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Brief News Items.

Tracing the criminal by his finger prints was successfully accomplished at Scotland Yard, London, last year in no fewer than 9,440 cases.

Chicago now has a law which makes traction companies return the fare to passengers who are on a car which is detained 10 minutes or more.

When George Osborn, a jeweler, of New Haven, Conn., took apart an old clock brought to him to be repaired, he found \$150 in greenbacks tucked in the back of it.

Patrick M. Smith, Janitor of an apartment house, was found dead in Seattle, Wash., shortly after he had received a letter from friends in Ireland saying that he had left heir to \$30,000. He refused to claim his legacy, although an offer to send \$1,000 for his expenses was made.

It may not be generally known that a son of Stephen A. Douglas is living in Greensboro, N. C., and following the profession distinguished by his father. Col. Clark E. Carr has received an interesting letter from Judge Douglas commending Col. Carr's new "Life of Stephen A. Douglas."

The first white child born on the site of Chicago, then Fort Dearborn, Mrs. David D. Strook, is now living at Grand Junction, Col., at the age of 73 years. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Francis Kessler who had moved from Pennsylvania to Fort Dearborn three years before their daughter Mary came.

Scott Brothers, general contractors of Lynchburg, Va., announced last week that they have just secured a fourth contract on the New York State canal at Rome, N. Y., which will amount to \$1,750,000. Four years will be required to do the work. This is the fourth contract this firm has had on the same work.

Minnie Hurd, the 7-year-old daughter of Charles Hurd, residing eight miles east of Pensacola, was shot and instantly killed by her small brother James, at the home of their father last week. The little boy was loading a shotgun when it was accidentally discharged, a load of heavy shot nearly blowing off his sister's head.

An inventor of moving picture appliances and machinery has devised a new screen which gets rid of the annoyance of darkness in the room. With his patent screen, a large mirror with a chemically frosted surface, pictures are as plain in the light as in darkness, thus doing away with the danger of panic in the dark.

Governor Hughes has appointed Randall J. Labouef, of Albany, as a Supreme Court justice, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Justice H. Fitts, of Cohoes. Mr. Labouef was graduated from the Law School of Cornell University while Governor Hughes was an instructor there, and later was in the governor's law office in New York.

John W. Harris, 50 years of age, and brother of Mayor Harris of Southport, Ga., was shot and instantly killed there last week in the lobby of the Randolph hotel by J. F. Lord, Jr., 18 years old, son of the proprietor. Harris was playing cards in the lobby when young Lord, it is said, ordered him out of the house and in the difficulty following Harris was shot. Lord is under arrest.

Equal to Poe Conan Doyle and Gaboriau.

Much discussion has been caused in literary circles by the publication in the New York Sunday World of Anna Katharine Green's new novel "The House of the Whispering Pines." Many reviews have claimed American creator of detective fiction excels the best mystery work of Edgar Allan Poe, Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, of Gaboriau. Others disagree. Be it as it may, Anna Katharine Green has perpetuated her fame by her wonderful detective stories. By far the greatest work of her life is the celebrated "Leavenworth Case," and on account of the great interest felt in this writer the New York Sunday World will publish this wonderful detective novel in five 20,000 word booklets, each free with Sunday World. The first one appears Sunday, Jan. 9. Order a copy from newsdealer.

Mr. Nagel to the Supervisors.

Washington, Dec. 29th.—Secretary Nagel of the Department of Commerce and Labor, under whose supervision is the work of the Bureau of the Census, at the conference of eastern state supervisors here, gave a vigorous talk on the subject of their duty, in which he emphasized and added to what had been said by the President to the Census field chiefs previously at the White House. The Secretary said:

"I wanted a chance to meet you—not to speak to you, but to shake hands and possibly exchange a word here and there as occasion might offer. There is a further reason why it will be difficult for me to say anything at this time. We have a rule that after the President has spoken his Secretaries have nothing to say. [Laughter.] I happened to be in the White House when you were there, and heard what the President said. To now repeat would not give emphasis; to add is barely pardonable.

"I am very glad that you did have an opportunity, however, to meet the President himself and to hear from him just what the attitude of the Executive on this matter of the taking of the census is; and I am glad that he had an opportunity to say to you how thoroughly he is in earnest about what he has heretofore said.

"It is unnecessary for me to dwell upon the importance of a correct census. Of course we want to take a better census than has ever before been taken—and that is no disparagement of the work of predecessors. We ought to improve; for reasons which are self-evident; we ought to improve because the need for a correct and adequate census now is greater than it has ever been before. It is so on account of the growth of our own country, and because we are coming into relations with other countries, so that a correct report and a reliable statement, to be used not only at home but for comparison with what other countries are doing, is the one essential foundation of all calculations.

"Now, we have done, as we think what we can to accomplish that result. So far as we could, we have placed in charge here at the head men who are experienced, competent and enthusiastic. Of course, the office here might be perfect in its machinery and its administration, and yet the entire work would be a failure unless you did what the President indicated this morning. After all, granting a false premise anything can be proved. No matter how fine the superstructure may be, if the foundation is not right the building is not worth anything. It is for you to furnish the foundation for what is going to be done. You are responsible to the Director, to me, and to the President. That is the importance of your position.

"Now, there is a lot of human nature in this thing, as was indicated to you this morning. You will have to judge of a good many things, and you will have to show some discretion. And there is a lot of human nature beyond you when it comes to the activities of the enumerators themselves. A man might, for illustration be a good man and yet not be a good enumerator, because he might not have the confidence of the people with whom he has to deal. It is not always easy to get men of the right qualifications. It is easy enough to make examinations, but it must be left for you to decide, according to such examinations as you make, and according to such judgement as you may be able to apply to the cases, who are the proper men to be recommended to the Director for the work which is to furnish the foundation of the census that is ultimately to be completed.

"Now, I trust that you are showing a lot of human nature in taking these places. When people say that the Government should run on business principles, I always reply: 'Yes, so far as bookkeeping is concerned, that is true; but so far as employment of human energy is concerned, it can not be true, because the Government does not pay enough to make it worth while for competent men to do what is expected.' That is the truth of it. If we did not have enthusiasm and sentiment and love of country and desire to appear right among our fellow men, the Government would never succeed on business principles alone. It takes something more. It takes willingness for men to serve their country in the places to which they are called. Your places are

important. I know you can not pay you, but I hope you may find your compensation in something better. When the census has been completed and Director Durand has succeeded in making it the best one that has ever been taken, you may be glad to feel that your part in it was worth while."

Isley-Tickle.

A quiet marriage was celebrated at 1 o'clock p. m. in the Reformed parsonage here on Dec 21 when R. P. Isley and Miss Nellie J. Tickle bowed at the hymenial altar and were pronounced husband and wife by Rev. J. D. Andrew. They were attended by the brides brother Rev. G. W. Tickle and Miss Daisy Wagner. Mr and Mrs Isley will reside on their farm near Elon College where they have the good wishes of many friends.

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