

WILLS MADE IN WAR TIME

Legal Procedure Must of Necessity Give Way to What is Convenient.

War changes many of the laws of peace. Even the strict laws governing the making of wills and the inheritance of property have had to make way before the exigencies of military procedure.

The German government has provided a special decree which revolutionizes the strict demands of the statutes of peace concerning the making of wills. As a result the German soldiers in the field can now make their last wills with little respect for the ironclad requirements that hedge the making of a testament in time of peace.

Any officer or soldier or even anyone in any wise attached to the mobile military service, may write his will in his own handwriting and sign it, even without the presence of witnesses, and the will is binding. A special provision, however, makes such a will invalid one year after the demobilization of the force to which the testator is attached. It becomes invalid a year after the testator has been discharged from such service, or if he has been taken prisoner by the enemy, a year after he shall have been released.

In addition to this, provision is made that where the soldier does not write the testament in his own handwriting, his simple signature in the presence of one officer or two other witnesses will be sufficient. If for any reason he is unable to do this, or there is no time for the preparation of a formal instrument, he may make a verbal testament before an officer and two witnesses.

FOUND TIMES HAD CHANGED

Alkali Ike's Attempt to "Shoot Up" San Diego Saloon Received with Marked Disapproval.

Alkali Ike, deputy sheriff from the desert, was a visitor in the city, says a San Diego, Cal., dispatch to the New York Sun. Alkali was looking for the white lights. By noon, having failed to discover the excitement his soul craved, he made his way into the U. S. Grant hotel buffet, and, pulling a "forty-five" that looked like one of the Kaiser's howitzers, announced that he was going to do some "cleaning."

As he swung his Krupp around the room heads dropped behind partitions, active men dodged into booths and many faces paled at visions of sudden death. Commander in Chief Billie Schuler tipped his cigar to a higher angle than usual and, backed by Irish and Germans, advanced on "the bad man from the sand hills."

For an instant visions of carnage flashed before his eyes of the men who had sought refuge, but it quickly passed, for Schuler annexed the cannon and threw Alkali Ike to the sidewalk. Half an hour later the fire-eater was back begging with tears streaming down his face for his weapon.

"I'll be on my way to the sand hills in five minutes," he promised as he got back his gun.

John Muir.

The late John Muir was one of those rare spirits who devote a large part of their lives to making men acquainted with the beauties and wonders of nature. Besides being a gifted writer, whose words have had a solid attraction for a fine and sympathetic type of minds, Mr. Muir was a practical scientist—as a geologist and an explorer he has contributed his share to the world's intellectual resources. The romance of his career and the mystery of that special gift which made glaciers a particular object of his studies are matters over which the average man may well pore with wonderment. It is not easy for the person of affairs to understand the irresistible call which comes to certain natures to make themselves masters of the secrets that lie only half-hidden in the physical world that surrounds us. But that some natures receive this call and respond to it nobly is the testimony of such a career as John Muir's.—Springfield Republican.

Man is Best After 60.

"Investigation by keen men has shown that man's best work has been done between the ages of sixty and seventy years," said President E. R. Bryan of Colgate university, Eugene, Ore., in an address before the Western division of the Oregon Teachers' association. "Six hundred of the most important scientists, statesmen and Old World famous men were selected," he said, "and it was found that only 5 per cent of them accomplished their world's work before the age of forty, 10 per cent between forty and fifty, 20 per cent fifty and sixty, 35 per cent between sixty and seventy, 21 per cent after they had reached the age of eighty."

Some Armies and Navies.

On the basis of vessels completed and vessels under construction, the rank of the following nations in naval standing is: Great Britain, 1; Germany, 2; United States, 3; France, 4; Japan, 5; Russia, 6; Italy, 7; Austria, 8; Greece, 9. The available fighting force of Italy is around 3,000,000; that of Greece about half a million.

INDIAN GAVE TOWN NAME

"Medicine Hat," in Canada, Derived Peculiar Cognomen From Head-dress of Chief.

Not many persons know what was the origin of the strange name borne by the Canadian city that Rudyard Kipling once called "the city born lucky."

The word "medicine" means more to an Indian than to us. We think of it as meaning something nasty that is good for us, but the Indian distinguishes as "good medicine" and "bad medicine" anything that he fancies will change his fortunes for better or for worse. Imagine that Lo is hunting antelope and meeting with no success. Presently he finds an empty cartridge shell or the top of a tomato tin, and shortly afterward he gets a shot at his game. Can he doubt that the piece of tin or the shell gave the luck? Not he. He wears that fragment of tomato tin or empty shell about his neck with his other jewelry, and it is "good medicine."

Several years ago there was a Black-foot chief who lived in the vicinity of Seven Persons river, where now stands the city of Medicine Hat. He and his tribe were fond of hunting and of making war on their enemies, the Crees. This chief always wore a head-dress of feathers that he called his "medicine hat," for he thought that it brought him good fortune.

It was a dark day for the chief when he last met the Crees at the place where now stands the growing city. He and his men fell upon the enemy with great bravery, and even put them to ignominious flight. But just then a gust of wind whirled out of the west, caught the magic hat, and tossed it into the swift-running Saskatchewan river. Instantly the poor chief lost all confidence in himself and his cause, and with victory in his hand he forebore to grasp it, but fled over the plains toward the Rockies, followed by his tribe.—Youth's Companion.

BLOT ON NAPOLEON'S FAME

Slaughter of Defenseless Prisoners After Jaffa Unrecognized as Act of Warfare.

No French victory was ever marked by more unbridled license than that which the victorious troops practiced at Jaffa. But what followed was worse. Although the prisoners of war were too numerous for the ordinary usage, yet they should have been treated according to the terms of quarter they had exacted.

On the 7th a council of war unanimously voted that the old rule under which no quarter is given to defenders in an assault should be applied to them. For two days Bonaparte hesitated, but on the 9th his decision was taken.

A few Egyptians were sent home and the remainder of the prisoners, together with the 800 militia from El Arish, were marched to the beach and shot. Two eyewitnesses estimated it—one at 3,000, the other at 4,000.

"I have been severe with those of your troops who violated the laws of war," wrote the author of the deed to Djeddar. All winter long he had been dealing as an Oriental with Orientals and this was but a piece of the same conduct.—The Life of Napoleon Bonaparte, William Milligan Sloane.

Rides Piano in Storm.

A piano is a handy thing aboard ship, even if the weather is too rough for one to play upon it, believes Captain Petersen of the steamship Karen, which arrived at New York from Matanzas with sugar.

On the way up from Cuba, about seventy miles off Cape Hatteras, a terrific gale kicked up a sea that buffeted the vessel until her steering gear became deranged. Repairs required seven hours. Meanwhile the Karen dropped into the trough of the sea, and a great flood poured into her hold.

Mrs. Petersen's room was frequently awash, but the skipper's wife sat on top of the piano and fooled the flood that swirled about her.

Cremation in England.

At the annual meeting of the Manchester Crematorium (Ltd.), held early in December, 1914, it was stated that cremations were still on the increase. From a list of 13 centers it was shown that last year 1,299 cremations had taken place in England and Scotland. Golders Green led the way with 656, Manchester being second, with 186, and Woking third, with 131. A handbook of the Bradford municipal crematorium may be inspected at the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce or its branch offices.

Self-Lighting Cigars.

The German military authorities and the German postal authorities have authorized the transmission by parcel post to soldiers in the field of cigars equipped with a special chemical preparation that enables the smoker to light them without the aid of matches.

The chemical preparation is applied to the end of cigars, and is ignited by rubbing it against a hard substance, like the ordinary match, but it cannot ignite automatically. The chemicals used, it is said, do not affect the flavor of the cigar.

Conscription in This Country.

The state, whether it be the United States or any other, is sovereign, and can, if the necessity calls for it, compel its citizens or subjects to fight for it in war time. The democratic character of a nation is not supposed to deprive it of this right of conscription.

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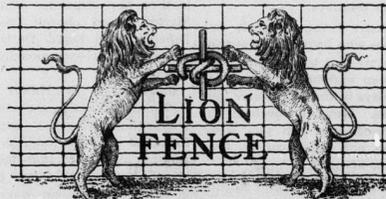
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