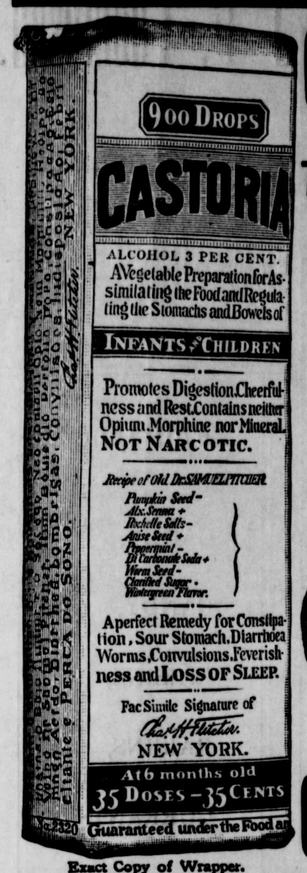

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M. J. THOMPSON COACH, "KNOWS RULES BY HEART."

HIS BEST ADVICE TO REFEREES.

Famous Football Official on Visit to Washington Tells One Reason for His Success—Forward Pass Change Likely.

The Washington Times recently published the following interesting interview with M. J. Thompson, coach of the Washington College foot ball team and director of athletics in that institution. Those who know Mr. Thompson will read the interview with keen interest and pleasure. We are indebted to Mr. W. Irving Grey, of the Carnegie Institution in Washington, a graduate of Washington college, for the clipping:

Did you notice the welkin ring last night?

Well, you had as good a chance then as any other time to hear the welkin do its best trick, for Mike Thompson was in town.

Michael was welcomed vociferously by scores of enthusiastic football fans, who wanted to know all about the past season, in which he made something approaching a world's record for refereeing important matches. Here are the big Saturday and holiday games in which he officiated, to say nothing of minor dates on Wednesdays:

SPLENDID RECORD.

Yale vs. Syracuse.
Yale vs. Holy Cross.
Princeton vs. Washington and Jefferson.
Princeton vs. Cornell.
Princeton vs. Carlisle Indians.
Yale Freshmen vs. Princeton Freshmen.
Yale vs. Brown.
Yale vs. Princeton.
Yale vs. Harvard.
Vanderbilt versus University of the South (Suwanee).

The only big game he did not get was the Army-Navy match, and in that the same man had given such satifaction in the past that no change was made. The Princeton-Yale freshmen's game was handled on the same date he bossed the operations between Yale and Brown.

NOW A PROFESSOR.

Thompson's rise since he left Georgetown as athletic manager has been phenomenal. Starting in the South, his first important refereeing was done in the schedules of the universities of Virginia and North Carolina, then he worked frequently for the Carlisle Indians, and today stands as admittedly the most prominent man in his specialty in the country.

Thompson is now professor of physics and chemistry at Washington College, Chestertown, Md., which, although not widely known among the general run of people, is one of the oldest colleges in the United States. It has turned out many men famous for their brains or brawn, and sometimes for both. In recent years Washington College has been forging to the front in Maryland educational matters, and today probably stands higher than it ever did before.

CAN RECITE RULES.

Thompson's success as a referee has been largely due to his hard work on the field. He follows the ball so closely his performance is one of the features of the game, and it is almost impossible for the players to slip anything over on him. Discussions in football are much more complicated than in baseball, as the official has so many different things and persons to watch, and Thompson's career has been remarkably free from bad breaks. There has never been a serious protest over any of his verdicts in big games.

"One thing I have found that makes the big hit," said Thompson, "is knowing the rules. As a football judge the rule book is my law, and as it is not a very lengthy volume, I have learned it absolutely by heart. When a technical question comes up I can cite the rule off-hand without referring to the book, and can give verbatim all the cross readings. That not only saves time, but gives me and the players confidence in myself.

AMBITION ACHIEVED.

"When I left Georgetown I determined to become some day prominent in national athletics, and I have achieved my purpose. I like football people and am kept on the jump from one end of the season to the other, but sometimes when I am bowling across the country in an express to be on hand for a game I wish I were back in Washington with the old friends I made when here.

"I do not think there will be any vital changes in the rules next season. Football in the past season was frequently spectacular to a high degree and the public enjoyed it immensely. I [illegible] game for red-blooded people [illegible] legislators deserve praise for the [illegible] in which they have overcome [illegible] and advanced it to its present [illegible]."

FORWARD PASS CHANGED.

[illegible] Thompson's reference to [illegible] the rules, there is a general [illegible], although he would not [illegible] that next season the [illegible] will be the same as it was [illegible], the side attempting a [illegible] and failing will lose the [illegible] being penalized fifteen yards and allowed to retain possession of the pigskin as at present. The argument is that the smaller teams are rapidly waking up to the possibilities of the play. When against elevens beating them badly the little fellows have shown a strong tendency to try the forward pass ad nauseam, even though their chances of succces were almost nothing. This has resulted in constant penalties. The delay while the fifteen yards is stepped off, to have the ball then kicked to the other side anyhow is held by many critics to be a nuisance that will grow to very large proportions next year to injure the sport. Others hold the delay will never except in very rare cases be sufficient to cause specinal comment and the rule should stand as in 1907.

VANDERBILT'S GREAT TRICK.

Vanderbilt, according to Thompson, sprung a hot one on Suwanee on Thanksgiving. The entire left side of the line moved to the right, leaving the center on the end. He passed to the fullback as if for a kick or fake kick. As soon as he passed, the center plunged down the field unopposed and ran about twenty yards into Suwanee territory. The fullback passed to the quarter, who got the ball to the lonely center and that gallant youth made a most valuable gain, to the surprise of the Suwanee players, who could not figure out what had happened.

Thompson will leave to-day for his chair at Chestertown, but will be on hand at the meeting of the football lawmakers this winter.

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WHALES AS RAMS.

Cases Where These Marine Monsters Have Attacked Vessels.

While cruising in the south seas the whaler Essex on Nov. 20, 1820, was furiously attacked by a cow sperm whale supposed to have been the mother of a calf which had just been harpooned. The whale had not been wounded herself, and her attack was very determined. At her first rush she passed under the Essex and carried away a great length of her false keel. Then, coming to the surface a considerable distance away, she appeared to take bearings and deliberately charged the vessel again, ramming her with such violence that she stove in the bows, while the ship rolled so heavily that the captain thought she must be dismantled. The case is memorable because the crew had to abandon the vessel, and one boat was never heard of again.

A more singular instance of a whale attacking a vessel occurred in 1895. The singularity lies in the fact that in the case of the Handa Isle the attack was entirely unprovoked. This vessel, a brigantine of 260 tons, was on her way to Sydney with a cargo of timber. On Aug. 24, about noon, a couple of sperm whales rose very close to the vessel and, while the crew watched them "sporting" across her bows, the pair suddenly slued around and came straight for her. One thought better of it and dived below the Handa Isle. The other struck her fair and square on the beam, crushing in her timbers. Having rammed the ship in this resolute fashion it sheered off, terribly damaged about the head, and presently sank tail first.

Fortunately there were some packages of rawhides on board, and the crew were able to keep the vessel afloat with the pumps until a rough and ready collision mat had been fashioned out of these and drawn over the leak.—Bailey's Magazine.

Left Handed Praise.

"I don't seem to hear so many compliments on my last poem," said the poetess, "as on its illustration. 'You just ought to see it!' they exclaim. 'It is so beautiful!'"

"It's the same way with me," put in the artist. "They come and stand before my pictures and sigh and say, 'Oh, what lovely frames you have!'"—New York Press.

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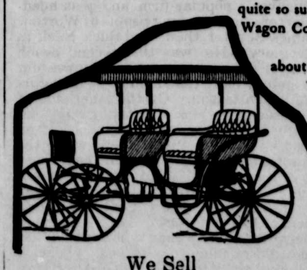
which have a National reputation for style and quality. For the man who wants a stylish, long-wearing, economical vehicle there is nothing quite so suitable and satisfying as a Cortland Wagon Company job.

Besides them our stock includes about everything you could possibly want in a vehicle. There is sure to be something to your liking in style, quality and price. You have buggies, surreys, road wagons and dozens of other styles to choose from. They are all from the best factories; all new, smart and different from the ordinary run; all fully guaranteed. Better have a look at them before spring brings their actual need.



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