it to a boy in torture, whose screams are being stopped by being strangled."—Chicago Daily News.

BIRD HUNT IN MIDOCEAN.

A penguin hunt during a winter storm in the mid-Atlantic was one of the odd experiences of R. H. Jones, who returned from a bird buying trip abroad. Commissioned to buy the stock for the great aviaries at Big Stone Park, Mr. Jones was returning with some fifty out of the 2,000 birds he had procured at the various markets in England and on the continent. His traveling proteges were lashed in small cages on the upper deck in the port of New York each day.

One morning when the sea was running mountain high and no passengers dared to venture upon the decks a crate containing a penguin broke loose, crashed down to a lower deck and broke open. Mr. Penguin promptly emerged from the debris and started on a tour of exploration. It happens that penguins are not available in the market every day. This specimen being one of two which Mr. Jones bought on the London docks of a sailor just in from Africa. Consequently he saw that heroic steps were to be taken as to one of his rarest birds was to be saved. In imminent danger of being washed away by the big combers, he and a sailor chased the escaped prisoner over the sloping, slippery decks till the bird was again safely caged and stowed.—Minneapolis Journal.

A MAGNANIMOUS VICTOR.

A pretty little story of a spelling-class in China is told by the Golden Rule.

The youngest of the children had, by hard study, contrived to keep his place so long that he seemed to claim it by right of possession. Growing too self-confident, however, he relaxed his efforts, and one day missed a word, which was immediately spelled by the boy standing next to him.

The face of the victor expressed the triumph he felt; yet he made no move toward taking the place, and, when urged to do so, firmly refused, saying—

"No, me not go; me not make Ah Fun's heart sorry."

That was even better than the apology by Whittier's little friend, who was sorry she spelled the word, and hated to go above him—but went.

"RATTLE" KNOWS MAYOR. A five-foot rattlesnake has become the special pet of Mayor Stoy and occupies luxurious quarters in his private office. The snake has five rattles, which it rattles joyously on the approach of Mr. Stoy.

Since its arrival here several days ago the snake has had the run of the mayor's private room, with the result that every one, excepting the mayor, has given the place a wide berth. The janitor has refused to clean the room, and the mayor's pretty typewriters have been thrown into a state bordering on hysteria.

The snake, which Mayor Stoy secured on a hunting trip in the south, has learned to come to Mr. Stoy at his call. His favorite haunt is on the top of the mayor's desk, where it will remain for hours at a time. Mr. Stoy says the snake has come to stay.—Atlantic City Dispatch to Chicago Tribune.

MRS. SMITH'S PET DEER.

Mrs. Nellie Smith, of Sebec, Me., has a tame deer which is nearly two years old now, but which she has raised like a cosset lamb, feeding it from a bottle at first and making a great pet of it. It was given to her by a lumberman, who overlooked it in the deep snow and caught it in his arms when it was no larger than a cat, except for its legs. It has always been perfectly tame and domesticated, never having known anything of the wild life of its kind, but runs about the premises unrestrained, having its place in the stable on cold nights. The deer are numerous around Sebec, and it is a question whether, as Mrs. Smith's pet grows older, it will not answer to the "call of the wild" and join its comrades in the forest.—New York Tribune.

QUEER CRABS.

There are some queer crabs in the world. The soldier crab of Bermuda carries heavy shells up the hills. A shore crab on the Cape Verde islands may be seen running along like a piece of paper blown by a strong wind. There are crabs in Ascension island that steal young rabbits from their nests, and the robber crab of the Philippines cracks coconuts and eats them.

BULL KILLS A MATADOR.

First Death of the Kind in Mexico—His Unlucky Day.

Bull fighting in Mexico has had its first death; that is, the first death of a human being. The superstitious will nod sagely when they learn that the fatal fight occurred on the 13th of January.

According to Modern Mexico it was a great day. Antonio Montes, a favorite matador, had had trouble getting one bull, a native Mexican product, into a good position for the final thrust. When he did so, after much manoeuvring, he himself was backed up against the wooden fence which surrounds the ring.

He killed the bull "beautifully," but in the animal's dying rage the bull caught and threw the matador three times, inflicting the fatal injuries.

After preparing the body for shipment back to Spain, where all good bull fighters come from and where they are always buried, it was placed in the chapel of the Spanish cemetery in this city where, through the carelessness of the guard, the candle was allowed to fall over and set fire to the draperies, burning down the chapel and cremating the body.

Aside from the natural interest in such an event and the dramatic features of the fight, death and cremation, it was one of the most interesting sights to see the crowd of Mexicans of all classes, from the highest to the lowest, which hung about the house where the dying favorite lay. This crowd was never less than 2,000 and often greater than 2,000, a most interesting commentary on the statement, often heard, that bull fighting as a sport is on the wane in popularity here. However, some little agitation, backed by well known people, has been begun looking toward a permanent closing of the bull rings. What the result of this talk and the petitions will be cannot be forecast, but the fact that this was tried once before and was a signal failure, and also that a new steel ring has just been built and will be ready for occupancy next year, point to a probable failure of the agitation.

An average of fifty-two ships clear the port of New York each day.

STATE LOSSES A POINT.

Supreme Court Throws Out Action to Recover Back Taxes.

The State lost the first point in its fight with the Illinois Central railroad for the collection of several million dollars alleged to be due back taxes. The Supreme Court dismissed the State's suit for an accounting and recovery of the State's alleged share of the gross receipts of the company. In dismissing the suit the court gave leave to the Attorney General to withdraw the suit and file either in the Circuit or Superior Court, thus making it optional with the Attorney General whether he shall institute proceedings in Sangamon or Cook county. The question of jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was touched upon in the brief oral decision which was rendered by Chief Justice Scott. The chief justice announced that the court was divided as to whether the suit involved revenue within the meaning of the constitution, and the court therefore in its discretion declined not to assume jurisdiction. Assistant Attorney General Dempsey said that the suit would be refiled promptly either in the Circuit Court of Sangamon county or in the Superior Court of Cook county.

CHARGE MURDER IN DEATH.

Police Arrest Foreman, Who, They Say, Is Responsible.

The Chicago police and Coroner Hoffman have begun an investigation of the case of Alexander J. Peterkin, 44 years old, who died at his residence, 202 North Carpenter street, Tuesday night of injuries received Feb. 22, when he said to have been assaulted by William O'Neill, a foreman employed by Hayes Bros., contractors, at Lockport. O'Neill was arrested at night in French Lick Springs, Ind., on a charge of having caused Peterkin's death. An official of the sanitary board learned O'Neill was employed by railroad contractors at French Lick. Peterkin was an inspector of material in the employ of the sanitary district. His activity in inspecting material for use in the erection of the new power plant at Lockport is said to have led to the assault. The police and Coroner Hoffman say Peterkin was murdered and that O'Neill is responsible for his death.

GRAND COUNCIL NAMES CHIEFS.

Eight Chicago Men Given Honors by the Royal Arcanum.

The twenty-seventh annual grand council of the Royal Arcanum was called in Rockford. Two hundred and fifty delegates are in attendance. Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: Grand regent, C. A. Sullivan; grand orator, Charles H. Ripley; grand secretary, John Kiley; grand treasurer, Fred L. Wilk; grand auditor, G. L. Smith; grand chaplain, A. L. Kanagy; grand guide, G. M. Parker; grand warden, C. W. Nottingham; grand sentry, Joseph Wick. All the officers save Messrs. Ripley and Wick are from Chicago. A class of forty candidates was initiated into the local council.

WILL PROSECUTE HUSBAND.

Woman Comes from France and Makes Charge of Desertion.

Mrs. Alfred Bourland reached Christian county recently, coming from France with her children to prosecute her husband, who is charged with deserting his family in Paris several years ago. Bourland was placed under arrest. His second wife must also answer to the charge of bigamy. It was asserted that both Bourland and his second wife had been previously married in France, but the woman denied the charge and was acquitted. It is said that Mrs. Bourland No. 2 is in destitute circumstances and was forced to beg for the support of herself and children.

WOULD END SOY'S ROMANCE.

Sheets of Lake County Wish to Stop Boy's Wedding.

A. F. Copp has written to the sheriff of Lake county, whose home is at Wankegan, sent to Kenosha the other day in an effort to invalidate the marriage license issued to his son, William Conrad, 19 years old. The girl whom young Conrad has chosen to be his bride is Fannie E. Arndt. The father says the son is too young to wed and also claims that the bride is not in good health. The son replied by saying that the wedding would take place despite his father's wishes. The sheriff is now seeking to invoke the aid of Wisconsin laws to stop the progress of his son's romance.

AGED COUPLE IN ROMANCE.

Man Marries Woman Who Was Bridemaid at His First Wedding.

A pretty romance of the aged developed a few days ago in Knox county when Rev. Calvin Gibbs, aged 70, and Mrs. Almira McTaggart, aged 70, were married. Fifty years ago the groom married the sister of the bride, the latter acting as bridemaid on that occasion. Rev. Mr. Gibbs has been for almost half a century a clergyman in the Methodist church, mostly in the Detroit conference. Of late he has been a resident of Marceline, Mo. The bride has been a resident of Knox county for the last nine years.

FARMS UNABLE TO GET HELP.

Over \$22 a Month with Little Reprieve from Laborers.

Farm help is scarce and growing scarcer. The farmer is beginning to send out a wall for recruits and his work is suffering meanwhile. Those whose places are near a railroad or city generally are enabled to get relief with some promptness and but slight worry, but the farmer who lives some distance away from labor markets finds the laborer reluctant and timid. Owing to the demand wages are perhaps higher than ever before and range from \$24 to \$32 a month.

Arrested on Murder Charge.

William O'Neill, the foreman for Hayes Brothers, who is accused of having fatally injured Alexander Peterkin, an inspector for the sanitary district, in a fight up in Joliet and was placed under arrest on the charge of murder by Marshal E. J. Coen of the sanitary district police.

City Marshal Drops Bond.

Just after arresting two men at Gibson City Night Marshal C. C. Hoadly said that these three men were in the same boat for three years and was 71 years old.

CHICAGO N. O. DOOMED.

Chicago Court Knocks Vision of Building Money for Car Business.

The Supreme Court of Illinois has administered what will be generally regarded as a death blow to municipal ownership of street car lines in Chicago. There are contingencies under which municipal ownership is yet possible, but the time when they could be worked out is remote. The decision was the long-awaited word in the case which challenged the legality of the \$75,000,000 worth of Mueller law certificates which the Dunne faction desired to issue. The Supreme Court decided against the certificates. In doing so it practically made the law still inoperative. The Mueller law still stands intact, but the means of putting it into effect, so far as Chicago is concerned, have been taken away from it. The city may own and operate street car lines if it ever shall want to, but the method of getting the money with which to buy, or build them has been taken away from it.

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THREAT TO KILL REFORMER.

Warning Is Received by Converted Saloonkeeper of Litchfield.

"If saloons are voted out of Litchfield we will burn your home and take your life." Such was the substance of a menacing letter received by J. E. Toney, the reformer of saloonkeepers, in an anonymous letter. It was largely through Toney's influence that temperance was in Litchfield by 150 votes. Toney recently became converted to a revival meeting, when his daughter received the ordinance of baptism. Later he poured \$500 worth of liquor into the street, absolutely renouncing the business. His conscience burned with the thought of his responsibility for the lives of several hundred men, who had committed crimes because of the liquor dealers' Association and several years ago made a successful speech against moral interests. He now admits that the address was made up chiefly of falsehoods.

WIFE QUIT DRY GOODS BOXES.

504 Holders at Argenta Start Information Campaign.

The 504 holders of Argenta and some of the other citizens have rented a building and have opened a "bureau of information." Anyone wishing to know the news and to have a difficult question answered may call and will be given the information desired. A justice of the peace has been established in the office and will dispense justice and answer legal questions. No swearing, drinking or gambling will be permitted in the room. The purpose is to have a place of meeting for the "dry goods boxes at the store." On warm days the men drink lemonade and pitch horseshoes.

KILLED FOR WORKING.

Edward Fagn, of Chicago, Murdered for Refusing to Strike.

Because he refused to join in a strike of his fellow laborers Edward F. Fagn, a car cleaner employed by the Chicago and Northwestern Company, was murdered by his associates in Chicago. The police arrested Paul Matka, 1444 Corolla street, and they are searching for Henry Wicks and Joseph Matka, all of whom it is claimed, are implicated in the assault on Fagn which resulted in his death. The murder, it is claimed, was most cold-blooded and brutal.

WOMAN FREED MAN FROM JAIL.

Governor Sets Precedent by Pardoning Woman Served in County Prison.

What is said to be the first case on record in Illinois of a Governor pardoning a prisoner from a county jail goes to the credit of the present Illinois governor, Gov. Deneen. He has pardoned James O'Connell, a Bloomington mechanic, who was given a six months' sentence for stealing some tools. As his previous character was good and his family was in need an appeal to the Governor was acted upon favorably.

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