

Sunday

4

## WORLD LANGUAGE HAS ROUGH ROAD

Efforts of Enthusiasts in Every Case Have Proved to Be Fruitless.

### "VOLAPUK" SHORT LIVED

NOW PREDICTION IS MADE THAT ESPERANTO WILL MEET WITH POPULAR FAVOR—HISTORY OF "VOLAPUK."

BY RODERICK CLIFFORD.

Washington, Sept. 3.—Now it is Esperanto, and the earnest advocates of this new-old universal language are telling the people, through the press of the country, that the entering wedge having been driven it will be but a short time until Esperanto will be taught in the public and private schools of the United States.

A veteran employee of the house of representatives attended the Esperanto congress recently held here said in commenting on the subject of universal language:

"Old Rip Van Winkle said a mighty true thing when he remarked 'How soon we are forgotten when we are gone.' The late Representative Francis W. Cushman of Washington, was a firm believer in a universal language. About ten years ago when Volapuk was suggested as a universal language and its advantages discussed he introduced a bill in the house to promote a conference to formulate a universal language. The bill was referred to the committee on foreign affairs, and was considered informally by the members, but it was never reported to the house.

Drawn All Right.

"The bill was drawn upon right lines, and was calculated to accomplish its purpose. It authorized the president to invite the nations of the world to join conference for the purpose of formulating an alphabet of written and printed characters to represent the elementary sounds of the human voice, an alphabet to be adapted to the use of all languages. The conference was to be held in this city October 1, 1902, in a room selected for the purpose by the secretary of the senate.

The president was authorized and directed to appoint eight citizens of the United States distinguished as scholars, to be delegates on the part of the United States at the international conference. They were to serve without pay. The Cushman bill also provided that each nation should be entitled to one delegate for each 10,000,000 of its population and each independent nation to one delegate.

"Representative Cushman," concluded the veteran employee, "was subjected to much good-natured railing, and some of his colleagues styled him, 'Volapuk Cushman.' That's all right, follows," Cushman would retort, "my bill may die in committee, but the subject won't die; I may not live to see it, but the time will come when we shall have a universal language."

Mrs. Perry Starkweather has four women assistants in her work as assistant labor commissioner of Minnesota. Mrs. Starkweather is the only woman in the country holding an office of this kind, and Minnesota is the only state in the union that has a department for women and children in its bureau of labor. This department is a sort of clearing house for all matters pertaining to women and children in industry and school. At present special attention is being given to the home conditions.

## Government Finds Forest Fires Hard to Check When Started

BY SIDNEY ESBY.

Washington, Sept. 3.—Convinced that when forest fire is fairly started and with weather and other conditions favoring it is beyond the power of man to stop it, the government's method of dealing with fires in its vast domains, particularly in the wilds of the west is to prevent them as far as possible. In this connection the old adage about an ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure is particularly impressive.

That nothing but heavy rains and the dying down of the winds will check a forest fire when it has gained great headway is evident from the fires which recently have been raging through the west. That forest fires are not more frequent and more disastrous is due to the never ceasing diligence of the forestry service of the department of agriculture in preventing fires while in an incipient stage from spreading. By means of an efficient patrol system small fires are quickly detected, and unless the elements are too strongly in their favor they are extinguished by the rangers before they spread to any great extent, and before any particular damage is done.

Chief Forester Graves contends that the principles of fighting forest fires are essentially the same as those recognized in fighting fires in cities. He considers of chief importance the quick arrival of fire fighters at the fire an adequate force, proper equipment, a proper organization of the fighting crew, and skill in attacking the flame. Just as in a city the efficiency of fire service depends largely on the equipment, so, also, in the forest fire work it is essential that the fighters be furnished with proper tools and other equipment.

The implements needed for fighting forest fires vary under different conditions. Whenever dirt can be used the men are provided with long handled shovels. If water is available, buckets are provided, and possible, bucket pumps. Under most conditions it is considered desirable to have mattocks and iron rakes, and there should always be axes to aid in clearing the brush by cutting down timber and old tops.

There are three classes of fires: surface fires, ground fires and crown fires. Surface fires burn the layer of dry leaves and other litter, dry grass, brush and small trees. Ground fires occur where the mineral soil is covered with a deep accumulation of vegetable mold. These on account of the peaty character of the material burn more slowly than surface fires. Crown fires are those which burn through the crowns of the trees, and invariably start from surface fires.

The damage done by forest fires is varied. Some of the results are death to standing trees; injury to trees that are not killed; injury to soil; reduction of the rate of growth of the standing trees, and lessening of the reproduction of trees.

Careless smokers and campers leaving lighted camp fires are the principal causes of forest fires. Sparks from locomotives and saw mills often originate blazes. In many instances serious fires have been known to have originated from incendiaries and lightning. In the case of the recent western fires, the forest service has been advised that much of the spread is due to incendiaries.

Chief Forester Graves believes that the organization of an adequate forest patrol for protection denotes the establishment of such conditions that the chance of a fire are reduced to a minimum. Among the measures variously used to accomplish this are disposal of roads, trails and fire lines, and the establishment of lookout stations and telephone lines.

It is frequently the case that the subordinates of the federal departments in Washington judge the ability and strength of their respective de-

partments heads—the cabinet officers—by their proclivities for rushing through appropriations for salary increases and for the purchase of furniture and supplies.

Although it is twenty five years since Benjamin Brewster, of Pennsylvania was attorney general, his name is well known to all the attaches of the department of justice today, although many attorney generals since his time have come and gone, and are practically forgotten, simply because Mr. Brewster was successful in buying handsome furniture and in obtaining increased salaries for his clerks and assistants.

When Brewster refitted the department offices shortly after he assumed office, he created somewhat of a sensation in departmental circles by spending enormous sums for furniture. Such desks, book cases, rugs and easy chairs and the like had never before been seen there and Attorney General Brewster laughed off all criticism by saying he believed in dignity and comfort. That the government got its money's worth in most of the purchases is evident from the fact that some of the furniture is being used in the department today.

Postmaster General Hitchcock is rapidly acquiring the reputation of Brewster—that is as far as furniture goes. Since becoming postmaster general he has practically refitted the offices on what is known as the administration floor. It is on this floor that the postmaster general and his four assistants and other administrative heads of the department work. He has also furnished some of the divisions on the other floors of the postoffice buildings, which had not had new furniture for several decades. So unusual in this innovation that some of the old bowhiskered division chiefs and clerks are astounded at the newness of things.

Army officers on duty at the war department for the first time in their military careers are always impressed with the absence of uniforms about the department. Of course, these new "desk officers" become accustomed to this strangeness.

A young captain of artillery was recently detailed for duty at the department. After he had been there two or three days he said he wished the officers wore uniforms, because he never knew at first glance whether he was talking to a major general, a messenger or a newspaper man.

"The uniform has other advantages" said this officer. The door keepers, clerks and other menials are always impressed by the sight of blue cloth and gold braid. I had been at the department about a week, engaged in preparing an important report. While standing in the outer room of the chief of staff chatting with some officers whom I knew, a rather solidly looking individual in plain clothes with a short gray moustache, touched me on the shoulder and asked me in commanding voice, "Captain, when will you have that report ready for us?"

"Never doubting that the man was a major or a colonel, I replied humbly 'In a day or two, sir. I am hurrying as much as I can, sir.' My companions laughed. Then I ascertained that my supposed major or colonel was a newspaper man.

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This is 149 miles longer than the cross-country run between London and Manchester, which Louis Paulhan covered in April, making one stop, when he won a \$50,000 prize.

Bielovuccci's average speed in the various legs of the trip was: First, 66 miles, 1 hour; second, 58; third, 60; fourth, 60.

### TOURNAMENT OPENED

Two Exciting Matches in Tennis Were Played Saturday on Association Courts.

### SILVER LOVING CUP PRIZE

Two exciting matches resulted in the preliminary round of the city handicap tennis tournament, which opened at the courts of the Richmond Lawn Tennis association yesterday afternoon.

Blair Converse, one of the young players of the city, won from Will Reller, last year's champion, 4-6, 6-4 and 6-2. Reller was able to overcome Converse's handicap in the first set and won after a hard struggle. He looked like a sure winner in the second when he had his fast opponent 4-2, but Converse settled down and won handily. He had easy sailing in the final set.

Anderson, last year's runner up, won from Orville Brunson, of the Y. M. C. A. in straight sets, 6-3 and 6-4. Brunson was in poor form and never had a look in.

Dudley Elmer defaulted to R. F. Foster, and Mark Wilson to R. Thornburgh.

Charles Green will play Bert Mc-

Divit this morning when a fast match is expected. Other matches today are as follows: J. Harrington vs. Frank Gardner, R. Hasemeyer vs. R. Thornburgh, B. Converse vs. winner of the Hasemeyer-Thornburgh match.

A large silver loving cup has been offered to the winner of the tournament by O. E. Dickinson, the jeweler. The handicaps have been arranged by R. F. Foster and N. C. Heironimus, who are in charge of the tournament, so that the players have an equal chance to win the tournament.

She Was Lucky.

Mrs. Smiley—Here we've been married ten years, and Smiley still says I'm an angel. Her Friend—But does he really mean it, my dear? Mrs. S.—Perhaps not, but don't you think I'm lucky to have a husband who pretends to mean it?

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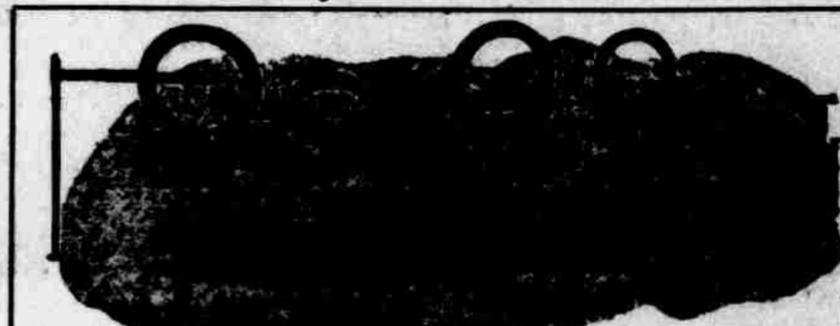
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