

## REVIVAL OF HARP PLAYING

American Made Instruments Lead the World

ARE VERY EXPENSIVE

More Harps Sold Now Than Ever Before—The Revival Due in Part to the Improvements in Harps—The Instruments Expensive, Whether New or Second Hand.

The advertisement said "new and second hand harps"; and if you could now buy harps second hand, that would seem to indicate that there must be more harps in use and that more people must be buying new harps. A New York instrument dealer said that that deduction was quite correct, that there had been a revival of the harp, and that now there are more harps sold than ever.

This greater demand for harps, he said, began some twelve or fifteen years ago and has continued increasing ever since, with its greatest increase with the last three years. The new favor into which the harp has now come is due in some measure to the general prosperity, but more, perhaps, to the great improvements that in recent years have been brought about in its construction.

While the harp is associated in the mind with ancient times and with Eastern and European countries and with history and romance generally, it seems that the best harps made in the present day are those produced in new and practical America.

The modern harp is in every way superior to the old time instrument; but in its later development the greatest improvements in the harp, contributing to its musical effectiveness and to its utility and endurance as an instrument, have been made in this country; with the result that American harps are now sold not only here but in Europe and wherever lovers of the harp are to be found.

The harp is now frequently heard in orchestras; it is more and more used in churches, and its music is to be heard at weddings, and now it is coming to be used in more and more homes.

It is itself a beautiful object for the eye to rest upon—many of the harps now made are very beautiful—and it is highly decorative in its effect; and the music of the harp appeals to many, and more people than ever before are learning to play upon it.

With the increase in the use of harps there are now more harp teachers. One musical concern in New York has upon its books the names of fifty-four harp teachers, men and women, in New York and Brooklyn, and there are thirty-seven teachers of the harp in the musical union. All told there are now in New York a hundred or more teachers whose pupils include children as well as adults, some of these teachers supplementing their teaching with playing in orchestras or at weddings.

Harps are rather expensive. There are low priced American harps suitable for beginners, but the best American instruments cost from \$650 to \$2,000, and first class harps in perfect condition cost at second hand from \$350 up to \$500 or \$600. But despite these prices harps go not into the homes of the wealthy alone, but as well into the homes of people of more moderate means.

And harps are sold on instalments and rented, like other musical instruments.

### Lovers' Signs.

The young people in Tahiti have a custom of conversing with flowers not unlike the Orientals. If a coolness has sprung up between a young pair, the lady will separate a flower partially down the center.

One half of the split flower is intended to represent the man, and the other half the woman, and it is meant typically to imply that, though they are separate bodies, they are joined together at the heart. If the lover puts the flower in his sister it is a sign that he wishes to preserve her favor, but if he tears it asunder, it is a token that he has lost his regard for her and wishes to be entirely separated.

### Court Room "Exhibits"

What are known as "exhibits" in law cases range from sheets of paper to boilers and other large articles. At various times an omnibus, a motor car and a cab have been on view in the private roadway by the side of the London law courts, and as they could not be brought into the witness box the Judge and jury have had to go out and inspect them in the open. One of the most ponderous "exhibits" of this kind was a large ship's boiler furnace which was conveyed from Swansea for inspection.

### Our Trade in South America.

Why doesn't the United States get more South American trade? The head of the leading department store in Rio de Janeiro says that it was only after several years of effort that he succeeded in getting an American shoe manufacturer to make shoes in the way the Brazilians wanted them. Now the store is selling hundreds of thousands of pairs of these shoes. It formerly sold only English shoes.

## FILIPINO PROGRESS.

Many Improvements Under American Occupation.

When I went to the Philippines in 1900, says ex-Governor Henry G. Ide in the New York Tribune, the islands were in a state of chaos. War was being waged, government there was none, and law and order were unknown quantities. Now human life and property are as safe throughout the archipelago, with the exception of certain districts of Samar and Leyte, as they are within the boundaries of the United States. The horrors of brigandage which are felt in Samar and Leyte are not new. These Pullajanes preyed upon the natives for generations before the arrival of the Americans, and will probably continue to do so until they are exterminated. They do not molest foreigners, as a rule, but choose the safer victims they find among the poor people of the native rural districts.

Practically all branches of the Philippine government are now under the Civil Service. All appointments, except the very highest, are made from lists of eligible persons who have passed a satisfactory examination for the places, and promotions within the service are made upon the same basis. It is a fact that the politics has less to do with appointment or promotion in office in the Philippines than here in the United States. The officials have found Civil Service methods an excellent provision for themselves, and would not under any consideration have any order of things changed to the spoils system.

The educational system established by the United States is first class. There are trade schools established by the government, as well as schools for the teaching of English and the ordinary branches of learning, and many of the municipalities have grade schools of their own which would compare favorably with similar institutions in the states. All told, there are between four hundred thousand and five hundred thousand pupils regularly attending school in the Philippines, and every one of them is learning the English language. The government has sent eight hundred teachers from this country to the Philippines to instruct Filipino teachers in the English language.

In the line of public improvements the government has spent a



Ex-Gov. Henry G. Ide.

tremendous amount of money, and will continue to spend it. About \$4,000,000 has been spent upon the harbor at Manila to make it safe for the largest ocean-going vessels, and larger sums are being spent upon the harbors of Iloilo and Cebu. Many miles of fine roads have been constructed, and bridges have been thrown across many of the rivers to make the highways between the principal towns of value at all seasons of the year.

One of the most important matters taken up by the government was the investigation of tropical diseases which is now being carried on in the laboratory established at Manila. At this laboratory smallpox vaccine and various serums for the cure and prevention of diseases in man and beast are prepared. A serum preparation for the prevention of rinderpest, which threatened to exterminate the cattle of the islands, has proved wonderfully successful and the disease has been practically stamped out. When it appears, here and there at infrequent intervals, a force from the laboratory proceeds to the herds infected and puts an end to the epidemic. By this means many millions of dollars' worth of valuable animals have been saved, and one of the most serious menaces to the prosperity of the islands has been removed. Smallpox was prevalent before the American occupation, but since vaccination has been carried on to an extensive degree throughout the centers of population, the disease has disappeared in its epidemic form.

### Women Total Abstainers.

An English paper states that fifty young unmarried women, belonging to a Roman Catholic Church in "Bermudesey, have vowed to be total abstainers for life, as an act of self-denial and reparation for the prevalence of the drinking habit among their sex at the present time.

### Cultivating Sponges.

Several sponge farms, all of which which are paying concerns, are to be found in the Mediterranean. Until recently sponges have been simply collected from the sea floor, where they have flourished in a wild state, but of late years they have, like oysters, been cultivated.

## WORK OF THE BLACK HAND

Encouraged by Success They Become Bolder

"BIRD" BEARS THREAT.

Expert in Such Cases Explains Why the Criminal Can Flourish and be More Daring—Send Letters to Merchants Demanding Large Sums—Laxity of Our Laws a Factor.

"Black Hand" blackmailers have extended their field of operations. Where formerly only Italians were victims, nowadays Americans complain frequently to the police that they are in receipt of letters demanding money on pain of death or injury, says the New York Herald.

In police headquarters, among the more recent blackmailing letters sent there by the recipients was one demanding \$2,000 from a man whose name the police would not make public.

Why he was selected as a victim, he told the headquarters' staff, he does not know. He also said he would pay no attention to the letter and did not believe the threats made if its demands were not complied with, would be carried out. Details are not obtainable except with regard to the rude drawing which was part of the blackmailing letter.

This is a sketch of a bird having in its beak an oblong object upon which is written "\$2,000," and the bird is hovering over a boxlike receptacle which represents in a crude way the place where the merchant is directed to deposit the money demanded. Around the bird are rows of daggers to indicate its fate if it does not leave the packet of money in the box.

Sergeant Dunn and Detective Sergeant Petrosino, experts in blackmail cases, say that often the attempted extortion is traced to persons near in business or even in family relationship to the intended victims.

The "bird" letter's character seems to stamp it, however, as a "Black Hand" effort, and one of the several which are going outside the classes where that organization finds its thousands of ignorant victims in this city annually.

This case has followed closely on an attempt to blackmail a woman of excellent social position who lives on Madison avenue. A demand for \$1,000 was made upon her and she turned the letter over to the police. Though it attempted to throw a "Black Hand" character into its appearance and demands it was traced to an artisan who had been employed by the woman. She would not hear of prosecuting him, and the police could only use extreme measures to make an impression upon the man. They did so with enthusiasm and success, as he was not heard from again.

The widest field so far covered by the blackmailers outside of their own race is among Hebrews who are owners of small shops.

Men in headquarters say "It is only a question of time when the 'Black Hand' will get Petrosino." He has won high fame in the fighting out of criminals among the Italians but takes a gloomy view of the possibilities of real success in extirpating blackmailing. He says the laws concerning evidence in this country make convictions almost impossible.

They are good laws for Americans, but not for these brigands, whose whole ancestry has practised the same sort of crimes. There are hundreds, "yes," thousands, of Italians who live well together on blackmail in New York. They have a regular system, and not one man out of a thousand who is blackmailed ever reports it to the police. Shopkeepers all over New York are paying tribute of from fifty cents a week to the "Black Hand." They have their lawyers, and when one gets in trouble money, the best legal advice and a horde of men ready to perjure themselves on the witness stand are prepared in his defence. They are the outscourings of Italy, criminals who would never be permitted to land there if they attempted to return. They live by this blackmail, just as their fathers and forefathers have lived since the Bourbon kings ruled in southern Italy.

The "Black Hand" makes large sums out of the great Italian religious festivals. The city should not permit those affairs. When the feast day of a great saint comes on the "Black Hand" goes out and makes every Italian give large sums for the shrine and the altar, and they cost, say, \$1,000. The "Black Hand" collects \$10,000 and keeps \$9,000. They set off fireworks and endanger tenements. It is illegal and very dangerous, but because it is under the cloak of a religious celebration it is permitted.

### Automobile Skidding.

The antics of some of the motor omnibuses on the greasy road surface in London after rain would be amusing were it not for the danger to life involved, says the Engineer. Although skidding can be avoided largely by skilful driving there are occasions when this remark does not apply, and the need of some form of tire which gives a better hold on greasy surface than solid rubber is being sadly felt by omnibus proprietors.

## Fifty-Seventh Annual Statement of the

# Monroe County Savings Bank

33 and 35 State St., Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 1, 1907

RESOURCES		LIABILITIES	
Bonds and mortgages	\$9,689,848.00	Due depositors	\$16,551,490.88
Land contracts	13,700.00	Other liabilities	96,665.26
U. S. and Bonds of states	826,250.00	<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>1,476,818.70</b>
Bonds of cities	3,113,835.00		
County bonds	270,000.00		
Village bonds	41,300.00		
Railroad mortgage bonds	2,793,005.00		
Interest accrued	257,846.22		
Real estate	193,000.00		
Cash in banks and trust companies	656,705.54		
Cash on hand	268,984.58		
	<b>\$18,124,974.34</b>		<b>\$18,124,974.34</b>

JAMES E. BOOTH, President DAVID HOYT, Sec'y and Treas.

Interest will be allowed on all accounts of \$1,500.00 and under at the rate of four per cent.

On all accounts exceeding \$1,500.00 at the rate of three and one-half per cent. per annum on the whole account. Limit \$3,000.00.

## Money to Loan at 4 1-2 per cent.

In sums of \$10,000 and over. All sums less than \$10,000, 5 per cent.

### OFFICERS FOR 1907.

James E. Booth, President  
Rufus K. Dryer, Vice President  
Alexander M. Lindsay, Vice President  
David Hoyt, Secretary and Treasurer  
William B. Lee, Attorney

### TRUSTEES.

Elias S. Ettenheimer,  
Henry A. Strong,  
William Hamilton,  
Thomas J. Dyne,  
William B. Lee,  
Edward W. Peck.  
Pharcellus V. Crittenden,  
Edward Bausch,  
Joseph Michaels,  
William Carson,  
William C. Barry.

Open Saturday Evenings From 5 to 9 for Deposits Only

**Mark in the Santa Fe Trail.**  
The famous old Santa Fe trail is to be marked so that its location will not be forgotten. The school children of Kansas were asked to contribute a penny each to secure suitable markers for this pioneer highway of progress, and 369,166 responded. With this fund the trail will be outlined in an enduring manner from Kansas City to Santa Fe, 300 miles as the caravans made it, the time consumed for the round trip being 110 days. It is believed the trail dates back to 1540, when a Spanish adventurer led an expedition from Mexico as far north as Kansas. But it was not until the beginning of the last century that the American trader and pioneer utilized the long trail that stretched out into the wilderness of the new El Dorado—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**Where Elephants are Stolen.**  
To steal an elephant would seem to be well-nigh impossible. But the British Consul reports that it is a common practice in Siam. There the huge quadrupeds are employed in the teak forests and frequently disappear. One British firm last year bewailed the loss of a dozen and reported that as many more were stolen from their contractors. Another firm lost nine, only three of which were recovered. As the average value of the elephants is about \$1,000 a head, the consul naturally enlarges on the seriousness of the matter. What is annoying about it is that the officials are indifferent and if one of the missing creatures is recovered at all it is only by means of a search party organized for the purpose.

**Pinless Chinese.**  
A member of the Chinese legation, clad in splendid pale hued silks, stood before the Casino at Newport. "Pins," he said, "cause untidy habits. We have no pins in China. The right way to fasten things is with buttons and buttonholes, or with loops and frogs. To fasten things with pins is to make use of an untidy makeshift. To employ pins is to become lazy and slovenly."  
"We have no pins in China. Certain foreign manufacturers shipped millions of them to us in the past, but we sent them back. We had no use for them. We were too neat."—Providence Journal.

**Foreign Educational Schools.**  
A few years ago the foreign missionary schools were practically the only institutions in Foo-Chow offering facilities for the acquisition of Western learning. There are now at least 30 native schools fashioned after the foreign model. Foo-Chow is a city of 600,000 inhabitants and these schools

embraced about 2,000 students. Posters placed all over the city advertise the opening of various modern schools, which are springing up in every nook and corner of the place. Scarcely a week passes without the announcement of the opening of a new school.

**Serfdom in Hungary.**  
In some parts of Hungary serfdom of the old Russian type still prevails. The peasant is obliged to work fifty days each year for his landlord without pay, the time to be chosen by the latter, who is almost sure to choose the season when the poor man can least afford to work for nothing. This system led to an insurrection in 1898.

**From the Cotton Machine.**  
Eli Whitney's cotton gin was responsible for the immense strides taken by King Cotton, yet it has been asserted that this machine was but the practical application of an idea that found birth in the brain of the widow of General Nathaniel Greene of revolutionary fame.

**Increasing Use of Glass.**  
A noticeable increase in the imports of glass at Nabasaki, Japan, is reported by the British consul. It is due, he says to the growing use by the Japanese of window glass for the houses. Most of it is fourth quality and Belgium is the chief source of supply.

**Paving Roads With Straw.**  
The experiment of paving the roads with straw has been tried with success by the farmers of Western America. Every autumn the roads are covered with dust, which, after the heavy rains, becomes thick mud, making travel hard for man and beast. After straw had been laid on the main thoroughfares to a depth of a foot or more traveling became easy.

**Tale of an Animal Trainer.**  
Animal trainers of the old days led adventurous lives. In 1809 all London was talking of a man named Bankes, servant to the Earl of Essex, who had taught his horse to count and perform a number of feats, including mounting to the top of St Paul's Cathedral while "a number of asses," as the historian puts it, "brayed below." Sir Walter Raleigh, in his history, says of Bankes that he "would have shamed all of the enchanters of the world, for whatsoever was most famous among them could never master or instruct any beast as he did his horse." When Bankes took his horse to Rome both were burnt for witchcraft.

**Introducing Hall Caine.**  
In one of Hall Caine's visits to this country a banquet was given in his honor in a certain city and Thomas Nelson Page was invited to introduce the guest of the evening. Just before the toast began Mr. Page's right hand neighbor passed his menu card along the table with the request that Caine should lead the usual "autographing" with his signature. "Good idea," said Page. "I'll send my menu card along too. I've got to introduce Hall Caine in a few minutes and I want to be able to say that I have read something he has written."

**Gum Going in Maine.**  
Doleful reports come from the Maine woods. The spruce gum industry is on the decline, and the prices for the sticky delight are on the rise. Gum that would not have brought more than 50 or 60 cents a pound a few years ago, gum of a gritty, acid, ill-flavored sort, now sells for \$1 and \$1.25 a pound at Bangor and other gum centres. A few years ago the best gum that was ever chewed, fresh from the wind-swept gum trees of the north, sold at 75 cents a pound, and was chewed by the fairest in the land. Bits of Maine were in everybody's mouth, so to speak. Maine spruce gum ranked alongside of James G. Blaine and Thomas B. Reed in making the state famous. What Reed did for the House, spruce gum did for the common people—it regulated the jaw movement. People sank their teeth into Maine spruce gum and ennobling thoughts came perforce. It would be impossible to say how much of the nation's valor has found its origin in the effort to separate working parts of the system from Maine gum. But it is all over, and the gum is becoming as scarce as great men in Maine. —Boston Advertiser.

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**Wedding Superstitions.**  
The Canadian Pacific Railway Company is boasting that it has accomplished the feat of landing British mails in Hongkong in 23 days from the dispatch from London, or nearly a week less than the previous records.

**Corpus Christi Procession.**  
In Orotava, Tenerife, the Corpus Christi procession passes over formal