

BOY PRODIGY AT CHICAGO.

Set Out With \$20 to Go Round the World

AND GET UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Chicago, Sept. 1.—Wizened and shriveled in body, half-starved and wearing rags that barely covered him, John George, 15 years old, an ignorant coal miner, visited President Harper at the University of Chicago to find out whether he could complete a full course at the university on 25 cents.

John's father, a coal miner, was killed five years ago in a mine disaster. John then picked up bits of coal on a railway switch and blacked boots to help an invalid mother, who took in family washing. According to the boy's simple story, he and his mother lived in a hovel. For fifty and one thing and another, the hope that his mother cherished go into the terrible coal mines and die there as his father had, but should see the world and gather wisdom. With this in view she had hoarded every penny she could get. When she died a little over a month ago she called her son to her and said: "I ain't no place for you here, John. I've got to go away from this awful place and find other kinds of people. Don't die in the mines, like your father. Take this money, it is all we have. Go around the world and get a university education. Spend the rest on your education."

Following instructions, the boy started on his trip around the world as soon as he had seen his mother buried. He set out westward, but found that he had only 30 cents when he arrived in Chicago. He thought that he had better go out to the university and see what he could do. He went to the office of M. H. MacLean of the information office of the university and asked him if he was President Harper. Mr. MacLean thought he was questioned by a maniac.

However, Mr. MacLean learned the boy was sane, but ignorant to an astonishing degree, and sent him to a number of officials of the university and finally to Assistant Dean Whaley, of the South Side Academy.

The starved condition of the boy aroused pity among the university officials, and while they knew he could not enter the freshman class, they wanted to help him. Assistant Dean Whaley, of the academy, took him to a bath and gave him a new suit of clothes and food. The boy said he could not sleep because he was thinking about his college education. He had not slept for nearly three days and had been hungry two days.

It was not until he was installed as waiter at the French club of the university that he began showing signs of precocity. Beauvais, the head of the French club, noticed his brightness and his eagerness to learn.

In four weeks he had learned to read and write as well as any ordinary pupil in the fourth grade and has surprised Mme. Beauvais by speaking French with ease and fluency. The professors who have been helping the boy are unanimous in saying that he is an "educational marvel."

MURDERER RICE CONFESSED.

Admitted His Guilt the Day Rutledge Committed Suicide.

Toronto despatch: Fred Lee Rice, who paid the death penalty on July 18th for the murder of County Constable Boyd, admitted his guilt the day after Frank Rutledge suicided. This statement was given out by Crown Attorney Curry yesterday.

After Rutledge's sensational reappearance from the upper balcony at the jail, the day after the murder, Sheriff Morat, Detective Forrest and Crown Attorney Curry visited Rice in his cell. Rice was the only one of the notorious trio of bank robbers left. Ryan, alias Jones, having died of the result of being shot by Constable Walter St. Clair, as the three were fleeing from the cab after Boyd had been shot. Rice was asked if he could furnish any reason for the suicide. He replied that he had heard none. The prisoner was then asked if he had anything to say regarding it. "What do you mean?" asked Rice. Mr. Curry then told Rice that Constable Stewart had sworn that Rice had fired the shot that killed Boyd. The Crown Attorney assured the prisoner that what he might say would not be used against him in this case. When Stewart said that I fired the shot that killed Boyd he told the truth."

FAMINE IN CHINA.

Chientsu Population Very Restless on Account Thereof.

Rev. O. J. Kilborn, M. D., the head of the Methodist Mission in the Chientsu Province of Szechuan, West China, in a letter dated July 28th, to Rev. Dr. Sutherland, Methodist Mission General Secretary, states that the population in that part of the country is very restless. Just before writing a battle had been fought between the Viceroy's troops and the Boxers, the latter being defeated. Several of the rebel leaders were caught and beheaded. Mr. Kilborn says that the real element of danger now is the failure of the rice crop. Rice is now selling at famine prices, and the famine sufferers, who can be numbered by hundreds of thousands, are roving the country demanding meals at every rich man's house. Unless they get it for their asking they make a raid on his storehouse and carry off the man's whole stock. However, word has been received at the mission that the Viceroy will compel the rice dealers to sell that commodity at a reasonable figure, and after rice has been restored again.

TO SWIM WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS

Carlisle D. Graham—Anxious to Risk His Life Aug. 31.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Sept. 1.—Carlisle D. Graham, the Philadelphia cooper who on July 11, 1888, started the world by making a successful trip through the Whirlpool Rapids of Niagara in a barrel, and who has several times since accomplished daring feats at the same place, says that on Sunday, Aug. 31, he failed to do what Captain Webb that is to swim the Whirlpool Rapids of Niagara between the bridges and the Whirlpool. Graham's friends with swimming from the whirlpool successfully on Sept. 7th, last, the day William lost her life in Graham's barrel in the malestrom of Niagara.

POPE WILL GET RARE GEM.

Neapolitans to Present His Holiness With Largest Topaz.

Rome, Sept. 1.—Pope Leo will soon be the possessor of the largest topaz in the world—the celebrated diamond carat Brazilian gem which belonged to the Neapolitan Bourbons. The stone has been engraved with the image of the Saviour, and will be presented to the Pope at the close of the present jubilee year by Count Caserta, heir to the Bourbon Kings, along with other rich Neapolitan Catholics.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada, is expected at Rome. It is said that he is coming to urge the Vatican to promote Mgr. Falconio to the Washington legation, and also for the purpose of negotiating an Italian-Canadian commercial and emigration treaty.

GREAT FIRE AT ROSSLAND.

Fifteen Stores and Thirty Residences Burned.

DETAILS AND COST OF BLAZE.

Vancouver, B. C., despatch: Fire started in a restaurant on Pacific street, Rossland, this afternoon, and fanned by a southeast wind, it jumped to First avenue, destroying the business block from there to Spokane street and burning fifteen residences and six stores.

The fire burned fiercely for two hours, when the wind changed, and the rest of the city was saved. Fifteen stores and thirty residences were destroyed. Altogether the loss will total a quarter of a million.

Another Story of Fire.

Rossland, B. C., despatch:—(C.P.R. despatches)—In two hours this afternoon fire did \$75,000 damage in the business and residential sections of Rossland. Earlier in the day it was believed that the loss would be substantially greater than this, but the closer scrutiny of the facts indicates that the lesser estimate is as nearly accurate as can be obtained for several days.

The fire broke out at 3 o'clock in the establishment of P. Burns & Co., between the two doors south of First avenue on Spokane street, where a fire was in use for rendering lard. The blaze was not discovered until it had secured considerable headway, and by the time the alarm was turned in flames were issuing from the roof. The department was on the ground quickly and water was playing on the flames two minutes after the alarm sounded.

The Burns building was the center of a solid block of wooden buildings, and the strong breeze prevailing speedily spread the flames to north and south, despite the torrents of water thrown by the firemen. In 20 minutes from the first outbreak the fire had spread north into the Amador Saloon, west to the M. and M. Saloon, south to the Coeur d'Alene Saloon, and immediately adjoining the Burns block, was involved with the Burns place in the first outbreak.

Within the space of time indicated the fire had jumped to First avenue and some large three-story buildings used as stores, and these were totally wiped out within an hour of the outbreak. The fire was spreading eastward rapidly, but the wind changed and turned the fire west. Flames jumped Spokane street and wiped out half a dozen business houses on that side, together with all the residences in the block.

The fire started about the intersection of blocks 13, 16, 27 and 28, the city streets, the burned areas comprise the north half of 13, the southwest corner of 27 and the northeast corner of 27 and the north corner of 28. Adjoining the Coeur d'Alene saloon, but separated by a 30-foot vacant lot, is the International Hotel and Music Hall, an immense wooden structure. This was in imminent danger for an hour or more, and, at one juncture, was given up as doomed.

The sudden change in the wind saved the big building and an important business section, as the burning of the Music Hall would have carried with it the whole of block 28, and run the damage into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The only casualty was an accident to Chief Guthrie, of the city brigade, who was struck on the cheek by a live wire, but which did not burn or render him unconscious. This led to a report that the chief had been killed, but he recovered immediately upon reaching the fire hall, and resumed direction of the brigade.

TRIED TO BLIND HUSBAND.

Mrs. Smith Fails, but Succeeded in Killing Herself

SHE SWALLOWED CYBOLIC ACID

Toronto despatch: Mrs. Jennie Smith, 56 Walton street, died at 2 o'clock this morning, at St. Michael's Hospital, from carbolic acid poisoning. The woman swallowed part of the contents of a four-ounce bottle of the poison and threw the balance over her husband, because he had been drinking early in the evening with some friends in the house and had used bad language towards her.

The couple, about 25 years of age, have rooms in the Walton street house. It is understood both had been drinking. On Monday night they were in their room, but there was nothing noticeable in the demeanor of either that would lead any person to believe that crime was about to be committed. Shortly after midnight the landlady was awakened by cries and, running to Smith's room, she beheld a pitiable sight. The woman was in bed suffering untold agony, while the husband was crying also with pain.

Smith said that shortly after she had retired his wife suddenly swallowed a quantity of the acid, and threw the remainder of the bottle in his face. Dr. J. M. Johnston was called, and later both were removed in the ambulance to St. Michael's Hospital. Mr. Smith is suffering terrible pains from the burns in his face.

The object of King Victor Emmanuel's visit, as explained at the Italian embassy, is simply to make his first call since his accession upon his friend Emperor. His disarmament proposals are for the Emperor's personal ears, and are not official. His readiness of making them is already understood in Berlin.

ATE GREEN CORN AND DIED.

Wisconsin Farmer Took Fifty Hoasting Kars and His Life.

Wisconsin, Minn., Sept. 1.—William Hafner, a farmer, of Trempealeau, Wis., who was passionately fond of green corn, yesterday consumed 50 ears of the delicacy, and is now dead. For his dinner yesterday he ate 24 ears of corn, and went about his work, feeling especially well. In the evening he desired more corn, and ate 15 ears. During the night he became hungry, and, arising, found 11 ears laid over from supper. These he devoured cold, and went back to bed. This morning, when his wife awoke, she found him dead, having, apparently, suffered great agony.

HERE AND THERE

Winnipeg Council has struck the rate of taxation at 22 1-4 mills. The latest coronation ode published was written by Sir George Stewart White, the defender of Lady-smith.

The assessment of the fourth ward, Toronto, has been completed, and shows a population of 48,794, an increase over last year's assessment of 1842.

Large schools of whales are reported off the Delaware coast by inward-bound vessels, many of them being of unusually large size.

Frank G. Kimball, an attorney of New York City, is dead in Switzerland, where he and his wife had gone on a pleasure trip.

The Frontenac County Council calls upon the Ontario Government to remove Sheriff Dawson, who is suing the county for a stationery bill.

Dr. Purdy of New York, rescued three children belonging to Dr. Potter, of Philadelphia, who had drowned at Brackly Point, P. E. I.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says Count Tolstol is anxious to leave that place, but the authorities have refused to issue a passport to him.

R. W. Bro Lindsay Mackersy, of Edinburgh, representative from the Masonic Grand Lodge of Canada to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, is dead.

Last year the French Government made a profit of over \$70,000,000 on its monopoly of the sale of tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and matches.

The Exchange Telegraph Company publishes a despatch from Simla, British India, saying that the plague mortality is increasing at the rate of a thousand weekly.

The Canadian Northern Railway Company have brought twenty boiler makers and machinists from Newcastle-on-Tyne to Winnipeg to take the place of the strikers.

Joseph Anderson, a farmer, living east of Salina, in a fit of despondency drowned his four children, a girl and a boy, in a cistern, and then shot himself with a revolver.

An important conference of the tobacco interests has been called for Sept. 17th in London, in an effort to settle the fierce rate war which followed the formation of the rival combines.

The American District Steam Company, Lockport, N. Y., has advanced the price of steam to customers 35 per cent because it sees no possibility of buying coal below the present advanced price.

Carl Heinrich, son of Charles Heinrich, was accidentally shot and killed at Newark, N. Y., while with hunting boys of about his age, went hunting for possession of a gun.

Mrs. Marie Antonette Hopkins, widow of the late Edward A. Hopkins, ex-U. S. Minister of Argentine Republic, was instantly killed by a street car in St. Louis today. She was born in Paris, France, in 1839.

The moral health of Italy is not good, according to the last statistics published. There has been an increase of crimes from 1890 to 1899. In this last year 724,581 criminal cases were judged, whereas in 1890 there had been only 470,882 cases.

Pieces of bottles will be raised from 10 to 15 cents a gross. This President of the Western Green Glass Bottle Association, which has been in session in Chicago, had which authorized the advance.

General Velutini, with six hundred men from the island of Margarita, occupied the Port of Carapana on Friday last without encountering any opposition from the Venezuelan insurgents.

The Ontario Cabinet has authorized the construction of a coffer dam at Dufferin Islands, on the Niagara River, by the Ontario Power Company, to be used in diverting water through the park to the company's outlet below the falls.

Mrs. Zoila Bello Rodriguez, the wife of ex-President Andrades, ex-Prime Minister, and her four children, have been expelled from Venezuelan territory by order of President Castro, and compelled within 48 hours to abandon home and family.

The New York police have found the body of a man with one leg severed, in the river. The man was about 35 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighed about 225 pounds. In the trousers pocket was found a gold ring studded with three amethysts.

One of the minor U. S. demands, heretofore disregarded by the Sultan of Turkey, namely, the return of a package of insurance policies seized by the authorities, was complied with yesterday, while indications point to the Porte being desirous of preventing further friction by settling the other matters.

Dr. William Mason, superintendent of the St. Lawrence State Hospital, and Dr. Arthur W. Hunt, of Buffalo, have been named by Governor Odell a commission to examine as to the sanity of John Truck, under sentence of death in Auburn prison for the murder of Frank W. Miller, a Cortland County farmer, on March 14, 1899.

The girl who paints is not what articles.

CUPID SNARES AGED COUPLE

Groom 72 and Bride Has Seen 76 Summers.

Arthabaskaville, Que., Sept. 1.—The culmination of a very unusual and yet interesting romance has occurred at Arthabaskaville. Three weeks ago Hypolite Boutin, of St. Rose, a gentleman 72 years of age, who had never married, met for the first time Miss Adeline Desha-hari, who, although she has had many offers of marriage, had found pleasure in remaining single until she had passed her 76th birthday.

When the aged couple met, they loved, both say, for the first time in their long life, and determined on marriage. Friends advised Miss Desha-hari not to marry, but her answer always was the same: "I have never been loved before; I have often refused to marry, but now I love and am bound to marry." The aged woman was repeatedly offered the same advice, and there was even talk among the relatives of the aged suitors to prevent the marriage, but Mr. Boutin was not to be discouraged. He met his fiancée with a determined answer: "I love her, and will marry her; if they try to stop us we will elope, that is all; but although their acquaintance was of only three weeks' duration, they were inseparable, and even more devoted to each other than any young couple I have ever known. Miss Adeline is rather stooped under the burden of her great age, in fact, she walks with difficulty; nevertheless, she was more joyous and light-hearted on Monday morning than any most ladies on their wedding day morning.

SPEED IN MOTOR RACES.

Frenchman Travels at Rate of 84 Miles an Hour.

PETROLEUM DEFEATED STEAM.

Trouville, Sept. 1.—Amazing speeds were reached in the motor car races at Trouville today, in the presence of a great crowd of fashionable people. The chief event was the race for the kilometre (sixty-two hundredths of a mile) championship of the world, which was won by Gabriel, on a Mors car. He made the distance in 26 2-5 seconds, which is at the rate of 84 miles an hour. W. K. Vandepit, Jun., made the distance in 29 2-5 seconds, a short time ago, but his record was subsequently lowered by C. Jarrott in 28 1-5 seconds.

The course lay from the hotels and villas on one side, to the sand dunes. It was 1,900 metres (2,077 yards) long. The contestants were allowed 600 metres in which to get up speed before the kilometre test began, and 200 metres for slowing up after the finishing line. Different from most Troops lined the course throughout, and the finishing points, where the grand-stands were located, were raised in.

The race for motor cycles, weighing 600 pounds, was won by Rip on a Buchet tricycle. He made the kilometre in 28 4-5 seconds, which is at the rate of 75 miles an hour. The tricycle had a light horse-power engine and went "like a flash of lightning." Serpillet, who was the favorite for the race that Gabriel won, failed a hundred yards from the finish, when a steam joint gave way under a pressure of a thousand pounds to the square inch. The car suddenly came to a standstill. The result appeared to show that petroleum can beat steam.

SHOT HIS FRIEND,

Whom He Hastily Took for a Burglar.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 1.—George Apperson, a well-known young man, was shot through the brain and instantly killed before daylight yesterday morning in his own room by his best friend. Having been taken for a burglar, John D. Wilson fired the shot. He and Apperson were lifelong friends, had married cousins, and occupied the same house.

Wilson is foreman of a telephone company and Apperson was his assistant. Wilson thought he heard a burglar, and ran downstairs to Apperson's apartments, calling in the front room, where he thought Apperson was asleep. Different from his custom, Apperson slept last night in a rear room, and when, in answer to Wilson's call, he came suddenly from the rear room, Wilson shot him under the impression that Apperson was a burglar. The distress of Wilson was pitiable when he discovered that he had killed his chum, and he begged to be allowed to take his own.

FIGHT WITH DEATH

In a Big Balloon Crossing the Channel.

London, Sept. 1.—Two balloonists who left Beckenham to cross the English Channel recently, had a "battle with death" on the French coast for two hours.

Dr. F. A. Barton of Beckenham, the inventor of a new airship, and M. Gaudron, of the firm of Spencer & Gaudron, who had been in their balloon at Beckenham Recreation Grounds. It was their first attempt to cross the channel.

They had a pleasant enough time until they left the English coast, but on reaching the French coast the balloon was caught in a westerly gale, which in ten minutes had driven them a distance of nine miles out to sea.

M. Gaudron quickly opened a valve and descended, and the balloon came down on the edge of the shore, in a few inches of water. "It was a high cheerily, afterwards," said Mr. Barton, "amount of excitement in it which an Englishman likes."

THE RIGHT TO BUY.

A Point Forgotten by Men Who Want to Sell.

(Toronto Globe.) While the frankness of the Gazette is exceedingly refreshing, it is not right in describing the preference as a mere present to the British manufacturer. The tariff was revised with a view to Canadian interests, but the Liberal Ministers took broader views of those interests than those of the protectionists. They believed that freedom is better, both for industry and commerce, than restriction; and that trade is a benefit and not an injury.

First there fore not likely to be very deeply showing that the citation of figures showing that Canadian imports large quantities of goods from Great Britain and from the United States, because they want them, and in a country professing to be under popular government we do not see why the choice which a citizen makes in buying as a matter of life should not be made in marking a ballot.

The tariff now gives a reasonable protection to the Canadian manufacturer. Not only so, but it admits free, or at a very low rate of duty, the materials used by our manufacturers. The result is that for five years the Canadian manufacturer have enjoyed unprecedented prosperity.

One may very well doubt whether by cries and ranting for their rights to be protected, or by settling to pieces or well considered. At present a purchaser is willing, for what he believes to be the general interests of the country, to submit to a certain restriction of his right to buy in any market he pleases. But it does not follow that his good-nature to submit to virtual prohibition to buy imported goods, which is what the Dingley protectionists are aiming at. And if he once begins to inquire into the matter, his reasonings may carry him in quite a different direction from that of a prohibitory tariff.

In spite of the arrest of the labor agitators who caused the recent strike among the cigar-makers, the Chinese and Filipinos engaged in the hemp industry in Manila are getting ready to strike. They demand an increase in their wages of 66 per cent.