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THE SHARP TRICK THAT WAS PULLED OFF BY A REPORTER.

Case In Which an Alert and Resourceful Newspaper Man Managed to Outwit a Gathering of Shrewd

"One of the sharpest bits of newspaper rork in my recollection," said one of the New York correspondents when the sublect of getting news under difficulties tame up, "was pulled off by a New York political reporter during the snap conrention excitement in New York in 1892. You'll remember that the Hill people announced their intention of pulling off a delegate choosing convention in New York state while the cold weather was still on, and the Cleveland people set up a how that could be heard all over the country. The Cleveland folks soon became known as antisnappers, and they united in denouncing the snap winter

convention of the Hill people.

"One day in January the political reporters attached to the New York newspapers got the tip by the underground nethod that William C. Whitney had called a meeting of the antisnappers from all over the state, to be held in one of the main parlors of the Murray Hill hotel that night. The political reporters husthed around to get preliminary details as to the purposes of the meeting, but they were turned down everywhere by all hands connected with the antisnapper movement. Not a word could they get about what was going to be done. Moreover, they were told that nary a newspaper man was to be admitted to the m ing or be told anything about what had occurred after it was over. It was an important bit of news, and the men who covered' politicals were in a quandary. They held a meeting to consider the situation at the Fifth Avenue hotel. As they were talking, with their heads together, an up state Democratic politician, one of the antisnappers, passed through the ro-tunda of the hotel. He happened to be the living image of one of the newspaper men. The newspaper men gazed after the receding figure of the politician and commented on the resemblance. The nan who looked like the politician spoke

"'He's down here to attend that Murrny Hill meeting tonight,' said he thought-'If we could only sandbag him or give him knockout drops, I could act as

He thought it out for while and then turned to the crowd confidently.

"I've got it,' said he. 'I'll attend the meeting in his place. He won't be there. You fellows be on hand after the meeting, and I'll give you the stuff.'
"It was then about 3 o'clock in the aft-

ernoon. The political reporter, who was a real 'ringer' for the up state Democratc politician, went after the latter. He

"'By the way,' said the newspaper man, 'there's an old friend of ours up in White Plains taking the gold cure,' and he mentioned the name of a well known Albany man whom they both knew. 'I took him up there yesterday, and he was in a pretty bad way. He's always spoken pretty highly of you. I'm going to take a run up to White Plains to look him over and see how he's getting on. Come on up with me. You can get back by 6 o'clock.'

"'All right,' said the politician, and they got into a hansom and were driven to the Grand Central station. They were so busily engaged in talking that the pol-itician didn't notice which gate they went through to take the train. They got aboard the Boston express, which only hesitates a few times on the way to the town of beans, the first stop being made at New Haven. The politician was blissfully ignorant of the destination of the train and figured that he was on a local bound for White Plains. brakeman sung out 'All aboard!' the po-litical reporter said to the politician, 'Excuse me a minute; I want to go up forward to see if there's a boy with the afternoon papers on the train.' Just as the train was pulling out he hopped off. Shabby trick? Of course it was, but a political reporter's life is a warfare.

"The Murray Hill meeting was called for 7 o'clock. About 50 of the most rominent Cleveland men in the state and city of New York were on hand, and they were solemnly ushered into the parlor where the meeting took place. They had to pass all kinds of guards and doorkeepers and sergeants-at-arms, but the newspapr man got through them all. His resemblance to the politician he impersonated was simply stunning, and he used some bits of make up to increase the resemblance. He took a seat in the rear, and he didn't miss a trick. The whole outfit pledged not to give a single detail of the meeting to the newspaper men first of all, and then the business went forward. Just when the meeting was about to adjourn the sergeant-at-arms handed a telegram to Mr. Whitney,

the chairman.
"The newspaper man correctly figured "The newspaper man correctly figured that it was from the politician who had been sent speeding on his way to Boston. He quietly rose, picked up his hat and walked out by the rear door, nobody suspecting anything. We had no means of ascertaining what a bombshell the missing politician's telegram threw into the crowd, but we did learn later that it the crowd, but we did learn later that it was from him and that he told in it of the job that had been put up on him.
"We adjourned in cabs to another ho

tel, and there the political reporter who had sat throughout the antisnappers had sat throughout the antisnappers' meeting gave us all of the details. He had a remarkable memory, and he had the whole thing down pat in addition to a manifold copy of the resolutions which had been passed, with which each man at the meeting had been furnished. He could have written the thing up himself and scored a clean scoop on the town, but he passed his pickings over to all of us, which was a pretty generous all of us, which was a pretty generous thing in itself, for we'd all have been thing in itself, for we'd all have been in trouble with our papers had we been beaten on the thing. Every morning paper in New You had four columns on the first page the next morning about the antisnappers' meeting, resolutions and all. I saw Mr. Whitney a few days later, and I couldn't refrain from grinning a hit.

ning a bit.

"I believe you gentlemen could penetrate a vacuum without admitting the air
along with you,' he said."—Washington

Nicotine.

It has often been quoted that a grain of nicotine administered all at once would kill the strongest dog. While this statement is undoubtedly true, it is somewhat misleading. In order to commit suicide by smoking the dog would have to consume 400 strong cigars, one right after the other.

A SHIUN BIT UP WURK | CAUSES OF BAD ACOUSTICS. How Sound Is Modified by Materials In Wall and Ceiling.

Professor W. C. Sabine several years ago was requested by the corporation of Harvard university to propose some method for remedying the acoustical defects of the lecture room of the Fogg Art museum at Cambridge. After two years of experiment it was found that the best result was obtained by lining a considerable portion of the walls of the room with thick felt, and this was permanently done. This work led Professor Sabine to take up the general question of architectural acoustics, and he now publishes the first of a series of papers on this subject in a recent number of The American Architect. The various ways in which sound is modified by the walls and ceiling of a room are thus outlined by him:

The loudness of the sound is, as a rule, greater at a given distance from the speaker than it is in the open air. The character or timbre of a complex sound is altered by re-enforcement of certain of its elementary tones, by resonance or by interference of the sound waves produced in certain portions of the room. This alteration of timbre Professor Sabine calls ditortiosn. Sound persists in a room for a considerable time after its utterance. This is due to its reflection and rereflection from the walls, floor and ceiling. This persistence is called reverberation. Professor Sabine found that the note of a particular organ pipe remained distinctly audible in the Fogg museum lecture room 5.6 seconds after the blowing of the pipe ceased. This reverberation causes the successive sounds in articulate speech to overlap and become confused.

The simple question of loudness is only of importance in very large audience rooms. Reverberation is the usual cause for defective acoustics in large halls. Heavily draped walls absorb much and reflect little of the sound, and hence a sound dies out almost immediately in such a room and reverberation is largely prevented. An audience also absorbs a large portion of the sound in a room and greatly reduces reverberation.

Professor Sabine has determined the absorbing power of a variety of wall surfaces, such as brick, plaster on brick, plaster on lath, glass and boards, and he shows that the reverberation of a room, and hence to a larger extent its acoustical quality, can be predicted by a study of its dimensions and the character of its walls.

The Thistle as Fuel.

There are farmers in western Nebraska who have made hundreds of dollars each fall baling and selling for fuel the common Russian thistle, but a few years ago regarded as a menace to western agriculture. These are not isolated exceptions either. The thistle abounds through the western counties. In the fall the weed is to be found in enormous quantities through the open country. The special baling machines can place in compact packages, similar to baled hay, hundreds of pounds of this weed in a day. It makes exceptionally fine fuel, and in the west, remote from coalfields, where a ton of coal costs \$15 and the farmer must do the hauling 10 to 20 miles, the Russian thistle is a fine substitute. Again, the common "tumble weed" is baled for fuel. It resembles the Russian thistle, with the exception of the thorns, and is even more prolific. In the fall of the year it assumes a ball-like shape and in the first winter wind breaks its frail stem and sends the fluffy roll of dry regetable matter bounding over the prairie like a great ball. From this act its name, "tumbleweed," is derived. The first ravine or "draw" the weed strikes affords it a lodgment, and successive balls soon make a pile as big as a freight car. Farmers drive their wagons into these draws, load them down by pressing them with their feet into great wagon boxes and burn them in the "grass" stoves .- Country Gentleman.

Uses of the Viagraph. This is an instrument for testing the unevenness of road surfaces and ought. it is said, to prove of great use to engineers engaged in drawing up surface railway schemes. It was thus described by J. Brown in a recent address. It is practically a straight edge applied to the surface of the road along which it is drawn in making a test, with an indicating part attached. A wheel which runs on the road surface and rises or falls over its irregularities actuates a pencil, making a profile of the road surface on a paper strip to an ap proximate scale. At the end of 88

yards a bell is rung automatically. The

operator then stops the instrument and takes off the diagram, which shows an accurate profile of the road traversed. Census Distinctions, Some of the minor facts brought out by the census are interesting. There are, for instance, three states that have four cities each with populations ranging above 100,000. These are New York, with New York city, Buffalo Rochester and Syracuse; Pennsylvania. with Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Alle ghany City and Scranton, and Ohio, with Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo and Columbus. No state has more than four cities each with more than 100,000

people.-Chicago Times-Herald. Charged on a Bicycle, Cadet E. C. Kalbfus of the United States ship General Alava, stationed at Cavite Manila bay, writes his father in Harrisburg an amusing story of how Cadet Courtney of the Newark, in charge of a marine detachment with the Seymour relief expedition in China. led a charge on a bicycle. "It is a feat," Mr. Kalbfus adds, "which will probably go down in history as a paral-lei of Curtin's telephoning for the sur-

the corrupting cause of ordinary eruptive diseases, cleanses the skin and builds up the body with sound wholesome flesh. "Discovery" con-tains neither alco-

most certain cure

"I am well pleased with your medicines, writes John A. Callowy, Esq., of No. 218 26th St., Columbus, Ga. "In 1894 I was working at night and I broke out in lumps all over, and when these left the skin peeled off. I took six bottles of "Golden Medical Discovery," and two of Doctor Pierce's Pellets, and

many kinds of medicines but received no bene-fit. Last year I weighed one hundred and thirty-four pounds, and now I weigh one hun-dred and forty-five. Please accept my thanks. I am so glad I found the right kind of medicine. Medical Adviser is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay cost of customs and mailing only. Send 31 one-cent stamps

for paper covered, or 50 stamps for cloth binding, to Dr. R.V Pierce, Buffalo, N.Y.

THE PEDAGOGUE.

Dr. Benno Ruttenauer has been so indiscreet as to write a novel. He is a teacher in a school in Baden, and the authorities have warned him that if he writes any more fiction his resignation

will be asked for. President Eliot of Harvard has of late years been evincing an interest in athletics, with which he was of old little credited. Recently he spent parts of two afternoons on Soldiers' field watching the work of the early candidates for posi-

tions on the football team. Yale university has assumed the financial responsibility for the New Haven symphony orchestra and placed Professo Horatio W. Parker of the university faculty at the head of it. This is considered the greatest service an American university has ever rendered to music.

THE DOMINIE.

The Church of Notre Dame du Port at Cleremont, France, was built in the year

The Rev. D. C. Greene, a missionary

in Japan, says that the religious drift in Japan is toward pantheism. Mgr. James McMahon, the Sulpician priest who gave \$500,000 to the Catholic University of America in Washington a few years ago, has now given that in stitution 11 lots of land in Washington

valued at \$100,000. churches of Ontario is St. Andrew's, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, which in 1894 celebrated its centenary. The present build-ing-the second in the century-dates from early insthe thirties and has, there fore, seen nearly 70 years of service.

Oom Paul will henceforth have to be eckoned among the outlanders.-Boston

Herald. President Kruger's last trek has picturesque and pathetic aspects which will appeal to the historian, the painter and the poet of the future,—Chicago Record. Now that President Kruger has left the Transvaal he might do worse than take up a residence in America. There are lots of fine openings in the country for young men of his energy and thrift .-New York Mail and Express.

HOBSON.

Lieutenant Hobson is home again. Let bygones be bygones.-Washington Star. Lieutenant Hobson has by this time learned to protect his mouth from female kisses. He now needs to learn how to protect it from the enterprising inter-

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