

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST FROM LITTLE OLD NEW YORK

New York, Aug. 28.—Not for many years, if ever, has the local customs department furnished so much interesting "copy" as under the present collector, former secretary Loeb. For many years smuggling has been carried on by passengers arriving in this port on the big ocean liners and the customs officials were so ready and willing to be accommodating for a consideration, that smuggling ceased to be fine art and became a mere business. When Collector Loeb assumed charge of the office and became acquainted with the state of affairs, he inaugurated a thorough shake-up and issued new rules so stringent and irksome to many of the employees of the office that it became dangerously near to causing mutiny among the officials. Collector Loeb remained firm, however, and after a while things began to run more smoothly.

Under the present conditions smuggling, even on a small scale, is a rather risky matter for any person arriving in this port. The customs officials at the piers are so fearful of being watched, that they do not dare to be accommodating to travelers offering them tips and as a result scarcely a day passes on which goods are not seized which some of the arriving passengers had neglected to declare, hoping to be able to smuggle them in. The rigor of the new regime is so irksome to officials that they have evidently become determined to do all in their power to make Collector Loeb's administration unpopular with the travelling public and the officers of the steamship companies. By their intentional over-officiousness these officials have already caused considerable trouble and dissatisfaction and forced Mr. Loeb in a defensive position. It seems, however, that he is not of the yielding kind and is determined to carry out his reforms, whether his subalterns like it or not.

In view of the general assertion that prosperity is at its height at present, it is rather strange that so many cases of suicide and crimes against property, attributed to extreme poverty are recorded in this city daily. The number of suicides have been unusually large recently. Some of the cases had more than the ordinary pathetic human interest. One poor fellow, who had reached the end of his string and had only one single penny—not even a Lincoln penny—left in the world, took his life and was found dead in his squalid lodgings. When the body was found one of the cold and stiff hands was clutching the last cent. When the body was moved the coin dropped upon the floor and a little Italian boy, who had sneaked into the room, snatched up the coin and escaped with it, making a bee-line for the first candy shop, where he invested the cent in cheap candy.

Usually pathetic is the case of "Blind Peter," a sightless peddler who for years has lived in the hope that his sight would some day be restored to him. He was often disappointed and gradually became downhearted. He had pinned his last hope upon the miraculous power of bathing in salt water on the feastday of the Holy Virgin. Someone had told him that would surely cure his sight. Faithfully he tried the magic and when he found that the miracle did not work in his case, he committed suicide.

Persons charged with stealing often give strange explanations or excuses of their dishonest actions. One of the most peculiar excuses was employed the other day by a man who was sentenced to six months in the penitentiary for trying to steal three barrels of tar. He said the barrels blocked the traffic, and that he had stolen them on principle.

Two boys, one seven years old, the other nine, gave promise to become distinguished members of the fraternity represented by the rogues' gallery, when they are grown up. Together they committed a series of bold hold-ups, burglaries and thefts, which they proudly admitted when brought before the court after their arrest the other day. They held up a baby on Fifth Avenue and robbed her of her Teddy Bear, they broke into a contractor's shop and carried off valuable tools and copper wire; they also admitted having stolen a gold watch and chain out of a private home; they had stolen during the temporary absence of the owners and of having made an unsuccessful attempt of burglarizing a department store on Sixth Avenue.

Judging from certain indications the Elkins family has only been deferred but, by no means, completely broken off. An expert genealogist has just returned to this country from abroad, bringing with her a certified copy of the family tree of Miss Elkins. It will undoubtedly give pleasure to her numerous friends and admirers to learn that, according to the genealogical discoveries made by the expert, Miss Elkins can trace her ancestors not only to the royal house of Italy, but to Charlemagne himself. It is even rumored that her family tree has been traced to King Solomon, Noah

and Adam. After that it is difficult to see how the king and the queen of Italy can object any longer to the alliance of their heir to the throne to so illustrious a descendant of the oldest family on earth.

According to the opinion of experts a man who is now in the general hospital at Passaic, N. J., has furnished a valuable clue which may lead to the final solution of the aerial navigation problem. While driving in New York the man was thrown out of the carriage and the wheels passed over his body. He was seriously injured and his friends hurried him to Passaic, where they sent him to the hospital. Upon examination the doctors at the hospital found that the man had been injured in a most mysterious manner. According to the statements published in the papers, the doctors noticed, soon after the arrival of the injured man, that his body began to swell to abnormal size. They ascertained that with every breath the inflammation increased, until the patient resembled nothing more than a balloon. Unfortunately there is no record of the final outcome of the case and the public is still waiting to find out whether the poor man finally burst or whether he rose in the air and floated away to the clouds.

THE OIL DECISION IS EXPECTED SOON

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 28.—An early decision is expected in the government's now famous dissolution suit against the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, seven of its officers and seventy subsidiary concerns. The Circuit Court before which the case was heard will meet here next week, and it is believed that its decision in the case will be handed down without delay.

The famous case has been in the courts since November 15, 1906, when the complaint was filed in the Circuit Court of the United States for the eastern division of the eastern judicial district of Missouri. The government's allegations were largely based upon an investigation of the oil business conducted by James P. Garfield, Commissioner of the Bureau of Corporations, at the behest of President Roosevelt. This investigation consumed a year, and because of it various grand juries returned indictments containing 8,193 counts.

In petitioning for the dissolution of the New Jersey corporation and its subsidiaries, the government complained that the defendants had conspired "to restrain the trade and commerce in petroleum, commonly called crude oil, in refined oil and in the other products of petroleum among the several States and territories of the United States and the District of Columbia, and with foreign nations, and to monopolize the said commerce." John D. Rockefeller, William Rockefeller and Henry M. Flagler were named as the originators of the alleged conspiracy.

SUNDAY TRAINS ON CANADIAN PACIFIC

Montreal, Aug. 27.—The Sunday train service on the Canadian Pacific between Montreal and St. John, N.B., has proven so popular that the company has decided to put it on a permanent basis, running for the balance of the summer and probably during the winter, if the business warrants these extra trains. This service was started early in July, with a train leaving the Windsor Station for St. John every Saturday night, and a train leaving St. John for Montreal on Sunday nights, thus completing the daily service between the two cities. The trains met with a good deal of opposition from certain ardent Sabbatharians in the Maritime Provinces, owing to the fact that the Sunday runs of both trains were made at the eastern end. Their denunciations of the Sunday trains, however, apparently only served as an economic advertisement for the railway company, which answered that it was merely fulfilling its raison d'être by meeting the demands of traffic.

The new trains proved popular from the outset with the travelling public, saving many unpleasant delays at each end of the line, and it will probably prove good news to the patrons of the road that the daily service will be continued.

At the same time it is announced that the C. P. R. will take off the Sunday local service in New Brunswick on branch lines during the winter months.

ROSEBURY WILL ATTACK BUDGET

London, Aug. 27.—Great interest has been aroused in political circles by the announcement that Lord Rosebery has consented to address a meeting in opposition to the budget at Glasgow.

The Unionist party is delighted that the former Liberal Prime Minister should aid its efforts in attacking a measure so important to the Liberal government.

Lord Rosebery's decision has not occasioned much surprise, for not long ago he condemned the propos-

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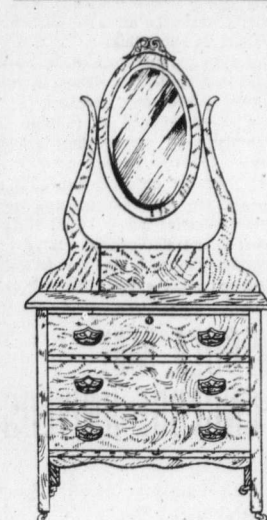
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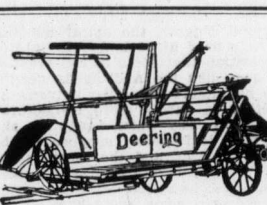
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