

**FRENCH COLONEL GIVEN HIS NINTH CITATION**

**Count Who Married an American Girl Honored.**

Paris.—Colonel Count Gabriel de Chambrun, whose grandmother was the daughter of Lafayette and who married Clara Longworth, sister of Nicholas Longworth, has just received from Marshal Lyautey his ninth citation for brilliant conduct in the French Moroccan campaign.

The citation, in the September army orders, says that "during the hard fighting at Djebel Idlan, and on exceptionally difficult ground, he again gave proof of his admirable military qualities, decision, rapid judgment and calm, personal bravery."

The irreconcilable rebel tribes who have occupied the heights of the Atlas mountains for centuries, who live by pillage and are noted for their courage, love of fighting and fidelity to their chieftains, have been greatly heartened by the recent Spanish defeats in the neighboring region to the north.

Great quantities of arms and ammunition have fallen into their hands and, as they are among the best marksmen in the world, the maintenance of law and order has become an even more difficult task for the French authorities.

Count de Chambrun, who succeeded in occupying one of their chief strongholds, had the political as well as military success of obtaining the official submission of some of the most aggressive tribes of Alt Ideazzen.

The count was attached to the American expeditionary forces in France during the World war and once delivered a course at the War college in Washington.

**Members of Wealthiest Indian Tribe in World**



The Osage tribe recently held a prolonged fiesta in celebration of the receipt of fresh oil royalties from the government. Their latest collections totaled \$25,126,800, which, divided among the 2,229 Osage Indians who constitute the tribe, amounts to a per capita share of \$4,000 every quarter. In addition to this oil royalty, each Indian is owner of 700 odd acres allotted to them by congress in 1807. The government holds their capital, and makes them payments quarterly.

**German Town Adopts New Tuition Fee Plan**

Munster, Germany.—The school system of the little Westphalian town of Oelde, near here, has been placed almost entirely on a butter-barley basis.

Pupils pay their high school fees in fats and grain, which in turn are "spent" for school maintenance purposes.

Children from Oelde are assessed a pound of butter monthly, while pupils from the country districts may pay either in butter or barley, forty pounds of barley a month.

The proceeds thus collected have gone to assist in buying the school's winter coal supply and to reimburse, in part, the teachers who gratefully receive butter or barley in preference to the constantly depreciating paper mark.

**Rules Pedestrians Must Carry Lights**

Massillon, Ohio.—"Until county commissioners provide proper roads and sidewalks it is necessary that, as a matter of precaution, Massillon pedestrians carry lights after dark."

This was the ruling of Coroner T. H. Shorb, after two persons had been killed in traffic here in a single day recently. Dr. Myers, commenting on the two deaths, said: "Until the county commissioners provide for a two-foot walk along paved roads with a raised curb between the walk and roadway, as a matter of precaution, it is advisable that all pedestrians carry a light after dark."

**WHY Atmosphere Changes Have Effect on Twinkling Stars**

There are several reasons why stars twinkle. One is that these bodies are so extremely distant that not even the most powerful telescope can show them to have a visible disk, like the planets. Their light, consequently, is a mere point, so minute as to be susceptible of interference by the various and unequal densities of the atmosphere. Hence, atmosphere changes have a marked effect upon the twinkling. For example, it is found to increase as the temperature falls and the barometer rises. An experience of nearly forty years showed M. Montigny that with the quantity of moisture in the air the twinkling of the stars increased so markedly as to serve for a useful prognostic of rain. Cyclonic conditions generally are found to promote it, whilst it is extremely sensitive to magnetic disturbances. Humboldt on one occasion in the tropics found that the stars shone with a mild and planetary light; their scintillation was scarcely sensible at the horizon. This, it is apparent, was due to the great homogeneity of the atmosphere; where by the extremely fine pencil of light from the stars was not interfered with by unequally dense strata.

**USE GOLD LEAF AS MEDICINE**

Indian Natives Make Peculiar Uses of Precious Metal—Refuse to Trade It.

Curious and interesting facts regarding India's passion for gold, and the strange uses to which the natives put the precious metal, have been gathered. Instead of utilizing her wealth to promote trade, India buries hers, or most of it. At present, it seems, much of the gold dug from the earth in South Africa is, by a fresh digging operation, deposited again beneath the soil in the south of Asia.

India has other queer uses for gold. The natives of some parts of India take gold leaves as medicine, while others, piously inclined, gild the domes of their temples with it. Thousands of dollars' worth of gold go into the making of windows and other trimmings in the palaces of the princes of the country.

**Why We Raise Hand in Yawning.**  
There are a number of odd superstitions with regard to yawning. Most people remember having been corrected at some time or other for not placing a hand over the mouth to cover up a yawn.

This arose from a quaint belief of years ago when people were more superstitious than they are today—that there was a danger of the devil jumping into the open mouth when in the act of yawning.

Among many races it is still believed that he who yawns much is possessed of an evil spirit. When a Hindu yawns, he snaps his thumbs and repeats the name of one of his deities. To neglect this means misfortune.

When a Moslem yawns, he puts the back of his left hand over the open mouth and says "I seek refuge in Allah from Satan."

To yawn in the midst of prayers is considered a bad omen. It is better, according to ancient superstition, to begin the prayer again, from the beginning.

**Why £ Sign is Used.**

Originally both "£" and "lb." meant the same thing, "one pound," from the Latin word, "libra." The old system of money had what we should call a "silver standard," the standard being one pound's weight of silver, which was cut up into coins. Twenty "shillings" or two hundred and forty pence—went to the pound's weight of equivalent of the modern shillings or pence—want to the pound's weight of silver. As the gold standard came in, these values were altered, but the old term of "libra" for the pound was kept. Then some distinction had to be made in the sign for weight and value, and so in the former case lb., the first and third letters, were taken for the contraction, while in the latter the initial L with a stroke through it was used.

**Why the Word "Cigar" is Spanish.**

The word cigar is Spanish, and is derived from cigarra, the Spanish name for grasshopper. When the Spaniards first introduced tobacco into Spain from the island of Cuba, they cultivated the plant in their gardens, which in Spanish are called cigarrales. Each grew his tobacco in his cigarra. When one offered a smoke to a friend, he would say: "Es de mi cigarra," that is, "It is from my garden." Soon the expression came to be: "Este cigarro es de mi cigarra," "this cigar is from my garden." The grasshopper (cigarra) was very common in Spain and cigarra meant the place where the cigarra sings.

**Why Does Watch Spring Break?**

The spontaneous breaking of watch springs is believed to occur chiefly in the summer months. From the repair records of two firms for several years it is found that the breakages are most numerous during the season of frequent thunderstorms. Further experiments indicate that it is moisture instead of heat that plays the chief part. It is suggested that the springs may be weakened by fusing spots, and in 56 samples, sealed up in equal division in a jar containing moist air, and one containing dry air, 17 springs broke, all in the jar of moist air. The liability to break was greatly reduced by the application of oil.

**GOOD ROADS**

**Different Ways to Cure Newly Placed Concrete**

Recent survey of numerous highway construction projects show that contractors employ different methods to cure newly-laid concrete. This curing is said to be one of the very important processes in building a first-class concrete pavement.

On level sections of highway, the preferred method, it was found, is the building of earth dykes along the edges of the pavement and flooding the inside area as shown in the illustration. The water is then kept on the surface of the concrete for ten days or two weeks. This method was thought to be cheaper than covering with earth because of the labor necessary to shovel the dirt on to the pavement and later clean it off. The water required to keep the earth wet was about as much as if the surface of the pavement was flooded.

Some contractors reported that the use of hay was best. They said it would hold more water and could be



Curing Newly-Laid Concrete by Flooding.

used several times over. Moreover, it was not hard work to distribute the hay or rake it up after the curing period.

Where water was plentiful, some contractors expressed themselves in favor of using sprinklers. A water pipe was laid down the center of the road, with lawn sprinklers attached at frequent intervals. These were kept running several hours a day.

The advantages of one or another method of curing were not found to be such as to affect the strength or wearing qualities of the concrete. Although concrete begins to harden soon after it is mixed, the full strength is developed by progressive hardening over a period of time. The hardening process is said to be not a drying process, as the presence of moisture is necessary to assist the chemical action which causes concrete to harden.

**Louisiana Parish Saves Money by Using Iron Ore**

Iron ore, found in northwestern Louisiana, has proved of great value in road building in that state, and, in some localities where it has been used has effected a saving of \$2,000 to \$3,000 a mile in the cost of construction.

Highway engineers in Louisiana have been using the ore as a binder instead of sand or clay, and have found it far superior to that material in many instances. During 1922 the Louisiana state highway department completed 350 miles of new roads. Most of this mileage consists of gravel. The remainder consists of roads built of shells, sheet asphalt or bitulithic. The 1923 program includes a larger amount of asphaltic construction.

Iron ore was first used in De Soto parish, La., in 1917. Then a large deposit was found northwest of Arcadia. Ore from this deposit is being used as a base course on the new Homer-Minden highway, the Arcadia-Natchitoches highway, the Ruston-Arkansas highway and the Pershing highway. The state pays about 10 cents a yard in royalties for this material, against \$1 a yard in sand clay gravel. The saving effected amounts to about \$1.50 a yard.

**Federal Funds Spent on Highways in Year 1922**

During the calendar year 1922 the amount of federal funds spent on highways by the United States Department of Agriculture totaled \$5,603,100, which constructed 2,420 miles of forest roads and 4,190 miles of forest trails. An additional \$950,000 was secured for this construction work from state and county authorities. During this same year 4,550 miles of roads and 19,600 miles of trails were maintained at a cost of \$500,000.

**Complaint About Heavy Trucks Injuring Roads**

Speaking about maintaining good roads, there is much complaint about big trucks that make trips over the roads immediately after every rain, cutting them up, making travel difficult, and causing a lot of extra work to keep the ruts filled and the roadway in traveling condition. Some day we shall have to plan some restrictions on traveling with big trucks immediately after a rain.

**A Merry Christmas**



and a **Prosperous New Year** to our **Friends and Patrons**

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