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STEER BROS.

sept.12.14

How Traps Are Set for Unscrupulous Newspapers.

American newspaper men who set out to "lift" paragraphs from rival organs must needs be wary, for setting traps for news stealers has become almost a fine art over there. A good story in this connection is told by Mr. Melville E. Stone, the founder of the American Associated Press, in his book, "Fifty Years a Journalist."

While he was editing the Chicago Daily News, a rival newspaper, the Chicago Post and Mail, owned by two brothers named McMullen, made itself notorious for thefts of telegrams from competitors. "So Mr. Stone concocted a bogus Press message, professing to come from Serbia, and dealing with an alleged famine there. This he published in due course in the Daily News, the conclusion of the message being as follows:

"A few days ago the mayor of the provincial town of Sovik issued a proclamation ending with the ominous words: 'Er us silt la Biall fwa nel lum emeh!' (The municipality cannot aid)."

The Post and Mail came out with it intact, not noticing that the mysterious foreign words, when read backwards, became: "The McMullens will steal this, sure."

"Colonel Refilio W. Thennus." Another trap of a somewhat similar kind was set during the Spanish-American war by the editor of the New York Journal, who suspected the New York World of stealing his Press dispatches from the front.

With a view to verifying his suspicions he took the words "We plier the news," arranged half the letters backwards to read "Refilio W. Thennus," and added the name on a mythical officer supposed to have been serving in the Cuban army. In the Journal's evening edition of that day there appeared a notice to the effect that "Colonel Refilio W. Thennus" had been killed in action. The World promptly took the bait, and after dressing the item up in the arm of a special cable dispatch, for-

ging to it the name of one of its war correspondents, and dating it, "On board the World's dispatch boat," announced boldly the next day that "Colonel Refilio W. Thennus" was dead.

On the morning following the Journal took the public into its confidence, and soon all New York was chuckling at the discomfiture of the World, whose editor had been thus made to declare, in his own paper, that "We plier the news."—Pearson's Weekly.

It Never Dies!

What has the longest life; what has the shortest? That is a question that will puzzle anybody.

Honors cannot be claimed by the human species in either case. Sir Ernest Rutherford has just awarded the palm for shortness to Actinium A, which lives for one-thousandth part of a second. This length of life will satisfy the confirmed pessimist!

And the longest? It is not the toad (as some people imagine), or the carp

or the elephant aged 300, or the whale aged 400. It is not even the oak—there is one at Paisley over 700 years old, or the Baobab tree of Africa, that in certain cases is supposed to have topped 5,000 years.

Uranium, the parent substance of radium, is probably the longest-lived substance we know of. "How long it 'lives' is hard to say, but some idea of its duration may be gleaned from the fact that it loses half its strength in five thousand million years. Imagine celebrating one's 5,000,000,000th birthday! After all, there is something in being human.

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MUTT AND JEFF



London Feared Fulton Submarine.

DIARY REVEALS WHAT PEOPLE OF 1808 THOUGHT OF BOAT.

Among the extracts from Joseph Farrington's diary which appeared in the Morning Post of London are two dated May 26 and 28, 1808, which tell how Robert Fulton's experiments with his submarine, recently concluded in France, affected London society, still fearful of an invasion of the British Isles by Napoleon.

According to the documents published in "Robert Fulton and the Clearmont," by A. C. Sutcliffe, Fulton built his Nautilus during the latter part of 1800, and on Feb. 23, 1801, received authoritative word from Napoleon, then first consul, to send his boat against the English fleet. Fulton appears to have accepted the proposition after considering the matter four days and agreed to the terms of the contract. He was to receive 400,000 francs for the destruction of warships carrying more than 30 guns, 200,000 francs for the destruction of those of more than 20 up to 15 to 20, and 60,000 francs for those of 10 guns. An extract from the letter which the minister of marine sent to Fulton reads:

"The navigation which you are about to undertake being absolutely different from others, also the style of war which the Nautilus is destined to make upon the enemy, it is not possible to indicate in advance a fixed method of affirming the truth of the facts."

Fulton and his invention were placed in the hands of a commission. Then began a long correspondence, but Napoleon, apparently under the influence of the commission, began to turn a deaf ear, in spite of the blowing up of a sloop in the harbor of Brest, and the negotiations being broken off in September, 1803. Fulton then went to London, on the invitation of the British government, and made a contract similar to the French one. Joseph Farrington, whose diary the Post began to publish in daily instalments on Jan. 23, 1922, was a well-known painter and author, but best recorded as the man who gave the Royal Academy a new lease of life by his membership and genial retorts. His engravings of the English lakes are still prized by the collector. He went much into society and knew personally most of the eminent men and women of his day. The two extracts from his diary read: "May 26—Lord Stanhope was with (Opie) to-day and talked about the invention by Fulton, a painter, and an American, who had contrived a vessel that would pass under water at the rate of 2 miles an hour, and might be a means of contriving to place five vessels of a similar construction under ships to blow them up. Experiments had been made and the thing was shown to be practicable.—The French have made several experiments.—

"May 29—West knows Fulton who has invented the machine for diving and blowing up ships. Fulton was born in America in Chester County and came to England with an intention to study painting, but doubting his success turned his attention to mechanics. He is about 33 years of age and has been about 7 years in France. There he has made experiments with his diving boat. He had one made at Brest by order of the French government.

"When it was finished, an old vessel was placed at sea about a mile and a half from the shore. When the diving boat approached within a quarter of a mile of it, Fulton, who was in it with 8 men, at once sunk his boat. In about a quarter of an hour the vessel was blown up so entirely that nothing was left of her, and sometime after Fulton's boat appeared again upon the surface of the water in an opposite direction from where she sunk. The manner in which he blows up a ship is, by inclosing a certain quantity of gunpowder in a small machine which appears externally like the back of a porcupine having small pipes or quills leading out in every direction, anyone of

which being touched occasions a fire piece, something like the lock of a gun to go off, and the powder blows up, within a certain distance.

"He lets one of these machines go in a direction to touch the bottom of the hull of the vessel; off goes the piece and the vessel is sent into the air. The boat can be kept under water 8 hours at a time, and when raised to procure fresh air, it is only necessary to allow her to rise so high so that the valves which are to receive the air may be above water; the vessel may then again be sunk to any depth, 40 fathoms or more. He has also a means of obtaining light.

"This most dangerous and dreadful contrivance is said to be fully understood only by Fulton. He will show the machine, but there are certain mysteries about it which he has not yet communicated and says he will not but in America.—He can go under water at the rate of 2 miles an

hour, which he does by finding how the currents run. It is by them he goes and can steer his boat easily."

A Centarian Novelist.

On September 13, 1912, the death was announced of Miss Caroline A. White, who was a well-known literary worker more than half a century ago, and who continued her work even when she had reached the great age of 101. In the course of her long and busy life she had met many of the chief literary people of the Victorian period, among them being Tom Hood, Charles Dickens, Harriet Martineau, Harrison Ainsworth and Charlotte Bronte. Dickens she met when he was a very young man, and long before he was married. She describes him as having piercing black eyes and very handsome. Harrison Ainsworth was a great friend. In her

estimation, Tom Hood was the greatest poet of the nineteenth century. Her memory was wonderful. When she was one-year old she was taken to Ireland, and twenty years later returned to England. The voyage back to London in a sailing-ship took a fortnight, and while sailing up the Thames she remembered seeing the bodies of three pirates hanging from the gibbet at Blackwall. Soon after her return to England she took up literary work. Tom Hood sent her to Douglas Jerrold, and in 1851 she was successful in obtaining the editorship of a paper called "Ladies' Companion," and filled the position for sixteen years. The appearance of new works by Sir Walter Scott, and by Dickens, she remembered well, and loved to speak of the intense popular excitement that was shown on these occasions. On reaching the age of 100 she received a congratulatory message from the King. Among her

clearest recollections was the burst of national joy when the news of the victory at Waterloo reached England. Miss White enjoyed remarkably good health to the last, attributed this to a good constitution aided by temperance in things.

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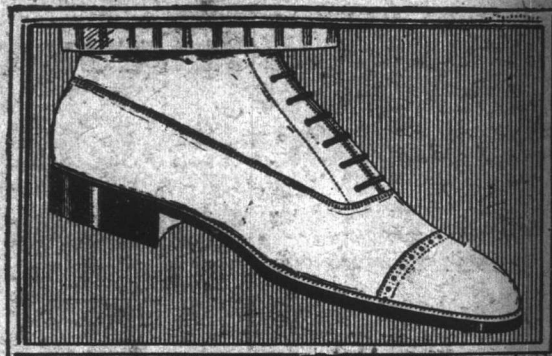
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