

# DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS.

VOL 19

SONORA, SUTTON CO., TEXAS, SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1909.

NO. 849

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## Sonora Mercantile Co.

### Devil's River News

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### A TYPEWRITING POINT.

Why in Some Work Periods and Comas Show Black and Deep.

"When in anything typewritten you see the periods and commas punched black and deep," said an experienced typewriter, "you may know that the work was done by a beginner or by one who had not yet done sufficient work to have acquired a perfect touch."

"The reason for the deep punching of the punctuation points is very simple. Naturally enough the beginner at typewriting plays upon all the keys with equal force, as the types attached to the keys present unequal amounts of printing surface it follows that equal force applied to all the keys results in more or less unequal printing on the paper.

"For instance, a certain amount of force applied to the 'B' key might produce of that type a fair impression on the paper, but the same force applied to a period might drive that, a mere point, clean through the paper. In fact, it is not unusual for beginners on the typewriter to punch holes in the paper with their periods.

"But as the learner progresses in her art she comes to realize that some types must be touched more lightly than others, and gradually her periods become less black and deep, and with further practice she comes instinctively, automatically, to grade her touch on all the letters and signs until at last she is able to produce typewriting that is nothing less than artistic in effect, trim and uniform and beautiful.

"It is something fine to see the good work of the intelligent, sensitive and truly competent typewriter."—New York Sun.

### An Indian Trick.

In the snake bag trick of the nomini Indians the performer holds before him a red flannel bag about thirty inches in depth by twenty inches in width, with fluffy white feathers along the top of the bag. He rolls the bag up into a ball to show the audience that there is nothing in it. Then he takes the bag by the two upper corners and holds it up before him once more and begins to dance around the circle, his countenance preceding him dancing backward, chanting with the performer and making various gestures toward the bag. Presently two snakes emerge from the top of the bag and gradually lengthen more and more until their bodies protrude as much as six inches. Then the heads slowly retreat and finally disappear, and the performer again doubles up the bag to show spectators that there is nothing in it.—New York Sun.

### How Times Change.

Two members of congress boarded at the house of a comely matron whose daughters were well on in years and remarkable for their talkativeness. After a time the two men parted and did not meet again for several years. Naturally, then, they fell to chatting over old times, and one asked the other if he knew what had become of that skinny, cackling old maid Jenny.

"Um! She is my wife, sir," was the unexpected reply.—Exchange.

### The Malacca Wildcats.

In the forests of Malacca and other islands in the Indian ocean may still be found the animal known as a wildcat. The upper parts of it are generally of a clear yellow color, with black spots. The lower parts are white, with black spots also. On the back the spots lengthen almost into lines or rings, black on yellow. The average length of the animal, excluding the tail, is almost two feet. The tail averages nine inches. Its height when standing erect is about twelve inches at the shoulder and fifteen inches at the hind quarters. Its temper is mild and gentle. It plays almost like a domestic cat or, rather, kitten, chasing its tail and amusing itself with anything that it can roll with its paws.

### Thought She'd Gone.

When Mr. Daniels went down to the club, says London Tit-Bits, he left Mrs. Daniels with a lady friend whose abilities as a scandal monger and mischief maker are pre-eminent. When he returned he just poked his head into the dressing room and said, with a sigh of relief: "That old cat gone, I suppose?" For just an instant there was a dreadful silence, for as he uttered the last word he encountered the stony glare of the lady who had been in his mind. Then Mrs. Daniels spoke quite calmly: "The old cat?" she said. "Oh, yes, dear. I sent it to the cats' home in a basket first thing this morning."

### A Mrs. Malaprop.

"Yes," said Mrs. Malaprop, "my boy is doing first rate at school. I sent him to one of them alimentary schools, and his teacher says he's doing fine. He's a first class sculler, they tell me, and is head of his class in gastronomy, knows his letters by sight and can spell like one of these deformed spellers down to Washington."

"What's he going to be when he grows up?"

"He wants to be an undertaker, and I'm decided to pay for his education."

"Freddie—"

"Freddie—"

"Freddie—"

"Freddie—"

"Freddie—"

"Freddie—"

"Freddie—"

### ANCIENT PICTURE THIEVES.

Some Who Were Caught and Executed—A Case of Substitution.

In olden days, indeed until the end of the Napoleonic era, art robberies on a grand scale were the privilege of the mighty of this earth and the adjunct of victorious warfare. This was so in the days of ancient Rome, when shiploads of marbles and bronzes were transported from Greek to Italian soil, and it was again when the first Napoleon pillaged the collections and churches of Italy and Spain. Such action, however, was considered the conqueror's right and does not come within the scope of this article, which is to deal with petty theft and criminal appropriation of works of art.

The first deed of this nature of which I have been able to trace the record occurred so far back as 1601, when two heads were cut out of Wenceslaus Koeberger's "Martyrdom of St. Sebastian" in Antwerp cathedral. The fragment is said to be even now in an English private collection. But the thieves were caught and speedily put to death.

Other cases are on record of art thefts committed in the dim past, but in most cases they amount to a bare statement that such and such a picture or object disappeared at such and such a date and has never been heard of since. These records lack the flavor of romance which clings to those other cases in which the peregrinations of the thieves and of the stolen property can be followed as in that of the famous Murillo at Seville cathedral, representing "The Appearance of the Infant Jesus to St. Anthony."

The Duke of Wellington is said to have been so struck by the beauty of this masterpiece—a canvas of imposing size—that he offered to cover the whole surface with gold pieces if the chapter would sell it to him. However, the chapter refused, and in November, 1874, the figure of St. Anthony was cut out of the picture by unknown hands, and the stolen fragment found its way to America.

There is a distinct element of humor in the circumstances that attended the theft of a portrait by Paris Bordone a good many years ago from the house of a wealthy collector in Vienna, who generally allowed the public access to his gallery when he was away from town. The picture was one day cut out of its frame and carried off. A reward of £120 was immediately offered for its recovery, and descriptions of the stolen picture were sent to the diplomatic representatives of Austria abroad.

The result was that a stranger entered the collector's house and offered to replace the picture for the reward promised. The collector, however, was not deceived, and instead the thief was arrested.

The criterion of the more is the more the girl of Malacca Belles.

Eastern standards of beauty differ, like customs, from those of the west. Malacca, we are told, the soft and velvet hair, and not the straight and level hair of the west.

Freddie—Why do you look at me like that? George—You're a sight to look at.

Freddie—You're a sight to look at. George—When you look at me like that, you're a sight to look at.

Freddie—Why do you look at me like that? George—You're a sight to look at.

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### ANTIQUITY OF THE COFFIN.

Probably a Survival of the Mummy Case or the Dolmen.

The shapes of familiar objects of human manufacture do not as a rule excite our curiosity. The box-like form of a coffin, for instance, suggests nothing. Even an undertaker has no views on the raison d'être of coffins save that they conduce to decency. Yet on grounds of propriety many nations, such as the ancient Romans and the Hindus, have preferred cremation to interment, since the latter involves the disfigurement and gradual decay of the dead.

Coffins indeed are not explainable on grounds of hygiene or seemliness, for which primitive men cared very little. Rather must we see in the modern wooden coffin a copy of the prehistoric stone or chalk receptacle which was a conventional reproduction of one of two things—the mummy cases familiar to students of Egyptology or the dolmen (or stone house), in which prehistoric non-Aryan races, especially around the Mediterranean from Egypt westward, were in the habit of burying their dead.

Coffins were, as Lord Avebury points out in his "Prehistoric Times," apparently unknown to very ancient man. The dead were buried in a sitting posture or in the attitude of sleep in what were regarded as a kind of ghost houses. The most elaborate and fully differentiated of these houses of the dead are, as Professor Sergi maintains, the pyramids, with their mummies and various precautions against the decay of the body.

A less elaborate differentiation of the house idea is to be found in the dolmens still remaining all over the world from India to Great Britain. A dolmen, built of five slabs of stone, covered by a tumulus, crowned by a menhir, surrounded by a stone circle, as at Stonehenge and Avebury, and led up to by an avenue of standing stones, is, in fact, a rude adumbration of the pyramid. Inside the dolmen the dead sat crouched among cooking utensils, arms, etc., put there for their use in the spirit world. Is it too much to suppose that the earliest stone coffins were imitations of the dolmens—in fact, dolmens in miniature?

Whether this be so or not, it is very probable that our old-fashioned standing tombstones, and especially our table tombs (which are five sided), as well as the family vaults of great families, with their traditions of embalmment and their leaden shell coffins, which conventionally outline the shapes of the dead within, are so many relics of the remote epoch when a tomb was conceived of as a house in which the dead continue to live their former lives.

The leaden shell coffins just mentioned may indeed have originated the modern coffin. The latter was still, for no apparently sufficient reason, to be constructed in accordance with careful measurements and in conventional imitation of the human shape. The leaden shell in the family vault sometimes goes so far as conventionally to preserve the outline of the fingers of the corpse, and this fact would seem to point back to a time when corpses were not confined. Thus the shell, and afterward the coffin or elaborated shell, might be regarded as interpolations in the dolmen scheme of burial.—London Lancet.

### Real Self Possession.

Not long ago a young couple entered a railway carriage at Sheffield and were immediately put down as a bridal pair. But they were remarkably self possessed and behaved with such sang froid that the other passengers began to doubt if their first surmise was correct after all.

As the train moved out, however, the young man rose to remove his overcoat, and a shower of rice fell out, while the passengers smiled broadly.

But even that did not affect the youth, who also smiled, and, turning to his partner, remarked audibly: "By Jove, May, I've stolen the bridegroom's overcoat!"—London Father.

### Malacca Belles.

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### THE AGE OF MONEY.

A Pull on the Reins in the Wild Race For Riches.

In the earlier ages of the world there was a time when fishes dominated all else. Geologists called this age of fishes the devonian period. Later vegetation supplanted the fishes, and there came the carboniferous after the devonian, and coal was stored up which we use for our needs today. Subsequently there followed an age of reptiles, an age of mammals and finally an age of man, and the age of man has been variously subdivided until we now have the age of money.

In spite of the fact that it has been pointed out upon the very highest authority that the love of money is the root of all evil with which the world is charged, its value and power have now grown so very great that in our day and generation it is worshipped by high and low, the rich and the poor. The good, old fashioned morals of former days are relaxed in order to obtain it, and defalcations constantly grow because of the modern creed that reads, "Get money—honestly if possible, but get it in any event."

Luxury increases and extravagance grows. The idea of slow accumulation of money saved during the productive against the declining years, when the earning power decreases, no longer obtains. We would all be rich, and we would be rich quick. Speculation arises, and a long train of evils marches constantly before us, because our age has become an age of money irrespective of all other considerations.

It is exceedingly pleasant to have wealth. When we see the beautiful palaces at Newport and their gardens and the countless luxuries that money spells anywhere and everywhere only the anchorite turns aside and will have none of it. Horses, steam yachts, European travel, entertaining, various art products and a thousand and one things beckon to the rich man and lure him and tend toward making him forget that the conquest of the world is not worth the loss of a soul.

We of this age of money need to remember that there are certain cardinal virtues that will linger when stock and other exchanges are no more, and in ages yet to come money will be replaced by something higher and better than a commodity that can upon occasion take on a taint.—W. G. Bowdoin in Brooklyn Citizen.

### Making of Veneer.

The best veneer is saved, but a great deal is sliced and still more is "rotary cut." By the last named process logs of the desired wood are steamed until they are soft and then fixed in a lathe-like machine, in which they are turned against a wood knife. As the log rotates against the knife veneer of the desired thickness is peeled off in a continuous slice, as if you should pare an apple, going deeper and deeper at each complete turn, until nothing is left but the core. The center of the log left after the veneer is cut is also called a "core." A good deal of waste occurs in the manufacture of veneer. It is always a problem, for instance, what use to make of the cores left by the rotary process. In many cases these are used for pulp wood, pillars or panel headings, and they are largely used also for fuel, excelsior, crates, boxes and baskets.

### Who Was Jack Robinson?

Jack Robinson has long been a favorite synonym for rapidity of speech or action, but possibly few people who use the phrase are aware that Jack Robinson was a real live person.

"As a politician," says Lady Dorothy Nevill in her "Reminiscences," "John Robinson was a great favorite with George III. His political career was long, for he was a member for Harwich during twenty-six years, being on one occasion bitterly attacked by Sheridan, who, denouncing bribery and its instigators, replied to the cries of 'Name! Name!' by pointing to Robinson on the treasury bench, exclaiming at the same time, 'Yes, I could name him as soon as I could say Jack Robinson,' and thus originated the saying still current at the present day."

### How Polly Saved the Plats.

An old lady had a parrot, which she had bought from a sailor friend, and on taking it home, much to her astonishment, she found Polly could talk.

"Get the bird," she said, "and I'll give you a shilling."

"I'll give you a shilling," she said, "if you can get the bird."

"I'll give you a shilling," she said, "if you can get the bird."

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