

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

BIRMINGHAM, FRIDAY, MAY 4

Reso, Nev. should organize an all-star stock company.

Politicians who run in a circle find it hard to be on the square.

And remember that custom does not sanction star bats until June 1.

Evidently the man who took 43 years to milk a cow was a hired man.

Help the census takers to do their work right and get their figures correct.

Why will people continue to build their homes on the sides of volcanoes?

If the sidewalks belong to the city that is another reason for not spitting on them.

Missouri has a school for poets. The street car ad. is as yet in its infancy in Missouri.

As things are going a cold pig's foot and a stein will soon replace the small bird and the cold bottle.

There never yet was a spring in which the catfish and the catfish climate worked in perfect harmony.

If you fall to run your business and allow it to get the upper hand it is likely to run you into the ditch.

A man in California has two extra ribs and is said to suffer constantly. He is twice as badly off as Adam was.

Has not Chicago the price required to flag the best Elgin watches whizzes through on its way to New York?

Instead of injuring the man with a hat pin Eve should have hurled her other head at him and retired half drunk.

One of Chicago's new hotels has tanks for living brook trout. That is an improvement on the ordinary kind of tank.

Many heads of households are thinking of subsidizing a hen and thus putting something over on the cold storage plants.

A Connecticut woman died of joy, caused by receiving a large sum in cash. It is not, however, a complaint which is catching.

Bavaria is to try 7 balloons service, but for a time yet Americans will be obliged to stick to motor cars and railroads for rapid transit.

Uncle Sam has a torpedo boat that can travel 35 miles an hour. That would be a grand little vessel if one had to run away from something.

California fears an invasion of trained fess. The general impression has been that the amateur fessers are just as annoying as the professional.

Now that mere man has secured a footing in Chicago through the batpin ordinance, why not limit the height of the heels, the color of the stockings, and a few other innovations?

It is said that the wife of an eminent British statesman may not get a divorce if she can become a peeress by staying married. How strong are the bonds of conjugal affection?

One publishing house in New York alone has published 80,000,000 copies of the Bible and is still at it. Leaving out the sacred character of the book, these facts prove that old man and the girls are still regarded as the best story tellers.

The conclusion of American and European medical experts in the orient concerning beri-beri is reassuring. It is that beri-beri is a non-communicable disease, and that it is caused by the practice of polishing shoes which removes the skin containing phosphorus.

Turkey has just ordered some new warships from English firms, passing over the advantages held out by American concerns. But that country is wholly right in the course offered on this side of the ocean.

Consular reports indicate that such cities as Baghdad and Bassora are good markets for American machinery, which are admitted to have no superiors. So it is evident that the young Turk knows some good things when they see them.

The biggest aeroplane yet constructed is the invention of a German officer. It is run by a 120 horsepower motor and is said to be capable of sustained flights. Preliminary tests have been made with apparent success, and the next thing will be something more thorough in the way of experiments. Germany has the right dirigibles in the shape of the Zepplins balloons, and seems determined to lead the procession in heavier-than-air machines.

From the North bank, goose, bean, groundnut and other products rise a chorus of "We told you so."

Nature appears to be indulging in an exceptional display of its powers. Following the Great volcanic eruption comes an extra hurricane in the South seas, and the upheaval in the sun. Storms from Germany are also a remarkable display of northern light, unusual in the great many persons who do not doubt a little more persons will lay it all to the vast of Italy's coast.

The governor of Kansas announces that the tree is man's best friend. The boy who is compelled to play ball and rube leaves will not agree to the proposition.

Another record broken. The torpedo boat Ford, undergoing a test of Pennsylvania, made 26 miles an hour, which was still faster than the Flusser. And as the trip was taken with stormy and unfavorable conditions prevailing, the achievement was all the more notable. Certainly our navy is getting some speedy additions.

BRIEF THE BUSINESS MAN

MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK TOLD IN CONDENSED FORM.

ROUND THE WORLD

Complete Review of Happenings of Greatest Interest from All Parts of the Globe—Latest Home and Foreign Items.

PERSONAL

J. W. Van Cleave, former president of the National Association of Manufacturers, is critically ill at his home in St. Louis and his recovery is doubtful.

Maj. Gen. J. P. S. Gobin, prominent in Pennsylvania affairs for more than a quarter of a century and a former commanding officer of the 1st Grand Army of the Republic, died at Lebanon, Pa., after a long illness. He was seventy-three years old.

Charles W. Hayti, director of Hayti, died at Kingston, Jamaica, following a brief illness. He was a refugee here since the revolution of 1908. Alexis was born in Hayti from ninety to one hundred years old.

Theodore Roosevelt Jr., completed his apprenticeship in the army. He will be promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He is now in the 1st Cavalry, New York.

After his marriage in June he will go to California to represent the car company.

Mr. Leslie Carter-Payne, the actress, was taken seriously ill at Cleveland, O., and all her engagements for the coming season are canceled. She is suffering from acute colitis said to have been induced by eating soft-shelled crabs.

Charles Taft, son of the president, kept his good nature after students of his uncle's school at Watertown, Conn., which he is attending, "ducked" him in a brook.

Sister Beatrice, the oldest nun in Colorado, who crossed the plains to Denver by ox team and established St. Mary's academy there at Holy Heights, Ariz. She was eighty years old.

GENERAL NEWS

A press dispatch from Washington announced that John D. Rockefeller had abandoned the idea of securing a national charter for his proposed foundation. Starr J. Murphy, personal counsel to Mr. Rockefeller, and speaking for the Rockefeller foundation, said the statement was entirely without foundation. Mr. Murphy also said that Mr. Rockefeller had decided to do with the Rockefeller Foundation, for which a charter is being sought from the New York legislature for an \$2,500,000 fund on special charity.

Characterizing Colonel Roosevelt as an "actor of the first order," called by Callan O'Loughlin as a "Judas," Most Rev. William H. O'Connell, archbishop of the Boston diocese, created a sensation at Lowell, Mass.

Pled by Greek verse recited by the poet Spiros Matsoukas, 2,000 members of the Greek colony at Manchester, N. H., have carried a \$20,000 toward an American fund for a Greek battleship, to be christened the New Generation.

The decree of the supreme court of Tennessee, ousting the Standard Oil company of Kentucky from doing business in the state of Tennessee, was upheld by the supreme court of the United States.

Charles A. White, state representative, who charged that he was bribed \$1,000 to vote for William Lorimer for United States senator, went before the special grand jury at Chicago and told his story.

A packet that was believed to contain letters and telegrams that passed between him and Senator Lorimer, Lee A. Fairbank and Representative Robert E. Wilson.

At a conference of senate "organization" leaders the elimination of sections 7 and 8 from the tariff bill was ordered. This was done, however, only after Senator Aldrich had talked over the telephone with President Taft.

"Insurgents" contend, practically repeats the Sherman anti-trust law so far as it relates to railroads and sections 7 and 8 provide for American railroads can enter into mergers.

A shortage of bread is noticeable in New York. There is a strike for a nine-hour day, an increase of one dollar a week and recognition of the United Brotherhood of Carriers.

Louis Collins, the noted music hall artist, who first sang and popularized "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-aye," is dead in London.

The thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Woman's Baptist Foreign Missionary Society of the West opened in Chicago.

Fire threatened for a time to destroy several blocks at Frankfort, Ind. Frank Starb was perhaps fatally hurt by being leaping from a window of the Thresher department store.

The annual meeting of the Classical Association of America was held in New York and closed in Chicago.

At Columbus, O., Mayor Marshall issued a call for 100 citizens to volunteer to help protect the city from a possible strike in the way of the city.

The Illinois Congress of Mothers met at Rockford in the presence of W. B. Bright of Chicago in the chair.

Edward Payson Weston, the veteran rodeoist, reached the end of his ride at New York's city hall.

The presence of a demonstrative throng entered that building and was welcomed and conducted by Mayor Gaynor.

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Two expert witnesses were put on the stand in the Swope poisoning case.

Dr. Ludwig Harkton of Chicago was grilled by the grand jury.

Dr. Walter S. Haines' own tests failed to show traces of strychnine in the case of Margaret Swope or Christmas Swope.

He could not find cyanide, but found marked evidence of strychnine in the capsules he found cyanide.

President Taft ended his two days' visit to Pittsburgh.

Greatly dinner in which he paid a striking tribute to the secretary of state.

Mr. Knox. He vigorously defended the policy of the United States in Nicaragua, policy, favored those who invented the phrase "dollar diplomacy" with the idea of bringing control to the United States.

The nation is vitally interested and conduced with the declaration that the record of the state department during the first year of his administration was one which he pointed with the greatest pride.

An experiment carried out in London showed it possible to diagnose heart troubles by telephone, a distance of 100 miles.

Physicians, using ordinary telephone lines, were able to diagnose heart troubles.

Dr. Wright listened interestedly to the beating of a woman's heart in London.

While a circus elephant was being taken to the circus by the Evans, who had taken refuge on a wagon, fell and was killed.

Samuel Montgomery was trampled by the animal and died.

Isaac Quiroga, the famous old Indian chief of Hartford, Mich., will soon "take the trail" for Washington.

He will be accompanied by the Chicago lake front, which is claimed by the Pottawatomie tribe.

Syracuse (N. Y.) police are searching for a man who robbed a bank and robbed the First National bank there of \$1,200 while the president, Charles J. Snow, was in another building.

Because she had made a trifling mistake in her report to a census enumerator and feared arrest, Julia V. Chalmers, one year old, committed suicide at Indianapolis, Ind., by hanging.

The meeting between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft occurred at the position, to which the former president was driven in an automobile.

King Albert went there to surprise Mr. Roosevelt.

An amusing story alleging bribery and corruption in the election of William Lorimer as United States senator was unfolded by a grand jury.

Charles A. White of St. Clair county, a farmer, who made a confession to the grand jury, charged that he had broken the senatorial deadlock.

It was accomplished by the wholesale buying of Democratic votes.

The Lorimer forces at prices ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000, were accompanied by further allegations from White that he had paid \$100,000 to the grand jury.

A term he used to designate a "slush fund" alleged to have been collected for the defeat or passage of legislation.

Richard A. Ballinger, secretary of the interior, on the stand continued before the grand jury.

He testified that he had signed a committee his contradictions and denials of charges and accusations made against him.

His most important testimony was that he had signed a letter to the grand jury.

Director F. H. Newell and Chief Engineer A. P. Davis of the service, that he misrepresented to President Taft that the restoration of the water power sites withdrawn by Secretary Garfield.

Marion W. Littleton, chief of counsel for Charles W. Morse, the former secretary, now serving a 15-year sentence in the federal prison at Atlanta.

He testified that he had signed a letter to the grand jury.

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EX-WARDEN OF JACKSON PRISON

RECEIVES \$5,000 FINE AND WILL HAVE A YEAR IN DETROIT.

PENALTY OF BEING TRAPPED IN ATTEMPT TO EXTORT BRIBE FROM PRISON CONTRACTORS.

Friends Though He Would Be Freed: Broken in Spirit and Fortune; Minimum Sentence is Given.

Allan N. Armstrong, ex-warden of Jackson prison, who confessed to having accepted a bribe from Gen. Fred W. Green, of Ypsilanti, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$5,000 and serve a year in the Detroit house of correction, in the circuit court at Jackson.

He was again and defiant to the judge, but when the judge ordered him to be taken to the jail to secure an interview he was obliged that he had nothing to say.

Armstrong has been out on \$10,000 bail since his arrest in February. He was arrested on a charge of accepting a bribe for his influence with the added indignity of a prison sentence, dispels the illusion held by his friends and others that he would be released under suspended sentence for turning state's evidence.

After a grand jury investigation of affairs at Jackson prison had been urged by the federal grand jury, Green, contractor for prison labor, charged that Armstrong had solicited of him a bribe for his influence with the judge.

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Duty State of Collect.

Two big corporations taxed under the Michigan ad valorem system.

They are expected to go to Detroit to attempt to collect the taxes assessed against their property under the new law.

The law is unjust and violation of the state and federal constitutions. On the refusal of the state to uphold the ad valorem system which the state has built up at big cost.

Auditor General Fuller received from the Western Union Telegraph company a statement of taxes assessed at \$1,009,970 and from the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. of \$9,302,399.

With these checks the company sent a statement that the taxes assessed are not just amounts of taxes, but that the law is in violation of both state and national constitutions.

The basis for their refusal is not known.

The matter has been referred to the state's chief department, and some supreme court action is anticipated.

Saginaw Elks 500 Strong.

At the meeting of Saginaw Elks in the committee having in charge the grand lodge parade reported that the parade was a success.

The parade was a success and the Elks were very pleased with the result.

The official badge of the Saginaw Elks is a big gold medal.

The badge is a big gold medal with a clock with hands turned to the hour of 11 and sketches of the varied life of the Elks.

The Elks are very proud of their badge and will give the number and the picture of the magnificent Elks temple that Saginaw burns at Oxford.

Fire Plant Burns at Oxford.

Pure Food Co. has announced that it has lost \$125,000.

The loss was due to the destruction of the Pure Food Co. plant at Oxford.

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