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A STRANGE PRISON.

How a Town in Virginia Utilizes a Mountain Cave.

"Speaking of caves," remarked the drummer whose territory extends from New York to everywhere, "I suppose you don't know that down yonder in the cave section of Southwestern Kentucky it isn't unusual for the towns which are built over caves to use them as sewers, and there's many a kitchen with its sink leading right down into the depths of the earth. But an even odder use than this to which nature may be put I discovered in the cave country of Virginia.

"The little town of Eldridge, with a population of 600 or 700, has a large contingent of miners to be handled by the authorities, and when they get ugly they are ugly, indeed. Two or three 'coolers' for their accommodation when drunk and disorderly had been burned or torn down by them, and the town marshal was hard put to know what to do. At last the editor of the local paper suggested that the cave in the mountain not 300 yards from the City Hall would be just the thing for a calaboose, and the marshal proceeded to investigate. He found that the way then in use to get into it was down a ladder thirty feet through an entrance six or eight feet in diameter, and that when once in the cave the air was dry and good; there was a stream of fine water, and that, though it was dark, the electric light could be introduced easily from the town plant.

"That was his report, and without saying anything much to anybody, beds and boards and a few other pieces of necessary furniture were taken down, and on Saturday night when the boys began to whoop it up and were taken in they were carefully let down into the cave by a rope on a portable windlass that had been rigged over the mouth, and silence prevailed on the face of the earth. The lights were turned on and it was bright and cheerful; the boys had all the room they wanted; they could do as they pleased (down there), and the loudest noise they could make couldn't possibly be heard on earth. That plan worked with eminent success until one night there was a fight and a man was hurt, and then the authorities fixed up some cages or pens, and an officer went down first to receive the visitors and care for them on their arrival. It has been working that way ever since, and is undoubtedly the safest prison in the whole country, and is the cheapest and most enduring."

Why the Birds Sang.

She came running in breathlessly, her poor little cross eyes more hopelessly tangled up than ever, the little fresh-air child out from the city for her two weeks on the farm. Everything was new and strange. She had never seen a hog or—but here is her story.

"Oh, but the little burrds are rawling about and squealing like everything an' then they sings and sings. And the ould burrd she came a-runnin' an' she squealed and singed too, and shook her wings like everything—an' then they all rawled and singed, thim burrds ye feed."

"Whatever can she mean?" we queried, and went to see. We found four downy little ducks fast on a sheet of sticky fly paper, that had blown from the porch. The old Plymouth Rock hen, seeing the flies plentifully sprinkled on it, had joyfully called her brood and alas! they were in it, and left dowuy reminders of their painful leave taking.

Cogitation.

The gentlemen of the bar, who not infrequently have to take rebukes from the bench, greatly enjoy a chance to make a legitimate retort against the court. The story is told that a certain judge who, during the plea of a rather prosy lawyer, could not refrain from gently nodding his head in sleep, was caught at this by the lawyer, who looked significantly at him.

"Perhaps," said the judge, testily and prevaricatingly, "the counsel thinks the court was asleep, but he may be assured that the court was merely cogitating."

The lawyer talked on. Presently the judge, again overcome by his somnolence, nodded off and aroused himself with a little sudden snorting snore.

"If it please your honor," said the lawyer, "I will suspend my plea until the court shall have ceased to cogitate audibly."

"You may go on," said the judge; and he did not fall asleep again.

MADE HIM FAMOUS.

Bright Wife of the Doctor Had Some Schemes of Her Own.

"Know him?" asked one of the two men talking at the corner as he nodded toward a handsome old gentleman just passing by. "No? Well, sir, that's Dr. Blank, the noted surgeon. I have known him ever since we used to frequent the same swimming hole. Just how long that was before the war I'm not going to say. He beat me in the race for the girl that he married, and if he hadn't the chances are that the doctor would still be driving, night and day, over a little back country, attending to a practice that couldn't pay if it wanted to.

"When they were back there in the woods and he was performing operations that no other member of the profession had thought of undertaking, she gathered from the talk of friendly doctors in the same section that he was original, daring, and successful. She begged him to advertise his abilities, but he sternly rebuked her for asking him to transgress the ethics of the profession.

"But you know how it is when a bright woman sets her head. The doctor's office was a shabby little den, without carpet, window shades, pictures, or anything else but the plainest furniture. He resisted all her efforts to change this.

"One evening he came home from a thirty-six-hours' stay with a patient to find that office so transformed in velvet carpet, tapestries, and pictures that he flatly declined to enter it. His wife was away on a visit. Men had been there, done the work, and disappeared. There were no bills, the home merchants knew nothing, and the doctor was so mad that he advertised everything for sale.

"The thing was told in the local papers as a huge joke, and, incidentally, there were related some of the stories of how he took people apart and put them together again. City papers copied and city doctors ridiculed. This riled Blank; he proved that he had worked greater wonders than were credited to him, and he was famous. The means and the end were the work of the little woman who had figured them out before giving a secret commission to furnish that office."—Detroit Free Press.

WILES OF THE GUIDE.

Somehow the Best Fishing Grounds Are Always on the Other Side.

Being a scientific fisherman, he is an oracle on all matters pertaining to piscatorial pastimes. He carries three tackle-boxes and every tray is full. He has the finest rods, reels, flies, spoons, trolley lines, and hooks. He is prepared to take anything from muskellunge to minnows.

"One thing I want to tell you," he said to the comparative novice: "At all these island lakes the fishing is on the other side. Stop off at any resort, hire a guide, tell him you want the best there is, and it's 99 to 1 he'll pull for the other shore, no matter how many miles have to be traversed. He will take you to the favorite haunts of the gamy black bass. Incidentally he will see that you get a few big fish weighing from fifteen to twenty pounds each, that you may take them home and astonish your friends.

"What you really get is some pickerel and perch, possibly a couple of walleyed pike, a few rock bass, and some sun fish. There is always an explanation for this vast discrepancy between hope and realization. They day is too bright; it's too windy; the lake's too rough, or the appetite of the fish has been taken in their desire to get further up-stream. You have the same experience every day, for these guides are wiser than serpents and keep you in a flutter of joyful anticipation through an entire season. Figure it up and you'll find that most of your money is spent in going to and fro from the other side of the lake.

"Last season I dissected some bass that I bought, found that they were feeding on crawfish, hunted out the rock bottom in the lake, and took 15 of the gamy beauties in one afternoon. The guides acted just as though I had jumped a gold claim of theirs, but I kept quiet and caught bass while the guides kept taking the other fellows across the lake in the morning and back at night. Just to make the whole thing plain, prospect till you find out where the fish are and then go after them."—Detroit Free Press.

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NEW MOVE.

Notice of an Armistice and Other Important Concessions.

TROUBLE AT MADRID

Consul-General Lee Reported to Have Sent a Hot Message to Blanco at Parting—Last of the Americans Leave Cuba—A Letter From Gomez Which Somewhat Dampens the Armistice Project.

A despatch from Washington, D. C., says:—The Spanish minister in Washington delivered to the State Department Sunday night an important official document from his government. It was stated in this document that the armistice which the Queen Regent of Spain had commanded General Blanco to proclaim was without conditions; that her majesty's government had granted liberal institutions to Cuba, which the Cuban Parliament will put into operation and develop. The condolence and sympathy expressed by the Queen Regent and her government at the loss of the Maine and the horror the disaster had caused in Spain are referred to, and an appeal is made to the United States government to enlighten public opinion in this country upon the attitude of Spain. The note repeats the offer of the Spanish government to submit the Maine question to experts designated by the maritime powers of the world and to accept their findings.

A revolutionary movement is threatened in Spain as the result of the decision by the Spanish cabinet to grant an armistice to the Cuban insurgents. The popular belief in Madrid is that this constitutes a national backdown. Extra precautions have been taken to preserve order, but in spite of these there were many turbulent gatherings and some arrests.

Consul-General Fitzhugh Lee and other Americans who had remained in Cuba arrived at Key West from Havana Sunday. General Lee started for Washington. Before he left Havana he called upon General Blanco, who refused to see him. The consul-general is reported to have sent this as a parting message to Blanco:

"The Fern is the last ship of the American navy that will ever go out of Havana harbor while the Spanish flag flies over Morro."

Several men recently imprisoned in Cabanas fortress, Havana, are said by Spanish detectives to have been concerned in a plot to assassinate General Lee.

Consul Barker, of Sagua la Grande, who is with General Lee on his way to Washington, bears letters from General Gomez, in which the Cuban commander says that under no circumstances will his followers agree to an armistice unless it means complete Spanish evacuation of the island.

Senor Gonzalo de Quesada, the diplomatic representative in the United States of the Cuban insurgents, has issued a statement to show that the insurgents have a regularly organized civil government whose independence can be recognized. The government was regularly organized, he says, in 1895 by constituent assembly elected by the people, and a constitution was adopted. In 1867, under the terms of the constitution, the officers of the government were again duly elected, the terms of their predecessors having expired. The military authorities are alleged to be subordinate to the civil authorities in all respects.

Spain has settled the Cannamaba claim of Germany by agreeing to pay $90,000 for the destruction of German life and property in Cuba.

SPAIN HELD RESPONSIBLE.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is Ready to Report.

A despatch from Washington, D. C., says:—The full Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has practically agreed to report the Foraker resolution of independence for Cuba and armed intervention. An amendment of two lines has been added. It holds the Spanish government responsible for the destruction of the Maine and the slaughter of 266 American officers and sailors, and cites this as a cause for American resentment, if not for war.

The report which will accompany the resolutions will be unanimous. It is vigorous in tone, and dwells particulary on the Maine incident. It is likely that the President will be made acquainted with its contents before it is presented in the Senate.

Some of the members of the committee are disposed to regard as positive the proof of Spanish duplicity in the Maine affair and to resent it as an act of war, and there is good reason for believing that there has been more or less discussion in the committee of the advisability of a declaration of war on account of the explosion, rather than a recognition of Cuban independence merely. At any rate the Maine incident will be thoroughly exploited and made the basis of much that may be said. The committee feel this the safe course in view of Spain's recent action concerning the reconcentrados.

WAR THE BETTER CHOICE.

Gen. Correa Says He Prefers Hostilities Abroad to Fighting at Home.

Spain's laconic Minister of War, Gen. Correa, has at last broken his silence. In an interview the General has given an interesting account of the situation, saying:

"War is the better of the two evils. It is better to fight foreigners than to fight Spaniards rising in indignation if their honor and rights are trampled under foot."

Maine Court of Inquiry Dissolved.

The last chapter in the history of the court of inquiry which investigated the loss of the battle ship Maine was written at the Navy Department in the form of a letter to Captain Sampson, commanding the North Atlantic squadron, notifying him that the department had no further instructions to give in regard to the work devolving upon the court, and authorizing him, at his discretion, to dissolve the court and thus end its official existence.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

Jules Schulhoff, the pianist, whose "Galop di Bravura" a generation ago was heard in every parlor, died recently in Berlin at the age of 78 years.

Mrs. Chapin, of Tampa, Fla., practically owns and operates the street railway system of that city, and is thoroughly familiar with every detail of the business.

An autograph letter signed by Cora Urquhart Potter, the actress, is quoted on a price list at four times the value of one signed by Bishop Potter, of New York.

The marriage of Naime Sultana, a daughter of Abdul-Hamid, with the son of Ghazi Osmon Pasha a few days ago, was a very quiet affair, contrary to the usual custom.

When the late General Rosecrans was stationed at Newport as a lieutenant 50 years ago he did more than any other layman in raising money for St. Mary's Church in that city.

Manuel Garcia, Malibran's brother, who sang the part of Figaro at the first performance of "The Barber of Seville" in New York 73 years ago, has entered his 94th year, and is still teaching singing in London.

Fencing is the chief recreation of Sir Charles Dilke. At his Chelsea home he has a splendidly-appointed fencing room.

Miss Mildred Lee, the daughter of the famous Confederate General was tendered a reception the other day by the Veterans by the Louisiana division of the Army of Northern Virginia.

THE NEWS.

Sixty-four cadets of the South Carolina Military Academy have been expelled for riotous conduct.

Gen. William P. Hardeman, a Confederate veteran, died at Austin, Tex.

Governor Pingree's measure for increasing taxes of railroads was killed by the Michigan State Senate.

Judge McGuire has reached Dawson City, N. W. T., and opened court there.

Margaret Mather, the well-know actress, died suddenly at Charleston, W. Va., of acute Bright's disease. She was taken ill during a performance.

Sheriff Maples, who killed Squire Wynne the alleged leader of whitecaps, near Knoxville, Tenn., remains under a heavy guard as an attack on the jail is feared.

The steamer Aurora arrived at Buffalo with the crew of the schooner Northwest, which was cut through by ice and sunk.

Leiter is disposing of his wheat rapidly, and immense consignments leave Chicago for the seaboard every day.

A train struck and killed a man walking on a track near Steubensville, O., and when it stopped a freight train ran into it and a number of persons were injured.

Miss Jessie E. Parker, of Kendrick, Ida., was elected mayor of that town by a large majority, her opponent being one of the most popular men of the town.

A pennsylvania Railroad express train which was stopped near Steubenville, Ohio, because it had killed a man on the track, was run into by a freight train and five passengers injured.

Voters of Kendrick, Idaho, chose Miss Jessie E. Parker mayor, defeating a man of popularity.

Indians at White river, Utah, are incensed at the government for opening up a reservation and trouble is feared.

In Rhode Island Gov. Elisha Dyer was re-elected and a large republican majority elected to the Legislature, which will elect a successor to United States Senator Aldrich.

Town elections were held in Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, Wisconsin, Kansas and other Western States.

The National Wall Paper Company is said to be trying to form a new combination of wall paper manufacturers to take in those not now connected with it.

Emanuel M. E. Church, Wheaten, Lancaster county, Va., was destroyed by fire. Rev. E. F. Hall, the pastor, held services in the evening at 7.30 o'clock, and the congregation was dismissed at 9. But little fire was left in the stove, and the origin of the fire is unknown. The church was erected about four years ago at a cost of about $1,300. No insurance.

Fire broke out at Martinsburg, W. Va., in the kitchen of the house belonging to Mrs. William Shipley, and the flames spread to the property of Mrs. Henry Matthews, which adjoins. Both houses, together with most of the contents, were completely destroyed. The loss is about $1,200.

A pool room in the Open Board of Trade building, Chicago, which is patronized by women exclusively, was raided by the police, and twenty women, who were betting on the races, were taken into custody. Many of them were richly dressed and two had babies in their arms. They were all released on bail later in the day.

Lawyer H. S. Scovel, counsel for Ellishaw, was found not guilty of the charge of embracery by a Camden (N. J.) jury.

Miss Jessie E. Parker has been elected Mayor of Kendrick, Idaho, after a spirited contest. Her opponent was one of the most popular men in the city.

Pennsylvania passenger train ran over an unknown man near Steubenville, Ohio. It was stopped and a freight train coming on behind crashed into it, wrecking three cars and injuring four passengers.

The Uncompaghres around Ouray, Utah, are highly incensed at the allotment commissioners for their dilatory action. Indian Agent Cornish has left for the Willow Creek district to inform the Indians that the lands are open for settlement, and that the whites were entitled by law to squat thereon.

The annual election for Mayor and City Councilmen of Pocomoke City, Md., was held, resulting in the citizens' ticket being elected by a large majority. The following was chosen: Riley M. Stevenson, Mayor, 251 majority over E. G. Polla, Republican; Jas. F. Blaine, City Councilman, 189 majority over Hugh Veasey, Republican.

While driving near Bloomery, W. Va., Miss Annie Kent and George Zingle were thrown out of the buggy. Miss Kent was hurled against a fence and instantly killed, her neck being broken.

William Rust was run over by an engine on the railroad at Martinsburg and instantly killed, his body being cut in two. He was about 65 years old, and had been employed in railroad yards for many years. He leaves a family of seven children.

Alfred Ballensi, alias Wm. Bellwood, was sentenced to six years in Sing Sing prison, on conviction of having swindled the William E. Marcus Company out of $20,000 worth of gems and jewelry. Ballensi is alleged to have been one of those who were concerned in the financial ruin of Max Lebaudy, the Parisian millionaire, who died bankrupt in 1896.

W. C. Jackson, United States Indian Commissioner at Muscogee, I. T., has notified Indian Agent D. M. Wisdom, that the Choctaws are much interested in the prospect of war with Spain, and that already two regiments have been formed, and are ready to move to the front on short notice.

Newport News, Va., is rapidly becoming one of the heaviest coal shipping points in the United States.

Mr. W. P. Walker, general traffic manager of the Chesapeake and Ohio Road, has been paralyzed, and is in a serious condition.

The New York Stock Exchange will be opened on Good Friday for the first time in years, owing to the possibility of war.

A snowstorm was general over the Middle States, and is said to have done much harm to budding fruit.

Twenty-three drowned and seven yet missing are the latest reports from the flood at Shawnectown, Ill.

The Ohio Legislature defeated the much discussed measure regulating marriages on grounds of public health.

Democrats won in municipal elections in Chicago. A silver democrat was elected mayor of Milwaukee.

Wann Post, No. 49, Grand Army of the Republic, of Forest Hill, Md., has passed resolutions approving the President's course as to the present difficulties with Spain, and offering their services, should war occur, "in defense of the honor and glory of the old flag."

Mrs. W. C. Whitney, who was seriously injured by being knocked from her horse while riding several weeks ago, is steadily improving each day. Her condition is now so greatly improved that Mr. Whitney is making arrangements for her to leave Aiken, S. C., on a special train for New York.

A fall of coal in the Franklin mines, Westernport, Md., instantly killed Frank Bradley, and probably fatally injured his brother Edward.

Fire which broke out at Vicksburg, Miss., destroyed the Piazza Opera House, a drug store and a harness factory and buggy warehouse. The loss will be about $125,000, partially covered by insurance.

The San Francisco typographical union has inaugurated a strike to enforce the nine-hour day decided upon by the International Typographical Union. Several firms have conceded the demand. About 1,300 workmen are out. Four hundred are working.

The home of James Michels, near Sisterville, was destroyed by fire, and the wife of Michels and his two-year-old child were found side by side in a room. The remains were burned to a crisp. Foul play is suspected.

WARTHEONLYOUTCOME.

Spain Will Not Yield Her Sovereignty Over Cuba.

ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE.—These two words have conveyed to Minister Woodford, at Madrid, the exact position of the United States government with reference to the and of Cuba. If his mind was not entirely clear, owing to lack of familiarity with diplomatic terms, or if the Spanish authorities did not wholly comprehend the attitude of this government, these two words have removed all doubt. And here the case rests, with the issue made up and definitely closed. The most optimistic advocate of peace can hardly look forward to the possibility of a compliance with our terms. Spain chooses the alternative of war with the United States and defeat, rather than yield her sovereignty over Cuba and be plunged into conflict with her own subjects at home.

The joint note presented at the White House Thursday by the five European powers was in effect a formal expression of friendly solicitude, and a hope that peace may yet come in Cuba without war. It was in no sense intervention. No pressure is being or will be exerted to have this government recede from its position. President McKinley's reply is unequivocal and conclusive. The note of the powers does not affect the situation at Washington in the slightest degree.

Consul General Fitzhugh Lee will leave Havana on Saturday. Minister Woodford will depart from Madrid about the same time, although it is not felt that he is in any peril. The recall of Consul General Lee will be a practical announcement to the world that war is at hand.

Representative Grosvenor, conservative and cool, who speaks with the full knowledge of the gravity of the situation, announced to Congress Thursday that war could not now be averted. The Senators who have been conspicuous advocates of peace, and who have been hoping against hope for that result, no longer expect a peaceful solution.

Counsel Reubens' ill-timed manifesto, announcing that the Cuban insurgents would fight the United States troops unless our intervention was preceded by a recognition of the independence of the so-called Cuban Republic, has materially changed the sentiment of Congress on the independence proposition. There is every reason to believe that both the Senate and House will promptly authorize and direct IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION, as recommended by the President, without a recognition of independence at this time.

PERISHED BY HUNDREDS.

A Levee Breaks and an Indiana Town is Swept by Floods.

A despatch from Evansville, Ind., says: At six o'clock in the afternoon the levee at Shawneetown, Ill., broke a mile above the town, and from all the information that can be secured it was learned that a great part of the place has been destroyed, and that, perhaps, a large number of citizens has been drowned. Shawneetown is seventy-five miles below Evansville on the Ohio River. It is situated in a valley of extremely low land, with hills skirting it in the rear, and with a twenty-five foot levee in front, running from hill to hill. The town is very much in the position of a fortified city, and when the levee gave way, a mile above town, under the pressure of a very high river, the water shot through a twenty-foot opening, and struck the place like a hurricane, sweeping everything before it.

Houses were overturned and tossed about like boxes. The people were not warned of the break, and for that reason so many were caught. Those at home sought refuge in second stories and on housetops. Those in the streets were carried before the avalanche of water, and probably the majority were drowned.

Citizens came from the place by skiffs to a telephone seven miles away and asked for aid from Evansville. They said that more than two hundred people were drowned, and they had reasons to believe that it would reach 500 or even 1,000.

The water stands from twenty to thirty feet all over the town.

There are, of course, no fire or light in the place, and total darkness envelops the desolate scene.

All telephone and telegraph wires are now down, and outside communication appears to be impossible.

A special to the Chicago Record from Cypress Junction, Ill., says:—Two hundred and fifty persons were drowned by the inundation of Shawneetown, six miles from this place.

The north levee broke at 4.20 o'clock A. M., and the Ohio river flowed over the town many feet deep.

Scores of houses are floating about, and many persons are clinging to the wreckage, in the hope that rescuers will soon appear with boats to take them to places of safety.

All communication with the town is cut off. Trains cannot reach there, and telephone and telegraph wires are down.

The first report that reached here was that the entire population had been drowned, but this is not confirmed.

The levee was built by the government, and was regarded as impregnable; hence the people had taken no precaution against possible flood. It is reported that the flood now extends four miles inland, and people are fleeing for their lives from the lowland hamlets.

"SPAIN BLEW UP THE MAINE.

Senator Butler Says the Majority in Congress Regards the Case in That Way.

Senator Butler says, "The majority in Congress looks at the situation in this way: Spain blew up the Maine and murdered our sailors. That is sufficient cause for war and an act of war, therefore there cannot be any compromise of the Cuban question which would leave out the Maine.

"The United States would not allow the Cubans to compromise their differences so as to prevent war or leave out war, even if they wanted to. It is the duty of this country to see that this whole Western hemisphere is under a republican form of government as soon as courtesy to the supposed rights of other nations will permit it.

"Spain's mismanagement of Cuba and her treachery and infamy in blowing up the Maine are sufficient cause for the United States government to tell Spain to get off the Western hemisphere, and get off it must."

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

In the British House of Commons Sir Charles Dilke made a motion containing an indirect attact on the cabinet for its genera foreign policy. Mr. Balfour replied to him.

It is announced in Vienna that the Austria-Hungarian government will ask for about $24,000,000 for increasing the strength of its navy.

The German government has recalled its order expelling Miss Lona Barrison through representations of the United States embassy.

Arthur Orton, famous as the claimant to the Tichborne title and estates, died in England.

Mrs. Delia Stewart Parnell was buried beside her son, Charles Stewart Parnell, in a Dublin cemetery.

Prince Bismark celebrated the eighty-third anniversary of his birth by giving a banquet at Friedrichsruhe

The Portuguese government has authorized the importation of large quantities of wheat.

The steamer Iceland arrived at St. John's, N. F., after having taken 23,000 seals. Other vessels are reported to have taken large numbers of them.

Japan is rumored to have asked the United States to co-operate with Great Britain in supporting Japan's refusal to withdraw from Wei-Hai-Wei.

Sir James Westland, financial member of the legislative council of India, states that the reopening of the Indian mints "is now impossible."

Great Britian has demanded that China lease to her the port of Wei-Hai-Wei as soon as it is evacuated by the Japanese. China is expected to yield.

Charges have been made to the Chinese Emperor that Li Hung Chang and the Chinese foreign office have received large bribes from Russia.

Archbishop Boudini, of Lima, Peru, is dead.

Eighteen of the crew of the German steamer Magnet, which sank in collision with the bark British Princess, off the English coast, were drowned.

An Anglo-Egyptian reconnaissance found the dervishes strongly entrenched eighteen miles from Atbara, Nubia.

PLANS OF OUR STRAGEISTS.

The First Step Will Be to Destroy the Spanish Fleet and Seize the Canaries.

A despatch from Washington, D. C., says The naval plan of operation that will be followed in an attempt to speedily crush Spain, both on sea and in Cuba, has been framed and forwarded to the commanders of the fleet at Key West and Hampton Roads, and the precise nature of the course that will be taken by the army in supporting the navy, if it becomes necessary to aid it, has been formulated by the war department. The impression has been general that the entire Key West squadron will direct its first move against Havana, and threaten bombardment in the event of refusal to surrender, but it is believed this would be only a part of the programme, and the chief objective point will not necessarily be the vicinity of Cuba.

The naval experts who have studied the question and made up their minds as to what will be done, say that Porto Rico and the Canaries will be the scene of action, and that with the latter in the possession of the American fleet, a base of supplies would be established upon which a squadron working against Spanish ports could fall back. They say the navy will first strike the Spanish navy and not necessarily Havana; that the object will be to destroy all her vessels and thus leave the way free to convoy troops to Havana to clean out the Spanish troops, or, should Spain refuse to admit defeat, then, to enable this country to land a large army by transports in Spain.

Whatever the operations of the fleet, it is not thought it will work as one whole squadron, but rather in divisions, with one left at Key West as a reserve body to support the division that may be sent against Havana. To take Havana from the sea is not thought practical, and after a demonstration has been made off Moro Castle, and a few shells hurled into the city to wake it up, the fleet, in accordance with the plan worked out by experts, will proceed in quest of Spain's squadron and continue moving until it finds it. If at Porto Rico, then a sea attack will be made, and if Spain's navy is beaten the United States' vessels will bombard and occupy the town. This place, therefore, according to the programme of the war agreed to by the experts here, will be almost as important to seize as Havana, for without it Spain would be without a base of supplies on this side, and practically compelled to withdraw her naval forces to the Canaries or home.

According to these strategists, it will be necessary to land an army in Cuba to take and hold Havana, and to do this would require a large force to co-operate with the insurgents and hem in the 60,000 Spanish troops between the ships at sea and the American troops behind. The mere fact of reducing Moro Castle and bombarding the city would not result in the surrender of Havana, it is asserted, and the only way this can effectively be accomplished would be through a land force, working in conjunction with the war vessels in the harbor.

ZOLA'S SENTENCE QUASHED.

French Court of Cassation Declares His Conviction Void.

The Paris Court of Cassation has quashed the sentence of one year's imprisonment and 3,000 francs fine imposed upon M. Emile Zola on February 24, a result of charges made by him in the Aurore against the conduct of the Esterhazy court-martial.

The Aurore contains a statement from M. Clemenceau, who acted as counsel for that paper in the Zola trial, in which he accuses the Minister of War, General Billot, of attempting to coerce the Court of Appeals into sustaining the conviction of Zola.

In the Chamber of Deputies, in reply to attacks by radicals, the premier, M. Meline, justified the conduct of the government, explaining that General Billot would summon the military court, which would decide whether or not further action would be taken against M. Zola.

FIELD OF LABOR.

Colorado claims 45,000 unions.

Canada's pottery trust has been reorganized.

Connecticut ice dealers have a State Union.

Detroit chairmakers, earning $1 a day, struck.

Deb's Social Democracy is represented in thirty-two States.

Michigan embalmers formed a State organization.

The land tax (single tax) is the only legal tax in China.

All union men in St. Louis building trades are employed.

A Denver lawyer was disbarred for criticising a judge.

Montreal cigar-makers, earning from $5 to $8 a week, struck.

Detroit machinery moulders won a strike for $2.50 a day.

Pueblo, Colo., will build a levee and pay $2 for eight hours.

Longshoremen have 87 unions.

Atlanta unionists want convicts employed on public roads.

Alderman Tossy, of Detroit, is an organizer of the Federation of Labor.

Cleveland unionists kick against the employment of convicts on street work.

Proprietors of Baltimore tailor shops were arrested for using oil stoves in overcrowded houses.

By act of the Georgia Legislature all convict camp preachers are paid $3 a sermon.

Detroit barbers ask clergymen to aid them in keeping their shops closed on Sundays.

Washington Chinese labor union pays its walking delegates $2.50 a week.

New York portable hoisting engineers want $5 a day on May 1.

Missouri Supreme Court decided that insurance must be paid to the family of a suicide.

Employes of Milwaukee sash, door and blind factories want the eight-hour day on May 1.

Wages of Erie (Pa.) iron work employes were voluntarily increased 10 per cent. on April 1.

DELIVERING LETTERS ON STILTS.

Postmen Who Are Compelled to Adopt This Method of Locomotion.

The modern postman has been mounted on a bicycle, has been given a horse to ride, sometimes a horse draws him about, but the queerest of all methods of locomotion of postmen is that which is utilized in France, where men of letters—and papers—move about on stilts.

It is not meant that all the French postmen make their rounds in this fashion. Only those who serve the country and the postoffice officials through the great stretch of land that lies between Bordeaux and Bayonne are so distinguished. All this land is covered by a growth of gorse and broom which makes walking a very difficult matter. The postmen, however, have found that there is a way to render it much easier for themselves and that is by taking stilts.

To walk about in this fashion is not as easy as walking on one's feet in the ordinary way. The stilts are fastened to the feet of the postmen, and are not unlike those with which the small boy makes annual detours. To stand still any length of time on them is of course impossible without support, and so a pole is carried, in much the same way that the yeoman once lugged about his quarter staff. On this pole the postman leans when he wishes to rest, and in this way manages to get along very comfortably.

There is another proposition to face when winter comes, as of necessity the stilts sink deeply into the snow, and this makes walking a very difficult matter. This the genius of the postman has proved sufficient to overcome. He accomplishes his undertaking with the aid of a thin wooden skate, with which he skims along the surface of the snow and ice without sinking at all. It is by no means an easy matter to balance one's self tied to the knees. What then must be the effort of skating on stilts?

This French postman makes remarkable speed as he shuffles and glides about from one place to another. Oftentimes [illegible] route [illegible] man has to [illegible] ion includ[illegible]tor; Greater New [illegible]sesses, skates, therefore, instead of b hindrance and a danger, really this work easier, and the postm the Landes, as this queer [illegible] country is called, rejoices ing of winter, for he reali task will become a con centage lighter.

Clad in his capote, [illegible] clock, he scurries about o try until he has been eve his duty calls him. Som men of a neighboring terri[illegible] hin[illegible] rest[illegible]

Ma[illegible]ow this method of transportation a[illegible]id to make as good time as most people would with a horse and buggy.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Occupation is the scythe of time.—Napoleon.

Sorrow's best antidote is employment.—Young.

The way to be nothing is to do nothing.—Howe.

Everyone can master a grief but he that hath it.—Shakespeare.

When a man is wrong and won't admit it he always gets angry.—Haliburton.

What do we live for if it is not to makes life less difficult to each other?—George Eliot.

There is as much greatness of mind in acknowledging a good turn as in doing it.—Seneca.

The joys we expect are not so bright, nor the troubles so dark as we fancy they will be.—Charles Reade.

Our youth and our manhood are due to our country, but our declining years are due to ourselves.—Pliny.

There is no policy like politeness, since a good manner often succeeds where the best tongue has failed.—Magoon.

As riches and favor forsake a man we discover him to be a fool, but nobody could find it out in his prosperity.—Bruyere.

Every man is his own ancestor, and every man is his own heir. He devises his own future and he inherits his own past.—H. F. Hedge.

A Queer Case.

Ten miles west of Aurora, Ind., making her home with her mother on a small farm, lives Lizzie Windhurst, aged thirty. About five years ago she experienced a most singular dream in which her death on a certain day was foretold. She related her dream to relatives and persisted in regarding it as a revelation of her approaching death. As the time was near at hand she prepared her burial clothes, then took to her bed and awaited the dissolution, which she believed would take place on the 14th of the month. The 14th passed and she still lives. Her friends tried to persuade her that she was not going to die, but she insisted that she was, and said it would occur on the 14th of the next month. She continued to lie in bed prepared for the end. Another 14th passed and she insisted that it would be the next. She has refused to leave her bed. Her faith in the revelation is not, however, shaken in the least, and she refuses to leave her bed for even an hour. She has prepared all of her shroud for burial while lying in bed, and numberless times has Mrs. Cartwright, a kind neighbor, washed and ironed the garment to humor the poor girl. Four times she has worked it over, but still the faith in the dream is unshaken. She is seemingly very rational on every other subject, but any allusion to her revelation irritates her and she suffers physical pain. Her relatives and friends have at last decided to let her have her own way fearing that excitement might kill her. Her malady is considered monomania.—Chicago Chronicle.

Mexico Rich In Precious Stones.

Mexico is richly endowed with precious stones. The opals of Queretaro, San Juan del Rio, and Tequisquapan are famous for their changing fires. They are found in crusts on calcareous rocks, which are easy to work, and also in the granite, which has to be blasted, and this often breaks the gems. The opal beds are seldom more than ten or twelve feet below the surface.

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