

# THE TENSAS GAZETTE

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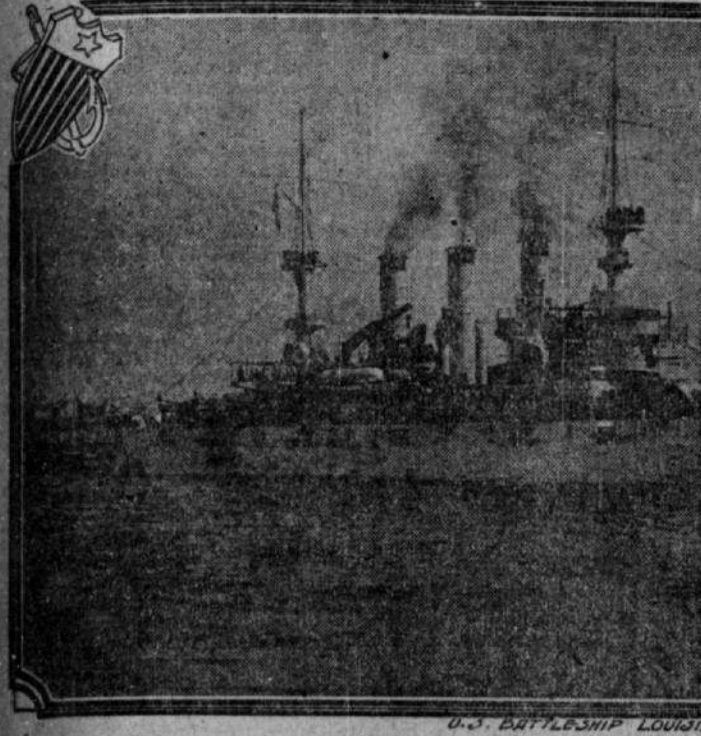
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## CZAR WILL VISIT AMERICAN BATTLESHIPS

ST. PETERSBURG.—The American battleship fleet under command of Rear-Admiral C. J. Badger arrived at Cronstadt, and remained several days. Emperor Nicholas did the United States the unusual honor of visiting the vessels, and also received Admiral Badger and the fleet officers in the palace in this city. The fleet comprises the battleships Louisiana, South Carolina, Kansas and New Hampshire.



U. S. BATTLESHIP LOUISIANA

## TALES OF GOTHAM AND OTHER CITIES

### City and State Face Tramp Question



NEW YORK.—How can the Empire state and New York city solve its tramp problem? The vagrants now in the state would form the entire population of a city the size of Albany. The Empire state, and especially its metropolis, is the mecca for this vast army of derelicts.

The jails, penitentiaries and almshouses are put to an expense of \$2,600,000 annually in endeavoring to cope with the problem which has arisen through the existence of this undesirable element. But far more serious than this is the loss caused by the destruction of property, robberies, fires and kindred misdemeanors, which costs the state, the railroads and other private interests over \$10,000,000 annually.

The immense number of tramps trespassing on railroads and the fatalities which overtake many of them may be judged from the fact that in a period

of five years actually 22,984 trespassers were killed and 25,236 injured in the United States while stealing rides. Most of them were tramps, and at least one-fifth of the accidents took place in this state.

A large proportion of these vagrants are youths and young men whose ages range from sixteen to twenty-one. Reared in the cities their yearning for adventure, uncontrolled by proper home conditions, causes them to take the road.

Though one-half of these finally quit the nomadic life and return home or settle down, the remaining half become inveterate tramps and gradually turn from vagrancy into a career of crime or semi-crime. A very large percentage, however, are adults and comprise every species, from men who will not or cannot work through chronic infirmity to those who are innocent victims of downright adversity.

One solution proposed is to form a labor colony. A labor colony is, briefly, a state-owned colony for the detention, reformation and instruction in agriculture and other industrial occupations of persons committed by magistrates as tramps and vagrants.

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## PREVENT MINE FIRES

Many Lives Lost in Recent Years From Accidents.

Installation of Comparatively Inexpensive Fighting Appliances, Regulations and Drills Would Help Materially.

New York.—Herbert M. Wilson, chief engineer of the bureau of mines, in an address delivered at the annual meeting of the National Fire association in this city the other day, said that failure to appreciate the seriousness of mine fires and a lack of adequate fire protection have resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives and the destruction of millions of dollars worth of property in the last few years. He declared that two of the most serious disasters in coal mines in the last two years, one at Cherry, Ill., in which 262 lives were lost and the other at the Panoocast mine, near Sonanton, Pa., in which 74 lives were lost, originated from trivial causes and ought to have been quickly extinguished without the sacrifice of human life.

The contact of several bales of hay with a blazing torch or an open miners' lamp, said Mr. Wilson, caused the Cherry mine disaster with its great loss of life and a total cost of one million dollars, of which \$50,000 was spent in direct fire fighting for several days.

The fire in the Panoocast mine killed 74 miners, left 45 widows and 117 dependent orphans. This fire is known to have started in an underground room, presumably from some ill-kept waste. The fire was not thought serious until it had been burning two hours. This delay was, in large measure, responsible for the great loss of life.

Besides the loss of life, fires have cost much in money. At Deadwood, S. D., \$1,000,000 has been spent in fighting fire in a metal mine. Today fires are raging in coal and metal mines in various parts of the country. Some of them have got beyond control, and have been burning for many years, devouring hundreds of thousands of tons of coal and miles of mine galleries. One mine fire near Carbondale, Pa., has burned out such a vast area of anthracite coal in the last ten years as to result in a subsidence of the surface and destruction of surface property. Near Summit, Pa., a fire which has been burning 51 years is estimated to have destroyed \$25,000,000 worth of coal. Near Jobs, O., a tract of coal valued at several million dollars has been burning since 1854. In some of the deeper metal mines at Butte, Mont., fires have been burning in the old timbers since 1889. In the Comstock vein in Nevada thousands of feet of tunnels which had been opened and timbered at great expense are being burned out.

The mining engineers of the bureau of mines have made a careful study of fires in mines, and have reached the conclusion that the introduction of comparatively inexpensive fire fighting appliances, the adoption of proper regulations and the institution of a reasonable system of fire drills may minimize fires and confine them to a brief period of time with little damage to life and property. The engineers of this bureau have had much success in combating mine fires through the use of the oxygen helmet. This is an apparatus that entirely protects the head, and through which air is furnished artificially, thus enabling the wearer to explore the vicinity of a fire under conditions of smoke and gas that would render his approach otherwise impossible. By the use of such an apparatus a number of fires have been promptly extinguished which would doubtless have spread and perhaps extended beyond control.

Chemistry, through the quick analysis of gases at frequent intervals

## ARE WED IN SPEEDING AUTO

Couple Married While Being Whirled Under Palm Trees in Westlake Park, Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, Cal.—A novel wedding occurred the other day when Max Botefuhr and Miss Avis C. Doebler, daughter of William Doebler, a retired capitalist, were married in an automobile as the car glided under the palm trees in Westlake park.

The ceremonies began at the Seventh street entrance and when the car arrived at the Sixth street entrance the happy young couple were man and wife. When the automobile entered the park Rev. Casius Morton Carter, pastor of the First Baptist church, arose with book in hand. "We are standing here together in the sight of God and man—"

"Go a little slower," said the bridegroom-to-be. "We want it all to happen in the park."

The minister continued: "To join together in the holy bonds of matrimony this man and this—"

"Oh, my hat!" exclaimed Miss Doebler, as the palm leaf became entangled in a ribbon.

The minister continued: "If anyone can show just cause why they should not be joined together, let him now stand forward or forever—"

"Don't stop the car!" said Botefuhr, "I want it to keep moving."

"Hold his peace," the minister was looking pretty serious.

"Do you, Max Botefuhr, take Avis Doebler to be your beloved—"

"I wish papa was here," said Miss Doebler, "he would enjoy this!"

"Wife to honor and cherish until death do you part?"

"I do," said Botefuhr.

"Do you, Avis Doebler, take Max Botefuhr to be your beloved husband, to honor and cherish until death do you part?"

"I do," said Miss Doebler.

The car was within ten feet of the Sixth street entrance when the minister said: "Then I pronounce you man and wife."

## ALASKA CITY CENTER OF QUEER THINGS

FAIRBANKS, Alaska.—If you should happen to drop into a town where a newsboy scorns your nickel and asks you 25 cents for a newspaper, where ordinary meals at lunch counter restaurants are a dollar a throw, where the only communication with the balance of the world is by wireless, where ice is plentiful but you've got to pay to skate, and steam pipes are laid alongside the water pipes to keep them from freezing, you'd think you had struck a queer place, wouldn't you?

Yet such a place is Fairbanks. You might well expect a town that's 2,500 miles north of Seattle, Wash., to be in perpetual zero weather, but you wouldn't expect a city located this far up in the ice belt to be so rich that it could afford a water system, not to mention the luxury of steam heat, which, while not only providing warmth for private homes of the city, is made to swaddle the fire plugs and keep them thawed out and ready for use during the long winter.

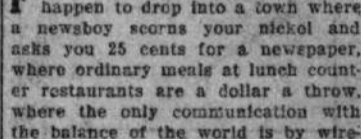
Seven months of the year are "dark" in Fairbanks, and during one of these months electric lights are burned on the streets 24 hours a day. If you want to read your morning newspaper at breakfast it must be by the aid of the electric bulb, and in what would be your noontide glare you have got to carry a lantern in order to distinguish

the neighbor you meet in the street. A common laborer gets \$5 a day and board in Fairbanks, and board is a factor worth considering. It is estimated that it costs about \$2.25 to supply three meals a day here, so the laborer is making the handsome sum of \$7.25 per day, or \$43.50 per week. Even under these conditions laborers are scarce.

Fairbanks is as cosmopolitan as any mining camp to the west. A steam railroad connects Fairbanks with all of the mines within a radius of 50 miles, and trains are run several times daily and from various points. Fairbanks proper has a population of 5,000, which includes two banks, two hospitals, numerous hotels, four automobiles, an electric lighting plant and other accessories of civilization. The population of the district outside of the city consists of about 5,000 people.

From October to April of each year Fairbanks is wrapped in a heavy sheet of ice and snow and the thermometer varies from 20 to 50 degrees below zero.

## Bank Uses Thumb Print Signatures



CHICAGO.—Chicago has a bank which identifies its depositors by means of the thumb print mark. When a customer who cannot write his name opens an account or deposits money or withdraws it he makes a thumb mark on the slip, and is sufficiently identified.

According to the cashier of this peculiar bank, there has never been an error in the Bertillon system of identification. When we began business six years ago, he says, not more than one in three of our customers could sign his name in English. We would not accept signatures in Jewish writing. We were confronted by a serious problem. The use of the thumb print was suggested, and it has worked out to perfect satisfaction.

When a man comes in to open an account and we find he cannot sign his name we fill in the identification

card for him, just as we would for any other depositor. Then we write his name and witness his mark. Then we give him an ordinary rubber stamp pad with red ink on it, and he presses first one thumb and then the other on the pad and makes a careful, clear impression of each on the corners of his card.

When the depositor comes back to add to his account or to withdraw money the bank attendant makes out the slip for him and writes in his name. Then the depositor makes his thumb print on the slip and presents it at the teller's window. The teller turns to the card index and finds the card, just as he would for any other depositor. In place of looking at the signature he looks at the thumb prints and compares them with the marks on the deposit or withdrawal slip.

We have never had a complaint or error from the use of this system. There are absolutely no two thumbs alike, and the thumb print mark is an absolute identification. We have had complaints over signatures, but never over thumb prints. Men have claimed that they did not sign withdrawal slips, but no one has ever denied his thumb mark.

WHAT'S THE USE OF LEARNING TO WRITE WHEN THIS IS SO MUCH EASIER

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## SCHOOL FARM A MODEL

Walla Walla's Unique Institution Has Space for Playground.

Chief Feature of Building Is Its Flood of Sunlight, There Being as Many Large Windows as Could Be Put in Four Walls.

Walla Walla, Wash.—Flanked by converging roads which lead past fields and orchards and homes to the city, and facing miles of rolling prairie mottled with gardens and groves and farm houses, stands a building unique in the development of the land of Marcus Whitman—Walla Walla's first model "country-life" school backed by the enthusiasm of a united school board. Among Walla Walla's dozens of substantial schoolhouses which everywhere mark the interest taken in educational matters the Prospect Point school, soon to close its term, is one of the best.

Larger plans are being entertained for the development of Prospect Point school and it is semi-officially in charge of the State Country Life Commission, of which J. L. Dumas is a resident member.

The building is of red brick, two stories in height, surmounted by a tower. It contains four large study rooms, basement lunch rooms for both boys and girls, library, auditorium, spacious halls open to the sunlight, and storage room for fuel as well as furnaces and lavatories.

The chief feature of the building is its flood of sunlight, which is let in through as many large windows as can be placed within the four walls. The library is tucked away off the stair at a wide landing, and auditorium is provided by opening sliding

doors which throw two large class rooms into communication with a small centrally located room where is a stage.

The cloakroom feature of the open halls is improved by the situation of the doors, which make it possible for the pupils to come into the building, pass through the halls and enter the schoolroom without confusion.

The school is supplied with a library of 200 volumes which is to be soon increased, with maps, charts and a globe, and facilities for instructing the eight grades assembled there under the direction of three teachers.

Playgrounds, gardens, lawns will be laid out on the five-acre tract. With plenty of land for a rough-and-tumble playground, the board has felt justified in making a lawn around the building, and this will be done next year and preserved as a beauty spot. Back of the lawns will be an ample playground and the teachers' cottage. The cottage will be surrounded by a lawn and flower beds.

One of the finest features of the site is a water right which the district obtained with the five acres. Out of it is to be developed a water system for the schoolhouse and teachers' cottage which will supply drinking water from a spring not more than two miles away, and irrigation for lawns, gardens and flower beds without any expense except installation.

Roosevelt, Jr., Wins Prize. Cambridge, Mass.—Quentin Roosevelt has won a prize for being the second highest in standing in his class at the Groton school.

However, he does not feel the weight of his honor. "That is nothing," he said. "I had much rather be good at baseball and football."

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