

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

By E. J. Edwards

Fortune Saved Union Pacific

John Duff of Boston Sent His Securities to New York Just in Time to Meet Payment on Land Grant Bonds.

One of the great causes of the financial panic of 1873 was the failure of the banking house of Jay Cooke & Company, having advanced too largely on the bonds of the Northern Pacific railroad, then in process of construction. Great embarrassment was caused to many other railroad companies by the panic, and not the least embarrassed of these railroads was the Union Pacific, which, at that time, was regarded in the railroad and financial worlds as a Boston institution, since it was one of the great railroad properties of the country which Boston capital controlled. From about 1870 John Duff of Boston, who easily took rank with the great financiers who began immediately after the Civil war the work of developing the railroad systems of the country, had been prominently identified with the Union Pacific. His was, in fact, a leading voice in the affairs of the company, and when it became evident, first to the officers of the company, and then to the public, that the Union Pacific was not in a position to meet the next payments on its land grant bonds, Mr. Duff was greatly concerned. He had been so closely identified for seven years with the financial management of the company that he felt that his business credit, his personal honor, and, to some extent, his investments, were involved in maintaining the credit of the Union Pacific.

But how was that credit to be maintained, with money in hiding everywhere, and with the Union Pacific treasury without the necessary funds to meet the payments soon due? Not taken into account by the folk who were confidently predicting a default by the Union Pacific was the sum determination of John Duff to protect his good name at all hazards; and so, the day before the coupons of the land grant bonds were due, Mr. Duff called into his office his son-in-law, Dr. William H. Bullard, and called out in the latter's presence a little over three hundred thousand dollars in first class securities, which

vate office into the main office of the banking house. It was swarming with clerks armed with coupons of the land grant bonds due within less than a quarter of an hour.

Carefully, cautiously, Mr. Morton looked over the securities. Finally, as he laid down the last one, he nodded his head approvingly, the next moment was issuing instructions that the coupons should be paid until further orders, and within less than five minutes the first clerk to offer a Union Pacific coupon received his money, to the great astonishment not only of himself, but also of the other clerks there assembled, and, speedily thereafter, of all Wall street. For good financial news travels as fast as bad, and within an hour Union Pacific stock, which had been quoted as low as ten cents on the dollar, jumped to twenty-five, and John Duff's son-in-law had his first lesson in the effect of credit upon a railroad property.

Until now, I believe, it has never been reported how the day was saved for the Union Pacific by John Duff pledging his own securities for money with which to pay the coupons. Mr. Duff himself never referred to this act of his, not even when he was sternly accused of improperly using his official relations with a nationally famous trust company to secure the funds so badly needed by the Union Pacific. (Copyright, 1910, by E. J. Edwards. All Rights Reserved.)

How Grant Bestowed a Reward

Dr. C. D. Webster of the Sanitary Commission Was Given the Lucrative Post of Consul at Sheffield, England.

When General Grant became president one of the country's most famous "war governors," William A. Buckingham, of Connecticut, became a United States senator, and almost at once there sprang up between the two men a cordial relation that lasted until Governor Buckingham's death, in 1875. About a year after this friendship had been formed the president became the guest of the senator at his home in Norwich, and that the people of the town might meet the head of

the nation Senator Buckingham gave a large reception in his honor.

Among the citizens introduced to General Grant was a Dr. Webster. No sooner had the president heard the name than he detained its possessor. "On my staff," Dr. Webster, explained the president, "was a Col. John Webster. He was one of the best staff officers I ever had, and I always think of him when I hear the name of Webster spoken."

"He was my brother," said Dr. Webster. "Then I am more than ever pleased to meet you, Dr. Webster," replied the president, "and now that I come to think of it, you must be the brother of whom I have heard Colonel Webster speak as having served without remuneration in the hospital service of the sanitary commission."

"Yes, Mrs. Webster and I were with the sanitary commission throughout the war," Dr. Webster answered. And then, because the line behind was pressing, the brief interview came to an end. Late that evening the president told his host the pleasure he had received from meeting Dr. Webster. "I know something of the very great service he gave as a member of the hospital staff of the sanitary commission, whose work was of inestimable value to the Union army," said the president; and then he asked, "Is Dr. Webster practicing medicine here?" In reply the president was told that Dr. Webster was now a bookkeeper on a small salary; that the prosperous school he had founded and conducted before the war had broken up when he went with the sanitary commission, and that, returning from the field, he had been glad to get work as a bookkeeper. "Ah," said the president, meditatively, "there have been many such cases." And then the subject was dropped.

A few weeks later the president returned to Washington. He had not been there more than a week or ten days when official announcement was made that President Grant had appointed Dr. C. D. Webster of Connecticut United States consul at Sheffield, England, at that time one of the country's best paying consulates. It came as a perfect surprise to all of Norwich, Senator Buckingham and Dr. Webster included. It was an appointment made entirely on the president's own volition, and made, undoubtedly, that Dr. Webster might be recompensed in some measure for the loss of his school through his devotion to the cause of the care of the Union soldier.

For fifteen years Dr. Webster served as consul at Sheffield, and in all that time he was not once on a vacation. When Grover Cleveland became president he was disposed to continue the doctor in that post, but political pressure against this policy was too great for Mr. Cleveland not to heed it and regretfully he named a new man as consul. (Copyright, 1910, by E. J. Edwards. All Rights Reserved.)

A man's character is known by the nature of his amusements.

HOME OF EXILED KING IN ENGLAND



WOODNORTON

TO CHOKE A BORE

Device Arranged to Protect New Yorker and Family.

J. Montgomery Gubbins Makes Conventrice to Absorb Silly Chatter of Neighbor and Throw It Back at Her.

New York.—"See this funnel!" said J. Montgomery Gubbins the other afternoon. He held up an ordinary tin funnel—the kind grocery men keep near the vinegar barrel. "This funnel," continued J. Montgomery Gubbins, without waiting for a reply, "contains my own arrangement of violin strings and syphons and along this snout you see there is a little keyboard. It will find any person's 'note' and I call it 'the Gubbins silencer and word catcher.'"

"I was forced by circumstances to invent this contrivance for the protection of my family and my own peace of mind. It happened this way: 'The wife of our next door neighbor on the left of our Omaha home is a bore. It was her habit before this,' and he waved the funnel, "to call on us several times a week just at dinner time. She always came to borrow something—a cupful of sugar, a pint of milk or an egg."

"Oh, I mustn't keep you from your dinner!" she would exclaim with a sniff. After declining an invitation to dinner she would take a few steps toward the door, then stop and talk and talk and, and every few words she would remark that she just must go home.

"Courtesy forced my wife and me to stand and listen to her. On these occasions I could always hear the dinner coffee."

"Things came to a desperate pass one night when we had a distinguished person from Clam Gull dining with us. The neighbor was there and talked so long our dinner froze. Then there came a loud snap from the dining room. Willie, my youngest son, was surreptitiously breaking an icicle from the chicken's wing. And the distinguished person got mad because he wanted to do the talking himself. 'Bang!' An idea suddenly kicked me into action. I rushed to the kitchen, snatched this funnel from the hands of the cook and ran to my workshop. Presently I emerged triumphant."

"Walking nonchalantly toward that talking female with the funnel held carefully in my hand, I planted myself directly in front of her and pressed one of these keys. The result was just as I had planned, but she man's jaw kept on moving, but she spoke soundless words, at least the only sound heard was the thud-thud of her words dropping like pebbles into this funnel."

"I pressed another key. The woman stretched her jaws as wide open as she could, then her words began to roll from the funnel back into her mouth. When her mouth was full of words I pressed a third key. Then she ate her own words."

"I kept this up until she got a violent attack of indigestion and we had to send for the doctor. The medical man said—but here's my train."

BARS SALE BIRDS' PLUMAGE

Agrettes Cannot Be Sold by New York Milliners After July 1 Next by Statute.

New York.—The plumage of forty-three specimens of birds formerly used to decorate women's hats cannot be sold by the milliners of New York state after July 1 next, according to the annual report of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

The most important feature of a law recently passed by the state legislature, the report continues, is the prohibition of the sale of agrettes. New York is one of the three greatest centers for the sale of agrettes, the others being Paris and London. The agrette is taken from the mother bird when nesting, and costs her life and the life of the young birds. The Audubon societies have been fighting for the protection of these birds for many years.

The passage of the so-called plumage bill will prevent the use of their plumage as well as that of most wild birds of the country and all the birds native of New York state.

USE DOGS TO SOLVE CANCER

Animals to Drink Water in Which Fish Live to Solve Cancerous Mysteries.

East Portland, Me.—Is cancer communicable through fish to human beings? Through the establishment of a test bureau at the United States fish hatcheries here the government intends to try and settle for all time this much mooted question. Dogs are to be used in the experiment. A half-dozen little mongrels which will be cradled as charter members of the "cancer squad" have just arrived, accompanied by Dr. Harvey R. Gaylor, director of the Gratwick cancer laboratory at Buffalo, N. Y. The doctor has achieved fame through his discoveries that the laws of immunity apply to cancer.

The dogs are to be fed on the best and most healthful sterilized food, have the best sanitary quarters and have a canine physician all their own. To appease their thirst they are only allowed to drink of a pond in which there are fish. These fish and the dogs, carefully tended, may thus be made to solve another of the great puzzles of the medical world. That is, if the cancerous proclivities of the fish are transmitted through the water, then the dogs, it is believed, will show it and prove that the danger of this disease is ever present for human beings who drink water in which fish live.

Prof. Charles G. Atkins, in charge of the hatchery, says: "We now have a number of dogs and expect shortly to receive more."

CHAMPAGNE OUTLOOK IS SAD

Grapes Half Devoured by Insects, Half Withered by Mildew, Being Gathered in France.

Paris.—A writer in the Temps draws a melancholy picture of the grape harvesting in the Champagne districts. "The sight presented by the Champagne vineyards, so animated and joyous in the times of abundant harvests, is one of desolating sadness this year," he says. "Instead of long lines of workers gathering the thick clusters, a few wine growers only can be seen weighed down by implacable fate."

"And yet the grapes are being gathered, if these miserable berries half devoured by insects, half withered by mildew can be called grapes. They are thrown into casks and borne to the furnace, where they are burned that the eggs of the insects, the germs of the parasites may be destroyed and not endanger the next season's crops."

CARIBOU STOPS PACK TRAIN

Ten Thousand of Animals Seen by Miners on Trail Between Circle and Fairbanks.

Seattle, Wash.—Caribou in a herd of countless hundreds, densely crowded on a mountainside, held up a pack train for four hours while the antlered host passed slowly by on a lonely trail between Circle and Fairbanks, Alaska. This was seen by Capt. R. T. Bar-

nette, a mining operator, just arrived here for the winter. The herd was one of the largest ever viewed by a white man in the belief of Captain Barnette. Reports printed in the local papers state that this run of caribou was witnessed by persons in other parts of the Tanana hills. It is estimated that the number of animals was 10,000. The caribou were going south.

Captain Barnette and his pack train had just reached a wide trail across the Tanana hills and was about to start the ascent, when a drove of caribou passed by. This herd was followed by smaller bands. Then it was seen that the herd stretched back as far as the eye could see. The stampeding animals bore down almost upon the party and thundered by in a flying wedge, the width averaging about one-quarter of a mile. It is the first time in years that caribou have traveled through the region between Circle and Fairbanks.

When a man is turned threescore and ten he's making a bit of over-time.

Freedom to Wed Demanded. Rome.—A movement is on foot among the telephone girls of Rome to have abolished the regulation which forbids them to marry before they reach the age of twenty-eight years. Italian women reach their prime before their chances of marriage greatly lessened by this government regulation.

Congress in China in 1913. Peking.—An imperial parliament, the first in the history of China, will be convened in 1913, according to an official edict issued the other day.

Got Out of the Habit. "I see you have got a young man stenographer?" "Yes."

"Don't you think a pretty girl stenographer adds a great deal to the attractiveness of an office?" "I suppose she does, but I can't dictate to a woman somehow. I s'pose it's because I have been married so long."

Precautionary. The Millionaire—Doctor, is it absolutely necessary to remove my appendix? "Not absolutely, but it is safer to begin with some simple operation like that."—LIFE.

Somehow the average mother doesn't think she is doing her duty unless she spoils her children.

HEALTH AND INCOME Both Kept Up on Scientific Food. Good sturdy health helps one a lot to make money.

With the loss of health one's income is liable to shrink, if not entirely dwindle away.

When a young lady has to make her own living, good health is her best asset.

"I am alone in the world," writes a Chicago girl, "dependent on my own efforts for my living. I am a clerk, and about two years ago through close application to work and a boarding-house diet, I became a nervous invalid, and got so bad off it was almost impossible for me to stay in the office a half day at a time."

"A friend suggested to me the idea of trying Grape-Nuts food which I did, making it a large part of at least two meals a day.

"Today, I am free from brain-tire, dyspepsia, and all the ills of an overworked and improperly nourished brain and body. To Grape-Nuts I owe the recovery of my health, and the ability to retain my position and income."

Read "The Road to Wellville," in pika. "There's a Reason." "Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest."

Invention Edison Valued Most

Megaphone, the Wizard Believed, Would Be More Profitable to Him Financially Than Talking Machine, But Was Deceived.

Recently I told the story of the late Charles A. Dana's doubt of Edison's good faith in claiming that he had invented a talking machine after the late Amos J. Cummings and myself had reported to Mr. Dana that Edison had demonstrated the machine to us, even going so far as to make it reproduce Mr. Cummings' own voice, inflection and all, with distinction.

After he had shown us the talking machine, explained its mechanism and made it perform for us, Mr. Edison went on to say that he got the idea for the machine while he was at work perfecting his microphone transmitter, extensively employed in the earlier telephones.

"One invention almost invariably suggests another," he went on. "All sorts of notions came to me while I was working out this talking machine. One of them you will see in that big funnel up there." He pointed to a shelf upon which rested, or hung, a cone-shaped object resembling a giant's funnel of about tall man height. And I'm inclined to think," he went on, "that there's going to be more profit in that thing than in this talking machine here. I have about made up my mind that I won't work on anything unless it seems to me to have some commercial practicability. I can make hundreds of toys, but any fellow with a little ingenuity and patience can do that. Maybe this talking machine is going to be not much more than a toy, after all, but that thing over there—well, I'll show you how it works."

He called two of his assistants to his side and directed them to take their station on the crown of a hill about half a mile away.

While they were doing so, Mr. Edison had the big funnel shaped thing taken out in front of his shop. Then, when the men had posted themselves on the hill and stood facing us, an assistant, getting under the big end of

the funnel, held it up while Edison called through the other end. From time to time the men upon the hill made gestures to indicate that they had heard and understood what Edison was saying. Finally, Edison beckoned to them to report in, and when they had done so they repeated practically word for word what we had heard their employer say to them through the funnel.

Mr. Cummings and I were almost as much astonished over this demonstration as we had previously been over the talking machine. "What do you call the thing?" I asked Mr. Edison. "Well, it makes a big sound, and I think I'll call it the megaphone," replied Mr. Edison. "As I have already told you, I sometimes think there will be a great deal more in it for me financially than in the talking machine. It will be a great thing on ships; with its aid one ship at a distance can hail another ship easily, and a captain can shout his orders clearly and distinctly through it to the uttermost ends of his vessel. It can be used on land, also, for conversing at great distances. In short, this megaphone of mine enlarges the zone of action of the human voice, and for this reason I am inclined to think at times that it will be a more profitable invention than the talking machine. You have seen what it can do, and it does it just as easy as rolling off a log."

I presume that this was the first public demonstration of the Edison invention that has passed into universal use under the name megaphone—a contribution of human progress that has brought his father cents where the phonograph has added to his wealth by the hundred thousands of dollars.

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Large Profit from Ducks

Elder Down, In Demand of the World Over, Great Source of Income to the Icelander.

No other down is so highly esteemed or brings so high a price in the world's markets as that of the elder duck. In Iceland and the Westman islands, where these birds nest, they are rigidly protected by law and by public sentiment.

These ducks make their nests of down from their own breasts. They pluck the down out with their bills and form it into a circular mound that has the property of retaining heat to an extraordinary degree. If this down is removed, the duck supplies a second and even a third lot from the same source.

The elder farms in Iceland are frequently situated on little islands off the coast covered with low hummocks. To protect the brooding ducks from the elements the Icelanders construct

small shelters of rough stones. On these farms, it is said, the ducks become so tame that any one with whom they are familiar may handle them without frightening them.

Separate buildings on the Icelandic elder farms are devoted to the cleaning of the product. Down clings tenaciously to anything on which it is thrown, a circumstance that is utilized in cleaning it. There may be seen a number of frames of an oblong shape, and along these numbers of strings are loosely stretched. The down is cast on these near one end, and a piece of wood is drawn rapidly backward and forward over the strings, but all impurities, such as grass and seaweed, fall to the ground.

It takes a quantity of down to make even a small weight, and several nests must be used to obtain even a moderate amount of down. The price at the farm is about two dollars and a half a pound.

Paradoxical Fate. Teacher—Why was Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt? Pupil—Because she was too fresh.