

THE PUBLIC QUESTION BUREAU.

Under the heading THE FARMERS' ADVOCATE will publish answers to all reasonable questions that may be asked by its subscribers or regular correspondents. All communications for this department must be made in writing on or before Monday of the week in which they are intended to be published. Owing to necessary lack of space the department must be limited to one-half column per week, and no attention will be paid to questions which are not in writing or coming from others than regular subscribers or correspondents or from parties who do not give their names.

EDEN, August 2.—Will you give a full list of all the members of Harrison's Cabinet and the states they lived in before they went to Washington. Please also state what position General Clarkson holds in Washington. A. TEACHER.

ANSWER—President Harrison's Cabinet is composed of the following gentlemen: James G. Blaine, of Maine, Secretary of State; Wm. Windom, of Minnesota, Secretary of the Treasury; W. Noble, of Missouri, Secretary of the Interior; Redfield Proctor, of Vermont, Secretary of War; B. F. Tracey, of New York, Secretary of the Navy; J. M. Ruak, of Wisconsin, Secretary of Agriculture; John W. Mendenhall, of Pennsylvania, Postmaster General; and W. H. Miller, of Indiana, Attorney General. J. S. Clarkson, minus the general, is First Assistant Postmaster General.

BROOKLYN, August 4.—Is it true that the constitutions of the new states of Wyoming and Idaho, contain provisions for women's suffrage? A. M. B.

ANSWER—The constitution of Wyoming does, but that of Idaho does not.

WORKING, August 1.—It has been claimed that General Grant, when President in 1873-4, vetoed the equalization bounty bill. Is such the fact. SOLDIER.

ANSWER—Grant did not veto the bill because it did not pass. Had it passed he would, doubtless, have vetoed it because the measure was a hardship on the farmer and did great injustice to a large number of soldiers.

FAIRBANKS, August 1.—What is the value of all farm property in the United States? X. Y. Z.

ANSWER—The tenth census of the United States placed the value at \$10,197,000,776. It is now estimated at \$12,000,000,000.

MAPLE GROVE, August 2.—Can you inform us, through your question bureau, at what time the seat of the national government was removed to Washington? JOHN X.

ANSWER—In 1800.

O. J. T. of Haram, is respectfully informed that THE FARMERS' ADVOCATE does not care to take a hand in gambling of any kind and will not decide bets.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY.

Expressions on Various Topics by Men Who Know Whereof They Speak.

An Independent—I think as the independents are chiefly the agitators of reform, it would seem reasonable that they should also take the lead in practical examples. The platform calls for economy and reduction of salaries and compensation of public officers in general. Now, let the independent candidates make the move in this thing. The subject would be a proper one to take up at your convention, gentlemen. Say if you prepare to consider the matter, agree upon a proper scale of reductions and offer yourselves for service on this line, you would show to the people in a tangible way that you are in earnest about the matter and willing to practice what you preach. You would reach the desired result in this way much easier and with much more certainty than through any other channel.

P. J. Nelson—Your paper is much better than I had expected it would be before you started. I like it first rate, but I don't want to see it stopped. We farmers have no use for him. He has been there now so long and he has not done us one bit of good—we might just as well keep him at home. No, no; if there is not a change made in public matters, I don't want to stay in this country. I would rather go back to Norway and that is the worse country in the world.

W. Wimer—I am a republican and I'm afraid to let it be known where I stand. I shall be a candidate for treasurer in the republican convention and if I get the nomination, all well and good, if not, I can stay on the farm and raise potatoes for those who do get it. I am not going to beat around the bush about this matter one particle and I'd rather be defeated on my platform than win on some one's else. I honestly believe the Alliance made a mistake when they went into that movement for if they had kept back one year longer, it would have swept the whole country before it. No, I'm not going to sneak around for an office in the independent convention if I don't get the republican nomination. I'm not that kind of a man.

P. B. Egan—I see in your last issue the raking up gave the independent state central committee for that capital deal. That was just right, but I don't just understand the thing—now we don't have to fill out those blanks if we don't want to and what can they accomplish by it.

T. J. Leavitt—I would much rather see us go down on the right kind of principle than win on a wrong one. We can afford to do it.

J. Westbury—Our party is gaining every day. I want to see Henry Barnum nominated for sheriff on the independent ticket. There is not a more honest and more competent man in the county, and he is the strongest candidate we could put up. In our township they'll all vote for him, democrats, republicans and all. And it is very important that we be careful whom we nominate this fall.

Henry Barnum—Yes, they've urged me to run on the independent ticket and of course as that is the party I shall go with hereafter, I have consented to do so. But if they can find a better candidate, all right, I shall not be in the least disappointed. I have held office before and it's always been a dead loss to me and possibly it might be so with this one. I would not give a man one dollar to support me if I knew his support would give me the office.

WORKING WAIFS.

It is understood that Sam Gerber has

been quite sick since he arrived in Germany.

Threshing has commenced and a fair yield is reported from all grain that has been threshed.

Hon. H. J. Frank has been on the sick-list the past week. The terrible heat appears to have been too much for him.

Our merchants all report business picking up and from present indications our town will have a lively trade in all branches of business this fall.

Will Shoeman and wife have adopted a fine boy. Will is as proud as the boy will be when he gets big enough to wear red top boots. Cigars are generally in order on such occasions.

Working is booming, probably in anticipation of the prospects of getting the county seat. Several substantial buildings will be erected this fall, a meat market and a hotel among the number.

The people of this county should remember such men as Henry Bradshaw and H. J. Frank in making selections for office this fall. They did good work in the legislature last fall and their efforts are remembered in this locality.

Working has a little political slate fixed up that will play a prominent roll in the republican convention. From the looks of the thing it is a foregone conclusion that some of our ambitious neighbors will come home disappointed on the 20th.

F. A. Leavitt has been taking a rest from his alliance work this week and has been engaged in fixing up his business around the farm. Mr. Leavitt is a number one farmer, a fact which goes a good ways towards a suitable candidate for congress, and the farmers of this country will consult their own interests in supporting him for that office.

I see that the two Canton papers are keeping up the fight for Gifford for Congress and from the looks of things they mean what they say—"Gifford for Fight." They will have to fight if they get him to congress again against the efforts of the farmers. The truth is, Gifford lost the confidence of the people here when he voted against the original package bill.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The Regular Term Begins, Monday, August 18, and Continues Two Weeks.

CANTON, S. D., July 22, 1890.—Fellow Teachers and Co. laborers: A session of the Lincoln county Teachers Institute has been announced to convene in Canton, Monday, August, 18th, at 10 o'clock a. m. for a two week's session which we trust will be gladly received by both teachers and patrons of our public schools. Prof. Hood of Aberdeen is to conduct the institute assisted by Prof. Spafford and Miss Hattie Taylor of Canton and Miss Mary Barber of Duncan, Buffalo county. The writer also expects to contribute whatever he may be able.

No pains will be spared to make the session a success in every particular, and no teacher we feel can afford to be absent, a truth which no doubt, all duly appreciate and which will be likely to secure a good attendance. The purposes of institutes are not always well understood. Let me state briefly that in my opinion their purpose is first to broaden the views of teachers, and second, to awaken public interest in educational work. For this reason our institutes should be attended by district officers and citizens generally. The work is co-operative, and where one class only, that engaged in teaching, seeks to improve, progress is necessarily one sided and slow. Schools, like streams of water never rise much above their fountains. Teaching is never much in advance of public demand. It is as far to say that the school is what the people make it as to say, as the teacher, so is the school. The school building will accommodate a large number of spectators and we hope to see many present every day.

Several evening lectures are promised and we trust they will be kept in mind and well attended. People should come in from the country to attend those lectures.

Cordially Yours, C. B. ISHAM, County Superintendent.

Knew Himself.

It takes more than a knowledge of arithmetic, sometimes, to do a "sum in subtraction."

"Do you know anything about arithmetic, Uncle 'Rustus' said a merchant to an applicant for work.

"Yes, sah."

"Well, if I were to lead you five dollars and you promise to pay me one dollar a month, how much would you owe me at the expiration of three months?"

"Five dollars, sah."

"I'm afraid you don't know much about figures."

"No, sah; but I spects I know all about Uncle 'Rustus'."

A Contemner's Bad Record.

Temperance advocates will be shocked to hear the record of a Russian who has just died at Fern of the respectable age of 105.

Since he was 15 years old he has gone to bed dead drunk every night. He had only been ill once in his life, when he fell asleep in the street during a fit of intoxication and his nose and ears were frozen.

A Curious Brazilian Custom.

They have a curious custom at the burial of unmarried women in Brazil.

The coffin, hearse, and the liveries of the driver must be bright scarlet, the four white horses drawing the hearse must be covered with scarlet nets, and scarlet plumes must deck the horses' heads.

Tanker Menaces.

In the office of a wholesale silk and thread house of Boston, a small, half-faded and half-clothed boy was engaged to do the errands, carry bundles and to be the slave generally of the employees, for twelve hours each day, at the salary of \$2 a week.

He was a clean, bright, willing boy, and well worth the money he earned. The first day he arrived he had no lunch, and the employees marveled to see the proprietor hand the child 10 cents, for although he is a well-to-do man charity is not in his line. When Saturday night came and the child received his pittance, the proprietor told the bookkeeper to deduct the 10 cents. I am pleased to say that the bookkeeper personally supplied the deficiency, and the child now has another situation where he is happy, and has, as he told me a few days ago, "a whole hour to eat his lunch every day."

IN A HOG'S STOMACH.

Here is a Very Strange Story or a Most Ingenious Lie.

A Winston County, Alabama, peddler tells a story which, if not true, evinces an imaginative power which no one would ever suppose him to possess.

A farmer named Greene while in town was persuaded to buy a few Chinese lily bulbs, which will grow if placed in a bottle or jar. They resemble in appearance a diminutive steer's head, and sell on the streets for a mere trifle.

Farmer Greene took a fancy to them and bought a dozen of them. When he reached home he had no bottle or jar to put them in and threw them into the hog lot with a bucket of spoiled potatoes.

A few days afterward one of his largest hogs became sick, refusing food, and lying down in a corner grunted as if in constant pain. No signs of disease could be discovered, but a few days after the hog died. The cause of death was discussed in the usual family council around the supper table, and it was finally concluded best to cut up the hog and find out, if possible, whether or not the disease was contagious.

This was done, and the cause of death was instantly apparent. The animal had swallowed a Chinese lily bulb whole, and there was sufficient moisture in the stomach to cause it to grow. The bulb had not only sprouted, but had leaves had actually formed. The animal was not adapted to the purposes of a flower garden and died.

SMUGGLING JEWELS.

The Duty Is of No Use, They Are So Easily Carried.

Commenting upon evidence in a recent smuggling case tried in San Antonio, Texas, District Attorney Evans told his experience in the trial of men charged with bringing goods across the border without having paid duty.

"The government," he said, "might as well abolish the duty on jewelry and precious stones, so far as value along the Mexican border is concerned. Great quantities of such are brought into this country, but it is very seldom that duty is paid upon them. Of course the smaller the article is the easier it is to escape detection. Fine jewelry and precious stones are safely smuggled on this account and quite a number of the smugglers are known to the custom house officials, who, however, cannot detect them."

"Men and woman almost known to have jewelry in their possession are stopped and searched, but nothing valuable is revealed. A thousand dollars' worth of precious stones might be hidden under a plaster. False pockets in clothes and wearing apparel are common. I do not believe that as many precious stones as formerly are brought from Mexico, but there is plenty of Mexican jewelry smuggled into the United States."

Too Recent.

Juliette, a little girl who was making what her parents regarded as remarkable progress at school, was asked one day by her Uncle George:

"Well, Juliette, what study do you like best?"

"Oh, history, Uncle George, I'm getting along splendidly in that."

"Yes," said her mother, "Just ask her a question and see how much she knows."

"Well," said Uncle George, "tell me the story of Adam."

Juliette looked up with surprise.

"Adam," she said, "Why I haven't got as far as that yet!"

The Czar's Fear of Poison.

The Czar is such a state of apprehension that he now only eats food which has been prepared in a kitchen that adjoins his library. The cook is French and he works under the superintendence of the Empress, who passes a great deal of her time each day in preparing her husband's food. Every conceivable precaution is taken to protect the Emperor against poison, and he has ceased to eat eggs since somebody discovered that they can be poisoned by the insertion of a needle, which does not perceptibly break the shell.

Centenary of the Tug Nat.

The tall hat celebrates in Europe its one hundredth birthday. The simple Quaker hat of Dr. Franklin was the first cause of the abandonment of the three-cornered style. The high hat in its early days was looked on as a symptom of a politically progressive spirit, and was consequently the object of much persecution on the part of the police. In Germany and Russia they were forbidden under heavy penalties, but early in the forties they at last became a trade-mark of respectability.

Overwork.

The great labor movement, though it is a serious thing, is not without its humors.

It is said that, following a strike in a cider-vinegar factory in a Maine village, the wag of the place was asked:

"Why did the men strike up at the vinegar factory?"

"I understand," said he, "that it was because the cider was working more than ten hours a day."

A Prescription.

Many persons are troubled with excessive perspiration about the face and arms. A remedy for this is almost meat or pistachio meal. This may be applied to the face dry or in the bath. It gives a peculiar velvety softness to the skin and is exceedingly agreeable. There are few things more unpleasant than an oily complexion, and any simple means to overcome it certainly deserves to be commended.

RUSSIAN SUPERSTITION.

The Story of an Alleged Curative Spring and Two Frogs.

An old superstition, with specially Russian characteristics, has of late been manifested in Klisheva, a village in the government of Moscow. At the beginning of June two peasants dug up a spring of water at that place. An old woman dreamed that the newly discovered spring possessed curative properties, and she told her dream to the laborers of a factory near by. Thereupon masses of people, mostly women and children, began flocking around the healing waters. As the spring did not yield enough water to satisfy them all a fence was built around it, and a cross was erected on the spot. Several peasants of the village stand inside of the fence and deal out the water in bottles to the applicants, each of whom deposits a coin at the foot of the cross. The money is collected by the elder of the village every evening and kept for commercial purposes. At the foot of the cross there stands a bottle with two dead frogs in it who had come to their untimely end in a peculiar manner. Before the concourse of sick persons around the spring was great, some of the peasants caught two perfectly healthy women, told them that they were dangerously ill, and pinning them to the ground, made them drink the healing waters until they fainted. When the poor women were picked up from the ground the two frogs were found in their garments and were declared to be devils driven out by virtue of the holy water. They are now exhibited in the bottle as a sign of the wondrous properties of the spring. The rush of people to that place is so great now that the authorities have great difficulty in keeping them in order. An attempt on the part of the authorities to cover up the springs was met with loud protests by the villagers and the duped masses around the place, and had, therefore, to be abandoned.

Exact and Truthful.

Tommy is a very literal boy. He is quite capable of standing on the burning deck, like that other lad who interpreted a command according to the letter of the law, until he should be roasted and toasted to a crisp.

"Don't take off your rubbers, Tommy," said his mother one morning, as she left him running about the wet lawn, and that night when she returned from her visit, and looked into Tommy's room, a strange sight met her gaze. The new Casablanca was fast asleep in his little bed, and from beneath the clothes were sticking two black feet bedaubed with mud.

Tommy had not taken off his rubbers! How was it possible to corrupt so obedient a child by telling him that he should have used his judgment?

It was well understood in the family that the children are not to eat cake, Tommy, visiting at an aunt's, remembered this on the first morning of his stay.

"Will you have a piece of Johnny-cake?" asked Aunt Laura.

"I can't if you call it that," said he, honestly. "I'm not allowed to eat cake, but I could if you named it corn bread."

One morning the little boy's mother chanced to touch his hand, and was surprised to find it icy cold.

"Why, Tommy!" said she, beginning to chafe it. "Are your feet like this?"

"No'm," said he, a little surprised. "My feet are larger, and have shorter fingers on 'em, and more meat. Not at all like it, mamma!"

Must Attend to the Baby.

An amusing scene happened in the Sullivan County, New York, Court house the other day. The wife of one of the parties to a suit was on the witness stand, and had entrusted her baby to the care of another woman, who was tending it below. The child became restless after a while and announced its desire to see its mother in notes of unmistakable pathos, which might be traced to hunger. After trying in vain to quiet the child the woman came up the stairs and into court, the baby all the time yelling at the top of its lungs. Judge Thornton jumped up and cried: "Take that child out of court." The woman addressed heeded not the command, but continued to advance, and holding the youngster out to its mother over the head of a prominent lawyer, exclaimed with fire flashing from her eye: "Court or no court, this child has got to be attended to."

Wasted Eloquence.

A judge in a neighboring State once intervened to prevent a waste of words. He was sitting in chambers, and seeing from the piles of papers in the lawyers' hands that the first case was likely to be hardly contested, he asked: "What is the amount in question?"

"Two dollars," said the plaintiff's counsel.

"I'll pay it," said the judge, handing over the money: "call the next case!"

He had not the patience of Sir William Groat, who, after listening for a couple of days to the argument of counsel as to the construction of an act, quietly observed when they had done: "That act has been repealed."

The Minister Didn't Call.

A Springfield pastor who tried to make some pastoral calls when the thermometer ranged ninety-five degrees in the shade, rang the bells at a number of houses, but received no response. Seeing a boy standing in front of one house he asked him if his mother was at home, when the boy said: "Yes, but I guess you'll have to see her in her nightgown, for I heard her say at dinner it was all she was going to wear this afternoon." The minister concluded to defer his call.

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