

GUARDING THE COAST.

Work Performed by the United States Life-Saving Service on Ocean, Lake and River.

The work of the life-saving service of the country during the past year has been so creditable as to be highly pleasing to the governmental officials here. There have been fewer disasters and more lives saved on the coast in the last year than ever before in the history of the country. Without question the life-saving service of the United States is the superior of that of any Nation in the world. This is demonstrated every day.

Many stories are told, and many novels written of the hardy and sturdy volunteer life savers of England, but these veterans do not compare with the trained, brave life crews of our own country.

During the fiscal year 1895-'96 there were 4620 disasters on the coasts of the British Isles. Despite the efforts of the life savers 458 lives were lost. Along the immense coast of this country, including also the great lakes, there were, during the same period, 680 disasters and only twenty lives lost. The figures of rescues are not given, but the lives saved by American life savers are far in excess of the number saved by the English.

There are 256 life-saving stations in this country. Of these fifty-five are on the lakes. There are only fourteen stations on the Pacific coast, and these do comparatively little work. Few disasters are credited to this coast. The Cape Cod district of this country is the worst of any section, furnishing more disasters than the same stretch of any other part of the United States.

From the eastern extremity of the coast of Maine to Race Point on Cape Cod, a distance of 415 miles, there are but sixteen stations, ten of these being located at the most dangerous points on the coast of Maine and New Hampshire, which, although abounding with rugged headlands, islets,

tained cisterns are provided for water caught from the roof. There surmounts every station a lookout or observatory, in which a day watch is kept. The roofs upon the stations on those portions of the coast exposed to view from the sea are usually painted dark red, which makes them distinguishable a long distance off shore. They are also marked by a flagstaff sixty feet high, used in signaling passing vessels by the international code.

The stations (other than the house of refuge) are generally equipped with two surf boats (supplied with oars, life boat compass and other outfits), a boat carriage, two sets of breeches-buoy apparatus (including a Lyle gun and accessories), a cart for the transportation of the apparatus, a life-line, twenty cork jackets, two heaving sticks, a dozen Coston signals, a dozen signal rockets, a set of the signal flags of the international code, a medicine chest with contents, a barometer, a thermometer, patrol lanterns, patrol checks or patrol clocks, the requisite furniture for rude housekeeping by the crew and for the succor of rescued people, fuel and oil, tools for the repair of the boats and apparatus and for minor repairs to the buildings, and the necessary books and stationery. At some of the stations the Hunt gun and projectiles are supplied, and at a few the Cunningham rocket apparatus. To facilitate the transportation of boats and apparatus to scenes of shipwreck a pair of horses is also provided at stations where they cannot be hired, and to those stations where the supplies, mails, etc., have to be brought by water, a supply boat is furnished.

All the stations on the ocean coast of Long Island, twenty-nine stations on the coast of New Jersey, nine stations on the coast between Cape Henlopen and Cape Charles, and all the

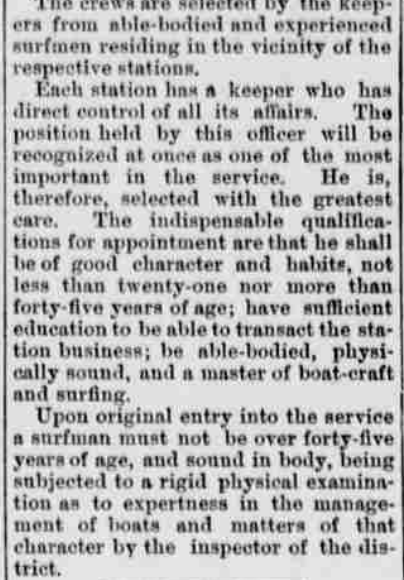
TINIEST HORSE IN THE WORLD.

A Shetland Pony That is no Bigger Than a St. Bernard Dog.

The tiniest horse in the world is only twenty-one inches in height, and is the property of the Marchese Carcano, a celebrated nobleman horse-fancier, whose four-in-hand of small Shetland ponies have taken first prizes at every horse fair in Europe for four or five years.

The Marchese Carcano told the Rome correspondent of the New York World that he is about to make a tour of the world with his team of Shetland ponies, and will also take with him his smallest horse, Leo, which has won the gold medal at the Milan.

Leo, the smallest horse, is a full-grown animal which has been reared on the stock farms of the Marchese, and is the surprising result of a number of interesting experiments. The smallest Shetland ponies are never under eight hands high, which is equal to thirty-two inches, and is eleven inches taller than Leo. The latter is no less remarkable for his perfect



SMALLEST HORSE COMPARED WITH A DOG.

symmetry than for his minute proportions. He is a beautiful chestnut, with shaggy tail, which reaches almost to the ground. His neck measures ten inches, and his head from his face is just about six inches. From his forelegs to the hindlegs Leo measures just as much as his height, and his chunky legs are exactly ten inches long.

What Some Plates Cost.

The plates that are most popular among multi-millionaires are of Minton ware. They cost \$2740 each. A plate of plain gold costs just about the same sum. They are very handsome, as they well might be at the price. These gems for the tables of the rich have an exquisite painting in the center of each. They are painted by the celebrated Bouliniere, and the designs are taken from old miniatures. The coloring of these little pictures is simply exquisite, and every tiny detail of the face, hair and costume is worked out with the daintiness of perfection. The picture is surrounded by a lace-like pattern in raised acid gold. The edges of the plates are open work in a lace design, decorated with a running pattern in gold.

The Bishop and His Bun.

The Bishop of Worcester, England, once had occasion to travel through Banbury by rail. Being desirous to test and at the same time to encourage the far-famed industry of that town, and the train having stopped for a short time at the station, he beckoned to a small boy standing near at hand and inquired the price of the celebrated bun. "Three pence each," said the boy. "The Bishop thereupon handed him sixpence and desired him to bring one to the car, adding: "And with the other three pence you may buy one for yourself." The boy shortly returned, complacently munching his Banbury, and handing the three pence in coppers to the Bishop, exclaimed: "There was only one left, gov'nor."—Baptist Union.

A Musical Mousetrap.

Acting upon the idea that mice are very sensitive to music a Belgian manufacturer has substituted a musical mousetrap for the common trap. Instead of baiting the apparatus with a bit of cheese or lard the inventor has hidden in a double bottom a small music box, which plays automatically various popular airs of the country. The mice, he insists, are drawn irresistibly toward the music box, and in order to hear better they step into the trap and find themselves prisoners!

Five and a half ounces of grapes are required to make one glass of good wine.

TRICYCLE PATROL FOR TAKING PRISONERS TO THE POLICE STATION.

Anxious to know the price of wheat at Chambersburg before returning to his western home, John Winter of Wichita, Kan., went to an elevator Monday evening and, while discussing the market, fell out of a door, receiving injuries from which he died Thursday night. He was a heavy land owner in Kansas.

A heavy explosion of gas occurred in No. 2 slope of the Parrish Coal Company at Plymouth a few days ago, by which three men lost their lives. The victims are: Isaac Edmunds, miner, aged 65, widower; George Eddy, driver, aged 32, single; Louis Richards, driver boss, aged 32, married, wife and two children.

The awful torture Isaac Alderfer received from three robbers a week ago at Norris town resulted fatally. He after too dropped off from the burning he received, then lockjaw set in and death soon followed.

Benjamin Snodgrass, a wealthy farmer, who disappeared five years ago, turned up at Mercer the other day. Part of his estate had been sold and divided among his heirs.

William Clark, one of the oldest residents of Sharpville, died Friday night from a stroke of apoplexy. He is survived by his widow two daughters and seven sons.

The body of Lillie Kamerer, aged 20, who disappeared from her home at New Hamburg, a week ago, has been found in the river at Sharon.



It is in active use by the Dayton (Ohio) police department, and affords a quick and convenient method of handling an arrest.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

FOOTPADS FOILED.

Young Man When Attacked Throws His Pocket-Book Away.

While returning to his home in West Jeannette the other night, Theodore Miller was attacked by footpads and beaten into unconsciousness. He succeeded in throwing his pocketbook, which contained quite a sum of money, over a fence, and after he regained consciousness he recovered C. A. Walters' store, which was broken into the same night and over a hundred dollars' worth of goods stolen.

The following Pennsylvania pensions have been issued: John Cake, Hazelton; Nicholas Martell, Frenchville; James Cahill, Allegheny; John F. Wunderlich, Pittsburgh; William B. Travis, Wilkesbarre; Emanuel Cable, Patton, Increase—William Austin, New Alexandria; Henry Stouffer, Ramey, Original widows, etc.—Elenora Kindred, Ashley; Nancy Ankerman, Johnstown; Susan J. Lillie, Carbonate; minor: A. Leonidas Kelly, of Pittsburg; Samuel Mansfield, Neale; Michael A. Zorne, McKeesport; George Reich, Jeannette; John E. Pettigrew, Faunstown; George W. Livelygood, McKees Mills; Henry Lowe, Scottsdale; Robert Montgomery, dead, Sitka; Arthur Bennett, Sailors and Soldiers' home; Benjamin Boers, Fallen Timber; Adam Yahnert, Salk; Jonna Cross, Rimersburg; minors of Samuel H. Brown, Perryopolis; minors of William Tappé, Pittsburg; minors of Robert O. Long, Bradock; Susannah Moore, Bakersville; minors of Charles F. Vardell, Pittsburg and Fayette Springs; Christian Hoch, Allegheny; Henry E. Hart, Erie; A. H. Hater, Redpath, Perryville; Samuel Craig, deceased, Redmans Mills; Samuel Wilson, Irwin; Jane A. Craig, Redmans Mills; Mary Wakefield, Seward; Susannah Faith, Pittsburg; Mary M. Merritt, Fairview; Joseph R. Shuman, Oakland; William E. Thomas, Confluence; Annie Campbell, Pittsburg; Mary C. Harding, Bellefonte; Catherine E. Jellison, Petrolia; Mathilda Helm, Allegheny.

Miss Bertie Becker, of Moravia, Tuesday afternoon was driving past the residence of Robert Miller in Big Beaver township, when she saw flames coming from the roof. In trying to open a large double gate her hand caught on some rusty nails and was severely lacerated. With the blood streaming from her wounds she entered the house, to find no one at home excepting two little girls, whom she saved. She then sprang into the buggy and rode a quarter of a mile away to a neighbor's house, where she was repaired and notified them. They hurried back, and, by the hardest kind of work, saved the house. Miss Becker, after the danger was over, fainted.

John Sprengle of Company I, Eighth regiment, N. G. P., is missing. The regiment has been on duty in the Hazleton strike region, and Sprengle got away from the camp on Saturday night. Nothing has been heard of since, and it is feared he may have fallen into a mine hole near the camp. When the company returned to Wrightsville Sprengle's wife and child were waiting at the station, and there was a distressing scene when the news was broken.

Mrs. James Brown, a widow, and her daughter, who reside alone on a farm near Harrisville, were tortured by masked robbers Monday night. When they refused to tell the hiding place of their money the robbers choked the women, who, when almost dead, pointed to a corner of the room in which \$75 was secreted. Securing this and all the valuables in the house, the bandits departed. Mrs. Brown and her daughter sustained severe injuries from blows on the head.

An explosion occurred at the Buckhorn, where P. W. Flinn's stone quarries are located at Altoona, the other day. After putting four kegs of powder in two rock-drilled holes the men who had repaired to a safe place, after hearing two reports, returned to where the fuse was, and just then a third explosion occurred. Thomas Cosgrove, Thomas Moore and several Italians were hurt.

Fire broke out at Smith's Ferry the other day in the block occupied by the post office, Harvey Wallace's general store, and the dwelling and store of Charles Hooker. The block was entirely destroyed and nothing was saved by the tenants. The blaze is thought to have been started from a defective fuse. Loss \$18,000, with an insurance of \$5,000.

Patrick Donahoe of New Kensington has been held for court by Squire William H. Slicker. He is charged with tearing down a Polish flag. The patriotic society are raising a fund to carry the case to the supreme court if necessary. The trouble occurred September 26, when the Poles dedicated St. Joseph's Polish Roman Catholic church here.

The executive board of the Mercer Stony Agricultural society met at Sharon and arranged for the payment of all premiums, purses offered in the races and general expenses connected with the exhibition. They also declared a dividend of 25 per cent., besides a reserve of 10 per cent. to be used in improving and beautifying the grounds.

Rev. Father James Brennan, of the Sacred Heart Church at Sharon received a cablegram a few days ago from Pope Leo XIII., Rome, Italy, tendering best wishes and congratulations on the coming celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, which occurs on the 18th of October.

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THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR OCTOBER 17.

Lesson Text: "Paul Before the Roman Governor," Acts xxiv., 10-25—Golden Text: Isaiah xli., 10—Commentary on the Lesson by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

10. After five days Paul is now before Felix, the governor, and is permitted to speak for himself in the presence of the prosecutors, the high priest and others who have come to Jerusalem to condemn him (verse 1). They accused him of many things, but all their accusations were false (verses 6-9), and thus he had increased fellowship with his Lord in that they spoke unbelief in the mouth of him, imagined deceptions and laid to his charge things he knew not of (Pa. xxviii., 12; ix. 4). All manner of fellowship with God and with Christ should be prized by us as a gift as much as to believe on Him (Phil. 2:2).

11-13. Paul with few words sweeps away all their accusations as utterly untrue and without foundation. He knew that God was with him, and he had no fear. He could calmly face all his accusers, and he could himself, their captain. He knew in his soul that there were more with him than with them (II Kings vi., 16) and could say: "Though my soul is among lions, men whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongues are as swords, yet I will not be afraid. My heart is fixed, I will sing and give praise" (Ps. lvi., 4-7).

14. Here he begins to state the real cause of their anger against him. He believed all things written in the law and in the prophets, and that made him a very troublesome fellow to these religious people, who did not believe God. A minister in Chicago said the other day that these people calling themselves Bible students were very troublesome, and certainly they must be to such ministers as prefer their own ease, with lots of cricket and lawn tennis and hunting and fishing, rather than Bible study and real work for God.

15. There shall be a resurrection of the dead. But of the just and righteous. This was and is even to this day a troublesome doctrine to many, though plainly taught even in the cherubim story of Gen. iii., and very clearly set forth in Dan. xii., 1-3. Not that just and unjust shall rise at the same time, for Rev. x., 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

16. The blessed hope of the return of Christ, the resurrection of the righteous and their rewards for service at His coming for His saints is that which purifies us from the defilements and the entanglements of this present evil world and makes us labor to be ever acceptable to Him. Every believer is accepted in Him (Eph. i., 6), and that stands unchanged, but because of this we seek to be acceptable to Him in all things, and trust Him to work in us those things which are well pleasing in His sight (Heb. xii., 21).

17-19. Here is a true and brief statement of the case as to why he was in Jerusalem and why in the temple when he found him there, and who his accusers ought to have been, if any. The secret of the whole trouble was that which Paul well understood, for he himself was once heartily one with the high priest and elders in their hatred of Jesus and the story of His resurrection from the dead. If Jesus of Nazareth was really Israel's Messiah, then the Nation was guilty of crucifying their King, and that they would not submit to. Paul had actually seen Him, and knew that it was even so, and that the crucified Christ was really risen from the dead, and was at the right hand of God, and a true and only Messiah, Son of David, Son of Abraham.

20-21. "Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day." It was that which set the council in uproar (Acts xxiii., 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100).

22. Felix evidently saw more clearly into the whole business than the high priest and elders wished that he might, and the man who could now give the most important testimony, next in order, was the chief captain who had twice rescued him from the infuriated Jews. There was, therefore, nothing further to be done till Lysias should come. The waiting times for the people of God when the work seems hindered by the indifference or the opposition of the enemies of God is one of the mysteries. It would seem from verse 27 that Paul was a prisoner at Caesarea for two years. Might all this have been escaped if he had not insisted upon going to Jerusalem just at that time? Anyway, to rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him is surely good.

23. Paul is a kind of free prisoner. He is under guard, but at liberty to see all who come to him. So it was also on the way to Rome and at Rome (xxvii., 3; xxviii., 16), and Paul doubtless had the best possible use of his liberty for the glory of God and to magnify the Lord Jesus, for that was the whole aim of his life and the end of all his teaching (Gal. ii., 20; Phil. i., 20, 21). Let each one ask, Can I say truly "For me to live is Christ" (Phil. i., 21) or "I, but Christ liveth in me"? "Christ shall be magnified."

24. How glad Paul would be of this opportunity to set forth the faith in Christ, and especially to a Jewess, for one of his notices was "To the Jew first" (Rom. i., 16). He did not need time to think out or prepare his discourse, for he was full of it, or rather of Christ, and always ready for such an opportunity. Every preacher should be so full of the word of God that when an opportunity to speak is afforded he could trust the Spirit to fit the message in his lips (Prov. xxii., 18; Math. x., 20).

25. "He reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come." We may imagine without difficulty, from his epistles, on what lines he would speak, and whence he would get his arguments. He always reasoned out of the Scriptures (Acts xvii., 2), and never in the words which man's wisdom teacheth (I Cor. ii., 4). On righteousness he would certainly have the necessity, that no man has it, no one gets it of himself, but that God has provided it fully in Christ and gives it freely to whosoever will.—Lesson Helper.

Hungry Horse and Fall Hat.

A hungry white horse, with the appearance of having gone unfed for many a day, after having browsed among the banana skins in the gutter at Clark and Washington streets, in Chicago, yielded to the temptation offered by the new fall hat of a matinee girl as she was about to enter the Chicago Opera House, and after knocking it off her head, munched it until it was ruined.

The hat was probably worth \$25. The horse was wandering unbridled about the Chicago Opera House block, and had made several reaches for straw hats before he got one. The girl screamed in terror and crowd quickly gathered, but the efforts of the gallant were too late to save the hat.

It is estimated that more than 75,000 fishermen go out to work every Sunday, and that they spend on an average of \$2 each on the spot.



THE SURF BOAT.

rocks, reefs and intricate channels that would naturally appear to be replete with dangers, are provided with numerous harbors and places of shelter in which, upon short notice, vessels can take refuge. The portion of the Massachusetts coast included, although less favored with safe resorts, enjoys the excellent guardianship of the Massachusetts Humane Society—a venerable institution, operating under the volunteer system. On account of this protection, the general government has deemed it proper to place its stations within this territory only at points where wrecks are unusually frequent; at least, until other dangerous parts of the coast shall have been provided for.

The life-saving stations upon the ocean beaches are generally situated among the low sand-hills common to such localities, sufficiently back of high-water mark to be safe from the reach of storm tides. They are plain structures, designed to serve as barracks for the crews and to afford convenient storage for the boats and apparatus. Most of those upon the Long Island and New Jersey coasts have been enlarged from the boat houses

stations between Cape Henry and Hatteras inlet are connected by telephone lines.

The station buildings upon the coast are all constructed with a view to withstand the severest tempests. Those located—as many necessarily are—where they are liable to be undermined or swept from their positions by the ravages of storms and tidal waves, are so strongly put together that they may be overthrown and sustain but trifling injury. There are instances on record where they have been carried a long distance inland—in one case a half a mile—without sustaining material damage. This substantial construction also enables them to be easily and cheaply moved when threatened by the gradual encroachment of the sea, which, upon many sections of the coast, effects in the course of years great changes in the configuration of the coast line.

At Louisville, Ky., are dangerous falls in the Ohio River, across which a dam has been constructed. Navigation there is dangerous, and a station is established. The floating station at Louisville is a scow-shaped hull, on which is a house of two stories, surmounted by a lookout. Besides the housekeeping furniture there are but few equipments; two boats, called life skiffs, and two reels, each with a capacity to hold a coil of five-inch manilla rope, and so placed in the boat room that a boat can be speedily run out from either, or, if desired, that they can be run out of the boat room, with the lines upon them, for use elsewhere. The station is usually moored above the dam at a place which will afford the readiest access to boats meeting with accident, but it can be towed from place to place when necessary, as was the case in the great floods of 1853-'54, when it was of incalculable service in rescuing people from the upper stories and roofs of their inundated dwellings, and in distributing food to the famishing.

On these two calamitous occasions the crew of this station rescued and took to places of safety over 800 imperiled persons—men, women and children—among them many sick and infirm—and supplied food and other necessities to more than 10,000.

The number of men composing the crew of a station is determined by the number of oars required to pull the largest boat belonging to it. There are some five-oared boats in the Atlantic stations, but at all of them there is at least one of six oars. Six men, therefore, make up the regular crews of these stations, but a seventh man is added on the first of December, so that during the most rigorous portion of the season a man may be left ashore to assist in the launching and beaching of the boat and to see that the station is properly prepared for the comfortable reception of his comrades and the rescued people they bring with them on their return from a wreck; also to aid in doing the extra work that severe weather necessitates.



THE MORTAR.

put up to shelter the boats and equipments provided for the use of volunteers before regular crews were employed. Those built later are more comely in appearance, while a few, located conspicuously at popular seaside resorts, make some pretensions to architectural taste. They are all designated by names indicating their localities.

In the majority of stations the first floor is divided into four rooms—a boat room, a mess room (also serving for a sitting room for the men), a keeper's room and a store room. Wide, double-leaved doors and a sloping platform extending from the sills to the ground permit the running out of the heavier equipments from the building. The second-story contains two rooms; one is the sleeping room of the men, the other has spare cots for rescued people, and is also used for storage. The more commodious stations have two additional rooms—a square room and a kitchen. In localities where good water cannot be otherwise ob-