

Pinch Prince of Swindlers.

Antwerp Police Have "Count De Toulouse-Lautrec"
—Disgraced Russian Officer Was Arrested in New
York, Chicago and Many European Cities—Siberian
Ex-Convict, He Sought to Rule Bulgaria

The Count de Toulouse-Lautrec, famous in several countries as a swindler, was arrested recently at Antwerp, Belgium, charged with cashing stolen coupons. He protested against his arrest on the ground that he was an American citizen and displayed naturalization papers issued in Illinois. It was found on investigation that he had been released but recently from Siberia. He has been in prison for fraud in half the civilized countries of the world.

Nicolas Erasmus Savine is perhaps the most notorious swindler now living. He styles himself Count de Toulouse-Lautrec because of a marriage which he says took place between his father, a general in the Russian imperial army, and a Countess of the emigre house of Toulouse-Lautrec. He was born in Russia in 1855. Under the name of Savine he held a commission in the Russian Imperial Guard. He was an excellent family and had a considerable fortune.

At one time he seemed to be on the road to high honors. He fought gallantly in the war of 1876 between Russia and Turkey and received three wounds at Plevna. After the war, however, he fell into evil ways. He became entangled in nihilistic plots and he took to gambling. Somewhere about 1880 his entire fortune was dissipated, and he was obliged to resign from the army.

With the equipment of a handsome presence, an unusually complete education and a wide and influential acquaintance, he started for Paris and began his career as a swindler. His apartments became the headquarters for the most reckless gamblers of the capital and Savine was successful in plucking them. Soon afterward, he worked his way into the secret diplomatic service of four Governments at the same time, selling the military secrets of the each to the other three.

About this time he married Mile. Clemence Vervoort. This lady applied for a divorce from him in 1902 on the ground that he had deceived her at the time of their marriage by pretending to be the Count de Toulouse-Lautrec. The French courts upheld the plea, and the French sections of the old house of Toulouse-Lautrec indignantly repudiated Savine. He, however, insists with an earnestness that is not simulated that he is the head of the Prussian branch of the family, which was established at the time of the French Revolution.

Driven from Paris at last, Savine made his way to Bulgaria just after the deposition of Prince Alexander, when Stambuloff was ruling the country as dictator. With a beautiful and clever woman named Madeleine he had been doing several cities of Europe, including Monte Carlo, and in 1886 he found himself with her in Venice. According to his own story of the events which followed, Savine became friendly with Don Carlos, the Spanish pretender, and the latter suggested that Savine make a try for the Bulgarian throne.

With a retinue wardrobe through the kindness of Don Carlos, Savine and Madeleine started for Sofia, and soon arrangements were made with Stambuloff for the carrying out of Savine's desires. The "count" then went to Constantinople to secure the approval of the Sultan and while there was arrested at the request of

the Russian authorities and hustled to St. Petersburg. Of Savine and Madeleine, Stambuloff said in his memoirs:

"There was in Europe at one time an association much more dreadful than that of the Thirteen celebrated by Balzac, for the secret of it was never discovered, and it was composed entirely of two individuals, a man and a woman.

"Imagine two beings full of genius, witty to the tips of their fingernails, knowing everything, able to describe everything, diabolized from everything, believing in nothing, having neither God nor soul nor conscience, learning, speaking all languages, young in spite of Methuselah's experience.

"Suppose that, united by an incomparable admiration, these two beings should have given themselves to each other unreservedly, and you will comprehend what must have been the invincible strength of these two accomplices."

The Russians having got hold of Savine, made short work of sending him to Siberia. He served a term at hard labor at Tomsk and at its close in 1894 was sent to Vladivostok as a colonist. Thence he escaped into Korea and took ship for San Francisco, where he posed as a contractor for the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

In 1895 he beat his way to Chicago, and there he was soon arrested for larceny. He wriggled out of that and came to New York, where he was arrested, charged with assaulting a Tenderloin caddy. The Russian Consul-General made a statement in which he denounced the "count" as an impostor, and the count challenged the Consul-General to a duel as soon as he should be released.

He was acquitted in General Sessions. The Consul-General laughed at his challenge and in 1900 he was again arrested in Chicago on a charge of circulating \$500,000 worth of fraudulent Cuban war bonds. His wife was with him at the time. The arrest was made at the request of the Canadian police. He was taken to Montreal and sentenced to five years in a penitentiary.

He was released on parole, swindled a number of people by another stock and bond deal and was nabbed in New York in December, 1901, just as he was taking a steamer for France. He had no ticket, and only \$38 in his clothes when arrested. His wife had returned to France while he was in the Canadian penitentiary. The Canadian Government had had enough of him and didn't apply for his extradition, so he was released.

In 1903 he was arrested in Lisbon and again turned over to the Russian authorities, against the protest of Germany, which wanted him for a number of frauds in that country. He was started off for Siberia again for writing letters to various people from the Emperor William down, escaped, and in 1905 was arrested at Bremen and taken back to Russia. At this time he had \$50,000 in his possession. He was sent to Siberia for a third time, but again escaped.

Savine attributes the greater part of his troubles with the police of Europe and America to persecution on the part of Russian agents because of his attempt to be chosen Prince of Bulgaria.—New York Sun.

The Supreme Court of Maine recently ruled that that State may lawfully restrict the clearing of privately owned forest land if the public would be injured by such clearing. Louisiana's proposed law goes still further in the same direction and follows the lines of the opinion rendered by the Maine Supreme Court. It is worthy of note that the two States which are first to take this advanced stand in forest protection are 1500 miles apart and have forests not at all alike in character, different soils, climates with few points in common, crops of wholly different kinds, geography and topography of opposite extremes, yet each realizes the immense importance of its forests and how essential their protection is to the continued prosperity of its people.

Moose Ducked the Hunters.
Premier Hazen, who returned home after a canoeing trip on the Tobique River with Surveyor-General Grimmer and members of their families, tells an exciting moose story.

One night Mr. Grimmer, Miss Grimmer, Miss Hazen and two guides were in a canoe with a lantern paddling around to catch sight of a moose. In the shallow water they passed a big bull. The light was so placed that he could not see the canoe. Some one changed the position of the lantern, and it flashed in the animal's eye. Frightened, it sprang for shore, with the result that its fore feet landed in the canoe and the moose brushed against the Surveyor-General. Another bound and the moose was over them and the canoe sank with all hands in the water. It was shallow, so there was nothing worse than a ducking.—St. John Correspondence Toronto Globe.

The tunnel through the backbone of the Cordilleras that will connect Valparaiso with Buenos Ayres is progressing rapidly. Work is pushed day and night. At the present rate it will be opened in 1910.



New York spends more money on education annually than any other city in the world.

New York City has added 4,100,000 to its population in the last century.

A recent German estimate of the world's railroads give them a total length of 563,771 miles.

Buenos Ayres has a population of 1,200,000, of which about eighty per cent. is foreign, the Italians forming about sixty per cent. of the foreign population.

St. Petersburg authorities have issued an order forbidding the students of the cadet corps to read "Sherlock Holmes" and other stories of a similar character.

The ladies of a Methodist church out in Missouri resolved to use the money they had thought of spending on Easter hats toward lifting a \$700 mortgage on the church.

Terrific sand storms occur in the Shantung provinces of China. Around tombs and other places where the soil is not disturbed the annual deposit of these storms can be distinctly traced for ages, layers of an eighth of an inch being the minimum for any season.

South Africans practiced irrigation nearly 400 years ago.

St. Louis reports a case of hypnosis over the telephone at a distance of 150 miles.

Philadelphia is preparing to spend \$6,000,000 on new docks on the Delaware River water front.

Ten billion newspapers were circulated in 1907, and the figure will be considerably raised this year.

The net revenue of the New York City postoffice during the fiscal year just ended was \$11,815,137.71.

A complete clear-out of old lubricant will often change a sluggish automobile to a lively and responsive affair.

Longest prize fight on record occurred at Cheshire, England, in 1825, between Jack Jones and Pat Tunney, 276 rounds, requiring four and one-half hours.

The Indian empire has the cheapest postal service in the world.

E. C. Laston, an Englishman, who has issued a challenge to the world for the memory championship, although only a young man of twenty-three years, is a veritable walking encyclopedia, for he has memorized 40,000 dates of the principal events in the world's history since the creation.

FRAMING IT UP FOR HIM.

Fight in the Street Faked for the Disadvantage of the Unwary.

Three or four small boys waited outside a down-town restaurant the other evening until a man came out who appeared to be a little the worse for food. As he paused at the sidewalk's edge two of the boys squared off and began apparently to fight with the heartiest ill-will.

One was short; the other tall. The little fellow was seemingly having all the best of it, when suddenly the big one ran.

"Come on, get after him," said the inebriate on the sidewalk.

"Bet you a dollar I can lick him," said the big fellow, stopping in his flight.

Then too the other small boys also volunteered to bet with the tipsy man.

He might have made the bets but for a friend who came out of the restaurant just then. The friend knew the game and dragged his man away.

"Just a plant to get a bet down. Then the big fellow will lick him and take the money. They split," he said.—New York Sun.

Fisherman Dodged Swordfish.

The fishing schooner Dorcas was cruising off Georges Thursday when her lookout espied a big swordfish. The man in the crane drove the iron and hooked the fish.

James Wallace went in his dory to get the fish. The swordfish saw him coming and charged directly at him. Wallace had just time to scramble to the stern when the fish struck the boat and the sword penetrated the dory so that nearly two feet of the blade extended through the hole. The fish was rendered helpless, and Wallace knocked it on the head.—Boston Herald.

A "Slick" Answer.

It was a wise young man who paused before he answered the widow who asked him to guess her age. "You must have some idea of it," she said, with what was intended for an arch sideways glance. "I have several ideas," he admitted, with a smile. "The only trouble is that I hesitate whether to make you ten years younger on account of your looks or ten years older on account of your brains." Then, while the widow smiled and blushed, he took a graceful but speedy leave.—Illustrated Bits.

THE WAR ON TUBERCULOSIS.

Methods Used in the Campaign of Education in New York.

Were a war in the United States to take off every year 150,000 persons we would be horrified beyond measure. Yet this is the estimate of the American loss from tuberculosis.

A feature of the State campaign has been a kind of tuberculosis revival meeting, a mass meeting at which the citizens are stimulated by speakers of experience and wide reputation to an awakened social conscience.

Recently the New York committee distributed among the Italian tenement house population 10,000 colored pictures of a canal in Venice. On the borders of the hanging picture are printed simple instructions about the care and prevention of the disease.

Only five years ago the committee on the prevention of tuberculosis of the Charity Organization Society of the city of New York was appointed. What has this committee done?

The handbook and the directory of organizations, sanatoria and hospitals for the treatment of tuberculosis in the United States not only have been of great assistance to pioneers in tuberculosis work, but have had a direct influence in forming public opinion and creating a general interest in preventive measures all over the country. The "don't" card, which in simple language gives suggestions regarding the prevention of tuberculosis, has become a standard form of literature for general didactic use. Its circulation has literally run up into the millions.

Lectures on tuberculosis, mainly stereopticon, given during the five years under the auspices of the committee, have reached an audience of some 150,000 persons. The traveling tuberculosis exhibition, containing models, photographs, charts, etc., has been shown in many places in New York City to probably half a million people.

In the summer of 1907 the committee resuracted for day camp purposes an old city ferry boat, and proved in one summer that at relatively small cost increased weight, good color and a lasting appreciation of fresh air and cleanliness can be gained by consumptive "stay at homes."

Especially important has been the establishment of ten special tuberculosis clinics and the organization of a system of distinct dispensaries, which prevent overlapping and duplication of effort and look toward the ultimate dispensary control of tuberculosis.—Review of Reviews.

Division of Time.

Though the fundamental division of time, the day, appears intuitive to most persons, it is well to remember that in the arctic regions the marking of this division is by no means easy. During several successive months the sun is either always below or always above the horizon, and the only method—a very uncertain one—of distinguishing between day and night is to observe the times of high and low tide. Division of time into months comes from the motions of the moon. Malays, Polynesians and Australian aborigines reckon time exclusively by months and days.

That greater unit of time, the year, characterized by the regular succession of the seasons, has presented the greatest difficulties to exact determination, partly because the seasons are not sharply distinguished in some regions, partly because of the universal desire to establish among the year, month and day simple relations which find no support in the facts of astronomy.

Inhabitants of Venus, if there are any, must find it extremely difficult to establish units of time. Venus always turns the same face toward the sun; so the planet has no day, and the lack of a moon deprives it of a month. Finally, it has no year, for its axis of rotation is perpendicular to the plane of its orbit, and the latter is almost circular.—Chicago News.

The Game of Fly-Loos.

Seven men in a broker's office waiting for something. Nothing turns up. Each takes from his pocket a lump of cut sugar and places it on the table. The new rule is that any player may immerse his lump in any acid, liquor, liqueur, cordial or chemical he thinks most attractive to flies. If a dollar limit is agreed on, each places his bet beside his lump, and the player whose lump attracts the first fly gathers in the pot. You seldom see a game of fly-loos these days with a higher limit than \$10, but \$100 or even \$500 a lump was nothing in more prosperous times. There is no "bookmaking." The police do not interfere. No District Attorney is allowed to butt in. Why, if you are clever with your eyes you may see fly-loos played daily in public eating houses and in lunch clubs. Wherever there is a fly there can be loo.—New York Press.

Enough to Scare Her.

"Bill" Smith is a Bucks County storekeeper, and last spring he came down to Philadelphia to purchase his stock of goods for the summer trade. The goods were shipped immediately and reached his store before he did. Among the lot of cases and packages was a box shaped something like a casket. When Bill's wife saw this one she uttered a scream and called for a hammer. The drayman, hearing her shrill cries, rushed in to see what the trouble was. The wife, pale and faint, pointed to the following inscription on the box: "Bill inside."—Philadelphia Ledger.

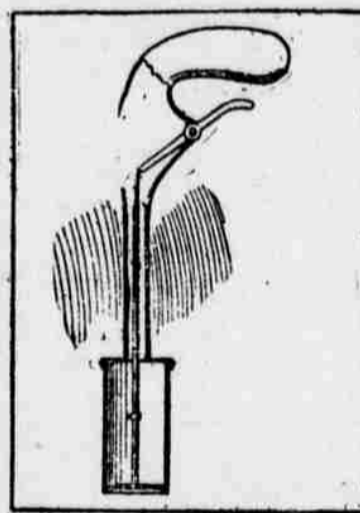
OUR NEW AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY.



HON. DAVID JAYNE HILL, OF NEW YORK.

Novel Ice Cream Server.

An entirely new method of serving ice cream is the recent patent of a New York man. He abolishes the old system by means of a spoon. As shown in the illustration, this ice



cream server is in the form of a cylinder, which is attached to a handle. Sliding within the handle and the cylinder are a piston and a plunger, so devised that the insertion of the instrument into the receptacle containing the ice-cream will cause the receiver to be filled. Pressure upon the piston causes the contents of the cylinder to be expelled. The plunger is operated in a novel manner by means of a trigger which is set in the handle convenient for operation by the fingers of the operator.—Washington Star.

The Frenchwoman's World.

No one who has ever talked to a middle class Frenchwoman can have failed to see that she is interested in nothing outside her own country, and in very little outside her own family. To the female Gallie mind the world beyond French frontiers is a world of barbarians. It is this curious mental attitude which makes our neighbors across the Channel in a sense the Chinese of Europe.—Sketch.

A Young Lady From Town.



Young Lady From Town (who is too frightened to run)—"Lie down, sir; lie down!"—London Weekly Telegraph.

Authority.

"Going to marry Miss Mannish, eh? How did you discover that she was the one girl in the world for you?" "She told me."—Houston Post.



Building a Trestle Bridge at the United States Military Academy at West Point

Democracy Under Foot.

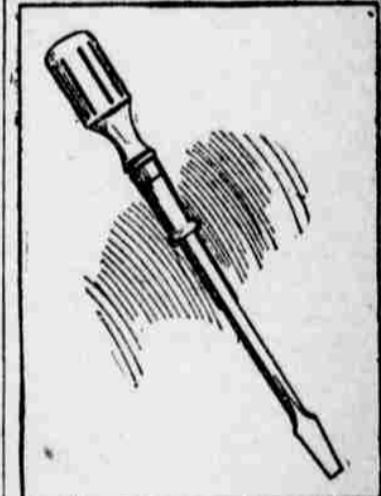
One of the Ohio Congressmen tells the following as indicative of the pessimistic view of the average politician when in the throes of defeat:

The day after the routing of Parker in 1904 one of the Democratic newspapers in the Buckeye State sent out a circular telegram soliciting expressions of opinion from various politicians throughout the State. It is claimed that the quaintest of the lot was the report of one county chairman, expressed in these terms:

"County has gone for Roosevelt by 150. The people are in minority. Heaven help us!"—Philadelphia Ledger.

Insulated Screwdriver.

Working around electric wires with an ordinary screwdriver has been the cause of numerous injuries to the operators. Contact with the live wire, of course, results in a short circuit. How easily such accidents can be averted is shown by a Connecticut man, who has invented and patented the insulated screwdriver shown here. Instead of constructing the handle of wood it is made of non-conducting



material. The latter also incases the metal shank to within a few inches of the end. This allows ample surface for the operator to grasp and operate the screwdriver without fear of being electrically shocked by contact with a live wire, and is thus assured of protection from such accidents.—Washington Star.

The Red Breast's Note.

A deaf man was walking on the railroad track with a friend when an engine rounded a curve behind them and opened its whistle full blast. The deaf man smiled and turning to his friend said, "Listen; that's the first robin I've heard this spring."—The Argonaut.

Style Versus Fashion.

A coat may be fashionable but not stylish, or it may be stylish and not fashionable. Fashion is capricious and ephemeral; sometimes sane and beautiful, but frequently the fad or fleeting folly of the moment. Fashion is for a day; style is for all time.—Tailor and Cutter.

The Chinese guilds of South China are selling stock for the organization of a Chinese steamship company to run to San Francisco or Seattle.