

The Daily Leader.
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E. W. OWENS, SECRETARY;
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"GALL"

The Huron real estate capital boomers have an assurance which leads one to think they have mistaken their calling. They ought to have been bunco-steerers. That Wolsey movement disturbs them severely. One would think they had a pre-emption right to the whole of eastern Dakota and that this capital contest is a fight between western and eastern interests in this state. So they would make out, and that Huron and all the country east of the river is just one and the same thing. Nobody can have any opinion and no other point any aspiration in the capital way without disloyalty to Huron, without treacherous collusion with Pierre against Huron's sacred aims. If Wolsey wants the capital, is it a crime? Must Pierre be at the bottom of it, simply because the boom chaps at Huron don't like it? Can't somebody speculate in lots and acre property at Wolsey just as well as at Huron? Wouldn't it prove a better speculation if they could or can get anybody to believe them? It doesn't cost them so much to begin and they could unload at a lower figure comparatively and make a bigger profit. That this is a Pierre movement, it is the very climax of folly to imagine. This is said with intelligence about the real facts in the case. Early in the season one of the proprietors of THE JOURNAL was approached by one of the most prominent citizens of Sioux Falls, and the attempt was made to induce the paper to support Wolsey rather than Pierre; on the grounds that real estate speculators had not seized upon this point as they had upon the other two aspirants, and that there were many other things in favor of that locality. But it seems that Huron owns Wolsey, owns Watertown, has bought and paid for Sioux Falls, has a first claim upon every other point in eastern Dakota, and is determined to make out that Pierre has no claim upon any territory but the newly-opened, unsettled reservation west of the river—and even that she, and her mouthpieces would lyingly make out to be a mere barren waste. What a precious lot of thimble-riggers are these fellows who are running the Huron capital campaign!—*Sioux Falls Journal.*

Something new in microbes. It has been discovered that the growth of plants depends on the growth and flourishing of certain microbes in the soil. These microbes are what are added to the earth with organic fertilizers. It is noted that our government chemists experiment with these microbes, find out what they are and then cultivate them, sow them in the soil and watch results. If the experiment is successful then the government can cultivate fertilizing microbes and ship them throughout the country, as garden seeds are now sent. The time may be coming when, instead of hauling and spreading bulky car loads and wagon loads of fertilizers, the gardener will have only to take out his little bottle of microbes and sprinkle them lightly and delicately over the soil, when there will spring up cabbages as big around as a barrel head. This much has been ascertained for certain: To chemical enrichers of the soil must be added a certain quantity of animal or vegetable fertilizing substance, or the chemicals are sterile.

Bernhardt, who openly expressed her contempt for Americans to a reporter not long since, is a fair type of most of the foreign actors, singers and show people who come among us, get all the money they ever do get worth speaking of, and then go away and ridicule us. Bernhardt is not the first foreign theatrical person who has said that her art suffers every time she visits America by association with loud vulgarians. Bernhardt says her friends even tell her that she has caught that horrid "Yankee nasal twang," after her return from among us. If this is true, and if it is true what the others say, why, then, let us get rid of both our nasal twang and our vulgarisms. It is about time. Shall not free and independent Americans with plenty of money be as refined and have as sweet voices as anybody else?

A number of most shocking suicides have occurred in the past few weeks, with details too horrible to particularize. If people will hurl themselves into eternity with all their sins upon their heads, if they will stain their families with lasting disgrace by suicide, let them go about it in a more agreeable manner, choose some way that will not at once urdle the blood and nauseate the stomachs of their surviving friends. The laudanum route is always open.

A Great Telescope.

The increase in size of the telescope lens, like the increase in power of the steam engine, seems to have no limit. We may enjoy the proud distinction of knowing that only in America can a telescope of the largest size now manufactured be made. Only the Clarks, of Cambridge, Mass., can make a telescope that has an object lens forty inches in diameter. It must be admitted, however, at the same time that the glass out of which these magnificent lenses are

constructed cannot be made in America, but all comes from the firm of Pell & Maubach, in Dunk.

In 1879 Boland made a lens four inches across. It was thought then that this was the limit. But mechanical and optical difficulties in the way have been gradually overcome, and the telescope lens has been growing larger and larger, till now the Clarks are about to undertake for the University of Southern California the construction of the monster telescope of the world, with a lens forty inches in diameter. This, it is said, will bring the moon so near that it will not seem more than a hundred miles away.

Meantime the largest telescopes at present in use have all come from the hands of the Clarks. For many years that at St. Petersburg, with its 80 inch lens, also of their make, was the largest. Then they broke their own record, and constructed for the Lick observatory in California a telescope with a 86 inch lens. Now they will break it again, also for California, and construct one with 40 inch glass. It will be mounted in Los Angeles, where the clear atmosphere affords remarkable opportunity for studying the heavens. Meanwhile several years will be required to complete the new glass.

What the Gas Companies Can Do.

The electric lighting business employs today in this country a capital of \$800,000,000. It may be only a question of a short time when gas for illuminating will be supplanted altogether by its more brilliant rival. Meantime the gas companies ought to look ahead to investing in electric light plants if they wish to keep their hold on the public. There is one thing they can do. They can gradually prepare to change from gas to electricity as an illuminant, meantime still manufacturing gas as fuel, which they can furnish cheaply with little change in their plants. Fuel gas means freedom from smoke, ashes, coal and coal carts. It means health, happiness and comfort to every city, even to Chicago. The suggestion will bear careful consideration. Electric lighting will shortly be so perfected that all the objections to it will disappear. And the same gas pipes can take fuel instead of lighting material as now.

Some cases of epilepsy have been cured by modern surgery. There are cases in which there is an injury or disease in some particular portion of the brain. The skillful physician diagnoses the case and locates the seat of the epilepsy in a particular portion of the brain by symptoms referring to that part. Then he puts the patient under an anesthetic, makes an opening in the skull and exposes the diseased portion of the brain. Sometimes there is injury to the skull instead of to the brain. In either case oftentimes the surgeon is able to remove the diseased portion, treat the wound with antiseptic dressings and the patient soon is well again, and frequently is restored wholly, with no return of the terrible affliction of epilepsy.

A New Co-operative Community.

It is often charged that all attempts at co-operative industrial colony making have ended in failure. This, however, is not literally true. There are at present two such settlements—one in Oregon, another at Kaweah, Cal.—both of which claim to be working satisfactorily and prosperously. There have been religious communities that succeeded remarkably as far as amassing wealth is concerned, notably the Shakers and the Economic brethren of Pennsylvania. The trouble with these, however, is usually that there is no cohesive idea among them strong enough to hold them together after the generation that knew the founders and were kindled into enthusiasm by them have passed away. The young generation find their fathers' faiths irksome and lapse to the world. Still there is one perfect example of the co-operative religious community always before the world. It is the Roman Catholic monastic establishment. In their respective institutions both the brethren and sisters constitute perfect co-operative communities. They share the labors exactly alike and have all things in common. They are constantly recruited, moreover, from the ranks of the world.

A new community of world's people hopes to perpetuate itself in an industrial colony that is forming in Lake Charles, La. The members go from Des Moines, Ia. It will be in some respects a Bellamy organization. The members contribute each to the common fund \$500. They intend as far as possible to have a world complete in itself, where "the savage, foolish and wasteful system of competitive industry shall give place to the kindly, rational and more economic system of co-operation." No women will be allowed in the community. No member can dispose of his stock without consent of the company. It is expected that here each will work sufficiently to contribute his share to the maintenance of the community, without imposing upon any the long hours and exhausting labors that are necessary to keep one's head above water among the world's people.

Among the aims of the community are the following: "The production and distribution of wealth; the collection and extraction of raw material; its fashioning, by handicraft and machinery, into commodities; the culture of both animal and vegetable products; the production of food, clothing, shelter, machinery and all articles of convenience, necessity or of luxury; the establishment of proper methods of distribution, transportation and storage; the establishment of just and correct systems of credit, ac-

count and exchange; the building of houses for ourselves and families; the education and just settlement of disputes between ourselves and the practice among ourselves of just systems of social organization; the education of ourselves and our children in proper physical, mental, moral, intellectual and artistic lines, to improve the health, secure the happiness and perfect the well being of every member, and as well to propagate and extend in the world at large the Max of universal and just co-operation."

Mercury and Venus.

It is a favorite fancy of man that the other planets in some way or somehow are peopled with beings like ourselves. The inhabitants of earth are not so beautiful, so perfect or so happy that they should take pleasure in the thought that they are many times repeated on the surface of other worlds than ours, yet that imagining nevertheless affords them infinite satisfaction.

The sharpest eyed astronomer of his century is Signor Schiaparelli, of Italy. He has looked through his telescope and discovered things that hundreds of other astronomers, looking through glasses equally good, have not been able to perceive. Among the most interesting of these are the facts lately announced by Schiaparelli concerning Mercury and Venus. Of Venus especially it has been believed that she had a night and day similar to ours. But the Italian announces that in the case of both Mercury and Venus rotation is synchronous with revolution.

In other words, each of these planets turns on its axis in the same time it revolves around the sun. Thence would follow that the same face of the star would always be turned to the sun, and there would be no alternation of night and day. One side would be everlastingly plunged into deepest darkness, the other would be perpetually illuminated. Probably, however, if people live upon these planets, they are by this time so accustomed to this order of things that they like it.

Mercury has a greatly elongated orbit, and so can enjoy some sort of change as he flies near to or far from the sun. But Venus revolves nearly in a circle. She stands also perpendicular to her orbit, and so has nothing but bald splendor and heat from one year's end to another. Still, however, the fancy that he would like Venus to be inhabited by beings like himself besets man, and he has accordingly found that the extreme brilliancy of this planet probably arises from an atmosphere piled high with clouds and vapor. It is the sun shining upon this atmosphere that makes it so splendid, like a white cloud. The cloudy sphere about the planet tempers the rays of the sun, and so, after all, Venus may have inhabitants somewhat like ourselves on her light side. If so, then many are the dead men's bones that lie along the mid-ridge of her dark side, whose secret explorers have tried to penetrate.

Are Fur Seals a Nuisance?

Living on a fish diet the fur seal is naturally a very brainy animal, and consequently it knows just what are the best fish to suit its purpose. Naturally again, perhaps, as the result of its diet, it selects exactly the fine, delicate food fishes preferred by that other brainy animal, man. Thus the interests of the two clash.

Some of the witnesses examined by the select committee of the senate on our relations with Canada were old fishermen engaged in their occupation, along the Pacific coast. These unsentimental old fellows declared that the worst enemy of food fishes on the Pacific coast was the fur seal, and it would be a real advantage to the food interests of the country when there was not one left. The question is therefore one between filling the stomach and covering the back.

One of the northwest fishermen declared it as his estimate that 40,000,000 pounds of food fish a day would be rather too little to allow for the amount consumed by the seal. Further, there might come a time when it would be necessary in order to save the food fish for the human race to destroy all seals on the coast. If the stories of the same witnesses are true, however, this will not be necessary, as the seals are already going as fast as their worst enemy could desire. Under present methods of wholesale seal murder to which they testified they gave it as their judgment that in five years there would not be a seal left.

Lake Michigan Retreating Northward.

A late number of The Chicago Tribune contains a somewhat remarkable exhibit of the manner in which the coast of Lake Michigan is changing, with respect to the city of Chicago, for the worse. The writer of the paper expresses apprehensions lest the lake move away and leave the town, and thus destroy its chances of outgrowing New York and finally London, and becoming the biggest city in the world. Briefly stated, there is a steady movement as follows: Strong gales from the north and northeast gnaw away the sand, clay and gravel from the bluffs north of Chicago and drive them southward. At the point of the lake where Chicago is situated they stop, arrested partly by the great piers and breakwaters there, and begin to build out new land into the lake. This motion, year after year, makes always new land in front of the city on the lakeside, and drives the avenues and business houses there inland. In order to keep its lake front Chicago must, like the coral insect, continue building on

and on and onward, to keep from being stranded high and dry. The writer, speaking of the wearing away of the northwest shore under the northern gales, says:

The steady particles and the smaller pebbles, too light for diffusion and not heavy enough to remain in place, begin their steady march southward under the compulsion of the littoral current, and bring up finally on a bar across some river mouth, or an accretion on the windward side of some pier, or finally on the southern curve of the lake, which is creeping northward at a rate which will within a century or so seriously threaten our standing as a lake city.

This movement is a grand one, and the impending doom of Chicago, as proved by the extent of accretions formed north of our north pier, and by the nearness of sand dunes piled up at the south end of the lake, the giant enemies to be faced by our distant descendants.

Careful measurements taken at a point about seven miles north of Chicago, where the bluff is about fifty feet high, showed a rise of land between the years 1828 and 1838 of thirty-six feet, or six feet per year. The place did not look peculiarly exposed, and there seemed no reason to regard the local action as especially strong at that point. Suppose the whole extent of west shore bluff of Lake Michigan to have been subjected to similar erosion, and we see at once what vast physical and geographical changes must have been wrought upon the lake and the surrounding country in the course of ages.

Lake Michigan is the one grand topographical feature of the city distinguishing it from other cities, tempering its climate and causing the health giving breezes which remove atmospheric impurities. All considerations of public policy demand that further encroachments on the lake should be forbidden by the state of Illinois, the "Sovereign Ruler and Lord Paramount" of this great waste. We need the water more than we need the land. There is plenty of territory waiting to be annexed between the western limits and the Mississippi river.

The Outdoor School.

"In summer when the days were long" some genius who ought to be immortalized devised the American outdoor school. It has grown and prospered till it has become a lever for improving and making happy and healthy a hundred thousand people every year. Something classic and beautiful there is in this thought of instruction under the trees and sky, by the waters, where the living green of the earth meets the eye, and the sweet, mysterious influences of nature steal into man's soul and give him back what he lost when he left her for life in cities. So Socrates gave his beautiful thoughts to his followers; so all great teachers have imparted their wisdom to mankind—even to one who was greater than all the rest—in the open air, under the shadow of grand trees, with the birds and gentle wild creatures for company.

In such spots as these the fevered unrest and agony of life drop away from us all. Here it is fitting we should hear the grand results of science, and here, accordingly, the teaching grows year by year wider and more far reaching. The most eminent specialists in different branches of learning now give instruction in the American summer school. Every branch is brought within its scope, and those who derive most benefit from it are often teachers themselves, who thus use their bravely earned vacation in preparing themselves still more thoroughly for their work. A single one of these Chautauqua summer circles is mentioned at which 600 teachers are in attendance.

The armies of Europe are adopting new rifles throughout. They are smaller and lighter than the old, are used with smokeless powder and will send a smaller ball further than the old guns did. One of these new guns, which will carry a ball two miles, has been presented to the United States war department with the compliments of the British secretary of war. A friendly message is engraved upon the silver mounted case which contains the rifle. It is to be hoped that these new British rifles will never bring any other than a friendly message to us.

The discovery of the spores or germs in the air that fasten upon a wound and cause inflammation, the additional discovery that there are antiseptic dressings which will prevent these spores from reaching the wound, and thus prevent fever and enable the injury to heal directly, is probably the greatest achievement in surgery in the latter half of the Nineteenth century.

One day there come reports that the little Spanish American republics have concluded a solemn peace, the next that they are at it again, fighting tooth and nail, and engaged in their old trade of assassinating presidents. They will never have steady peace till all the men who want to be president have been killed, apparently.

Would it not be strange if electricity should work a revolution in the fishing industry, too? It was first discovered by scientific men engaged in studying submarine life that when an electric light was lowered into the water inside of a fish net a great number of fish were caught. Fishermen are beginning to take advantage of this discovery. The verdict has been rendered that the electric light has a great field in the fishing trade. It promises to do away with most of the present cumbersome and expensive outfits that the fishermen of the present find necessary. It looks as if the time might soon come when all a fisherman will need to do will be to fasten electric lamps inside his net and then row over the fishing grounds.

By the aid of powerful electric lights fixed up ahead of the bows of ships their lookouts are now enabled to see a considerable distance even in a fog. By means of this appliance the trip through the Suez canal, that used to require several days, has been shortened to twenty-four hours. The light enables the passing steamers to avoid collision.

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—INCORPORATED IN 1867—

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