

LEAP YEAR GIRLS MUST ASK MAMMA'S PERMISSION

SWEET MARIE, A HAWLEY DAM, SELL, MELKLY ASSENTS, IT IS CLAIMED, AND WEDDING IS OFF.

In an ordinary year, when a young man exclaims, "I love you dearest, will you be my wife?" the coy maid-in-blushing answers, "Yes, but ask dad."

Conversely, the law now stands that when a maiden takes advantage of leap year and proposes, she shall not do so until she has asked her mamma if she may had mamma has answered "Yes."

At least, the law so stands in the village of Hawley, near here. Marie—well named—sweet sixteen, and several of her girl friends formed a Leap Year club, they agreed to propose and be married this very year to there.

Now Miss Marie had a sweetheart, Charlie—, a nice fellow. Miss Marie was certain that Charlie did advanced far enough in her love-tutoring to be a safe proposal, so, stammeringly, she proposed.

"Sure," said Charlie, just like that.

He asked her to go motororing the next day, sightseeing the next. They had fixed the day for the wedding before Miss —— called down stairs:

"Charlie, it's half past nine o'clock. Tell that young fellow to go home or I'll show him."

Not being from Missouri, Charlie went home. But Marie was very happy—so happy that she determined to share her happiness with mamma yesterday.

"Mamma, you know it's leap year," she began.

"What's that got to do with you?" interrupted Mrs. ——

"I asked Charlie to marry me," faltered Marie, "and he answered 'Yes'."

The young man, a trained man-maidenly, stood in short frock with shoulders down his back and without even asking me your mother. What would you live on—you and your boy? Wait till I get hold of him. Now listen to me, miss. First thing to-morrow you go to Charlie, —— and tell him that you release him from all promises of marriage; that it's all off and your mother says so. Do you understand me?"

"Yes, mamma," said Marie, meekly.

A STANDARD OIL COMPANY TO CUT BIG "MELON."

New York.—Stock in the \$1,600,000 Standard Oil Company of Indiana, quoted at from \$4,000 to \$4,500 for each share of par value of \$100, was not obtainable on the curb today at any price. This was due to the announcement that a \$20,000,000 "melon" would be cut March 7, at the directors' meeting in Whiting, Ind., in the shape of an additional stock issue, which would probably be presented to present stockholders, or sold to them at a nominal price.

At last the Standard Oil Company of Indiana which once was fined \$20,000,000 by Judge Landis in Chicago, the fine being deducted in the grounds that it was excessive and unconstitutional, has been paid.

Shortly after the reorganization of the oil trust, **Standard Oil Company of Indiana**, the Standard of Indiana let go their holdings at \$1,000 a share. Since then the stock has been rising steadily and has sold as high as \$1,700 a share.

Capital Punishment Commission Named.

Harrisburg.—Announcement has been made by Governor Tener that he had appointed **John Francis** of Philadelphia, **John Francis** of the Western penitentiary at Pittsburgh, and **Warden R. J. McKinley** of the Eastern penitentiary at Philadelphia, as members of the new state commission to investigate methods of carrying out capital punishment. The commission is to make a report to the next session.

The commission is the outcome of the discussion in the last legislature of the Morris bill providing for the infliction of the death penalty by the electric chair, now in use in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia and other states. The bill was generally favored, but did not get through because of some opposition and largely because of some who had for their object the abolition of capital punishment. The commission will make investigation of the methods in use in various states and abroad and recommend to the general assembly of 1913 the expediency of changing the present laws concerning capital punishment in Pennsylvania and to recommend a method in case the commission decides against hanging.

Practitioners also made that the commission shall consider the expediency of selecting a site centrally located, where all condemned sentenced to death may be executed.

Sparks From the Fire Waste.

The fire waste of the country is excessive and is sapling its prosperity. Reduction of the fire waste is an important factor in this connection for the conservation of the national resources. Fire losses in the United States and Canada in 1911 were \$224,435,250, most of them due to **unnecessary** fires.

Government Will Back up Pennsylvania.

Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson will attend the proposed conference on the cheapest fuel to be held in Chicago on February 10. He long ago agreed to permit, but in any event he will have forestry experts from the government service participate in the discussion.

Surveys have been received from Washington that the action of Pennsylvania in moving for inter-state regulation of the post is attracting national attention and the cooperation of the government has been promised to aid the States in halting the westward movement of the **fire waste**.

New York will send some of its best men, according to a letter from Governor John A. Dix, as the Empire State is to be represented strikingly in western counties just as are the Pennsylvania workers.

Director of the Census Bureau has given notice to his remaining temporary employees of his bureau that their services will not be required.

Philadelphia Has More Than 1,000 Workers Engaged in Computing 1910 Census.

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