

HOBSON'S INSECT IMITATOR.

The Kissing Bug Is the Newest Sensation on the Outside.

He Attacks the Lips of Unsuspecting People and Leaves an Unpleasant Reminder of His Call.

Victoria, Aug. 24.—Have you been bitten by the kissing bug? If not, can you claim as a personal friend or acquaintance someone who has? Otherwise you are not in the fashion, for the kissing bug is lord of the situation from Manhattan beach to the San Francisco Cliff house—the poor, out-of-date mosquito sadly retiring to the top shelf of New Jersey to meditate on the sting of ingratitude and sharpen up his other sting for a revival of business in his line.

A year ago no one except the scientists had ever heard of a kissing bug. No one had been bitten, or if they had, the poor scapegrace spider had had to bear the blame.

Now every state from Maine to Oregon is full of waiting victims, who fairly yearn to be introduced to this Hobson of the insect world—their getting their names and pictures in the papers.

It would take an army of kissing bugs to accommodate all applicants for distinction—and so the majority may just as well accept the inevitable and go to the mountains or the seaside for the torrid term, there to practice with the old style kissing bug in the white flannels or a shirt waist.

Of course, "kissing bug" is not the correct designation for this newest pest of the gauzy-winged kingdom. Whenever you see a young lady with glasses, start and raise her hand quickly to her cherry lips, with a remark that she has experienced an acute and painful sensation through the puncturing of the facial cuticle by the melanolestes picipes—you can rest assured that the oculatory crank of the half-winged world has been at work.

Also that she is a Boston girl and has his title down as pat as though he was in Burke or DeBrette.

Prof. William H. Ashmead says that the melanolestes belongs to the species designated Hemiptera, a Greek derivative meaning half-winged. It will be noticed on examination that the wings of the insects are half-membraneous and half coriaceous.

In appearance the kissing bug is not by any means an Adonis of the air. A greatly enlarged photograph shows him to possess four hairy legs set at the corners, so that when he walks abroad scenting his prey, he somewhat resembles an animated stepladder, with a balcony.

That is the head; and to further particularize, the head consists of a stinger pointing straight out and always ready for business, a pair of immense moustachios such as the Levy boys and Capt. Dan McLean used to glory in possessing, and eyes that stick out like a pair of opera glasses.

The latter are the melanolestes' strong suit. They enable him to lead an active life both by day and by night, and accordingly has his office hours usually between sunset and sunrise. The lips of sleeping beauty are, not unnaturally, his strongest temptation, and hence his popular name.

Here in Victoria, the kissing bug has made his appearance, according to reports, during the last week or ten days. One of his victims is a teamster named McKenzie, who, while out picknicking last Sunday indulged in the luxury of a noontide nap.

His first impression was that he had been bitten by a black spider, but as the swelling continued, a hardness appeared in the lip, and McKenzie experienced excruciating pain.

Organization Completed.

Dawson's board of trade is at last an accomplished fact. On Wednesday

night about 100 men representative of the commercial and professional interests of the city assembled at the Criterion to listen to the report of the committee which had been appointed for the purpose of drafting a constitution and by-laws for the government of the organization.

The report submitted was a voluminous document covering every detail of the various lines of activity in which the board will interest itself. The object of the board is said to be the promotion of a spirit of co-operation among the business men of the town, and the advancement of its business and commercial interests.

Col. Richenbach presided as temporary chairman. After the reading of the committee's report some little discussion was indulged in, after which the report was adopted as a whole. These preliminaries having been disposed of, it was announced that the election of officers for the ensuing year was in order.

The only name proposed for president was that of Mr. Thos. McMullen, of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, who was unanimously declared the choice of the meeting for the executive once. Mr. McMullen was escorted to the chair and in response to a demand for a speech thanked the assembly for the confidence it had displayed in him and promising his best efforts and energy in protecting and furthering the interests of the organization and the city.

The other officers elected were first vice-president, Mr. Frank Ames, of the Ames Mercantile Co.; second vice-president, Dr. Yeamans, of the Empire Line, and F. W. Clayton, secretary.

The election of a board of trustees or counsellors was deferred until a subsequent meeting in order that their selection may be made in accord with the Dominion statutes governing boards of trade.

The Last Chance Murder.

Constable Lynn, who went to Last Chance to investigate the reported murder, returned to town on Wednesday and fully confirmed the meagre particulars already published. The discovery of the remains, he said, was made by two men named Talbot and Lepiere on a hill off of 27 above. They were going from their cabin to their shaft when their dog attracted their attention to the spot where the charred bones lay. They were not in a cabin, as first reported, but had been placed under a pile of brush, and the latter set on fire. This circumstance and the fact that the skull had been crushed is conclusive evidence that the man was murdered. The constable thinks the crime was committed in March or April. There was absolutely nothing about the body that would identify it, no one is missing from the gulch, and it looks as if the crime will remain shrouded in mystery.

POLICE COURT NEWS.

The case against Adolph Spitzel was in court again on Wednesday, and as no evidence was adduced in support of the charge, "Spitzel, old boy," was triumphantly discharged.

Four men were found engaged in a quiet game of "draw" in a side room at the Madden last Sunday, and it took \$11 plunks from each to satisfy the outraged feelings of the dove of peace.

William Williams was arrested on complaint of William Jones, charged with stealing two cords of wood from a claim on Bonanza. But it proved to be a mistake and William No. 1 was discharged.

John Cagino, a festive gentleman from the realm of the Mikado, was short of funds and his extremities caused his wits to get into active operation. A happy thought came his way finally and he struck his friend K. Matsuto for \$200 with which, he said, to go into the restaurant business at the forks. After a lapse of some days, Matsuto took it into his head to investigate and he found that instead of opening a restaurant at the forks, Cagino had come to town and put his money on the high card, which is street parlance for blowing one's money in riotous living. Matsuto wouldn't stand for it, and Cagino was arraigned before Col. Steele on Thursday, charged with obtaining money under false pretenses.

Excellent service and moderate prices at the Cafe Royal.

UNCLE SAM SHORT OF FUNDS.

His War Operations Necessitate Another Bond Issue.

New York, Aug. 24.—A special to the Tribune from Washington, D. C., says:

Secretary Gage is engaged in the task of ascertaining whence the funds are to come to pay the largely increased army recently determined upon by the president and secretary Root. This increase makes demands upon the treasury that may well cause some concern among its officials. The receipts of the government did not meet the extraordinary expenditures when the army was smaller and the problem of how to meet the cost of 30,000 additional troops gives the treasury department some uneasiness.

With plans matured, therefore, that involves the expenditures well up into nine figures, Secretary Gage, on whom is placed the responsibility of providing funds, has begun to take his bearings and preparing to meet these new demands. The administration is unwilling to make another bond issue, but if it cannot be avoided, this will be done.

It can be said on the authority of treasury officials who have been giving the matter careful study for several weeks, that the Fifty-sixth congress will not lessen the war taxes imposed by the act of June 13, 1898. In some quarters the clamor for a reduction of these taxes has already begun, but the enormous expenditures to be incurred in the next two years not only forbids curtailment of these special taxes but requires an enlargement of the general scheme and a stoppage of the holes through which those supposed to have been taxed have escaped.

From ordinary internal revenue taxation last year the receipts were, in round numbers, \$173,000,000. The war revenues included in round numbers, \$100,000,000. With the customs duties and miscellaneous receipts added, a big deficit followed at the end of the fiscal year. It is admitted that customs duties ought not to be further increased. The only course, therefore, from which additional revenue can be derived, is from war taxes or bonds, or both.

Death of a Young Miner.

Peter Kelly, a young man employed by P. J. Lauritzen on a bench opposite No. 1 below on Bonanza, died on Monday from the effects of typhoid fever, after an illness of two weeks. Deceased was 37 years of age, and leaves a wife, two children and a brother in San Francisco. Burial took place on Tuesday morning from St. Mary's church, Rev. Gendreau officiating.

Want Fire Insurance.

Dawson's business men want fire insurance for their property and they are going to have it. The preliminary steps were taken on Tuesday night at a meeting held at the office of Collector of Customs Davis. D. Doig called the assemblage to order and explained its purpose, after which he introduced W. D. Bruce, who, from the standpoint of an insurance man, gave a detailed description of the situation and its needs. He complimented the fire department on the work it had done and the Yukon council on the manner in which the fire ordinance had been carried out. He made a favorable comparison of Dawson's fire department with those on the outside, and referred to the body of well drilled men in the police and fire forces as constituting an auxiliary of the utmost value to the fire department. He believed that Dawson business men should have insurance and believed also that they could get it. In order to get it, the citizens would be under the necessity of sending a delegate to Montreal, where the head officers of the companies are, and setting forth the situation here. The speaker gave a great deal of general information on insurance matters in answer to questions.

The meeting finally elected Messrs. Doig, Palmer, Tom Chisholm and S. M. Graft to constitute a committee to arrange for the expenses of a delegate and the compilation of facts which he will have to present to the companies.

The meeting was then adjourned to 8 o'clock Friday night.

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