GETS A LIFE TERM.

Chicago Jury Convicts Constantine of Murdering Mrs. Gentry.

Frank J. Constantine was convicted in Chicago Saturday night of murdering Mrs. Arthur Gentry and his sentence fixed at imprisonment for life. After battling for two and one-half hours over the fate of the prisoner the jury delivered a finding of guilty, and fixed his punishment after the shortest murder trial in the history of Cook County.

Foreman Krogness said: "There was never any doubt about Constantine's guilt, but owing to the circumstantial evidence the penalty of life imprisonment was agreed upon by the jury."

The verdict, it is reported, was a keen disappointment to those in the courtroom who had followed the course of the trial. They expected a death sentence. Constantine chewed gum and said nothing when the verdict was read.

Constantine's story on the witness stand was the most dramatic, the most sensational narrative ever recited under oath in a Chicago court. He weaved a story into a manifestly weak defense. He swore he did not kill her. He swore that he stood by while she cut her own throat from ear to ear. He swore that she had confided to him her unhappiness; that she had begged him to take her away—to go abroad with her; that he had refused; that she slashed herself with a razor. He

explained his flight by the fear that he would never be able to prove his innocence—by the panic that seized him when he realized how all the circumstances pointed against him.

The story was lucid enough, but Constantine made a poor impression as a witness. He contradicted himself several times as to dates, seemed greatly ill at ease at moments and was seldom convincing. A bootblack, as he admitted himself to be, he still protested from the witness stand that the blood of royalty in his veins.

And thus the curtain is drawn upon a tragedy the like of which Chicago has not chronicled in many a year. It was one of such brutality as to shock and awe society. Constantine, almost a member of the Gentry family, who had represented himself to be the son of a millionaire in New York when as a matter of fact he was a profligate ex-bootblack, deliberately slashed to death the woman who had befriended him and who had housed him and lent him money. Then he fled.

It was a long and persistent hunt. Finally he was captured when about to sail for Italy, the home of his ancestors, where he claims some of them were members of the royal family. He had gone to Italy immediately after the commission of the crime, had been swept by the winds of idleness and the remorselessness of ghosts into other lands, and finally, impelled by that intangible instinct that belongs to all criminals, had to return to the country of his crime.

Finding the police determined to have him, that the memory of that tragic January day had not been forgotten, fearful lest he be apprehended and brought back to the bar of justice, he was about to sail away again, when he was arrested.

Brought to trial, in an effort to gain his liberty, he defamed the character of his victim, a bride of six months.

MILLIONS ARE SAVED.

Federal Scientists Do Not Patent Their Inventions.

Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture gave out the statement recently that millions of dollars are saved each year by scientists in the employ of the United States government. This fact alone, he maintains, should show the public the value of the experiments being conducted each day. If the scientists patented their inventions, they might become wealthy, but all they get for their reward is the passing fame attained by reporting valuable finds.

Among the patents which have attracted national attention are in relation to the labeling of fresh meats that have passed government inspection, the use of fieldspathic rocks as fertilizers and the prevention of corosion of fence wire and rusting of iron and steel generally.

Secretary Wilson estimated that the discovery of an ink which may be used in stamping carcasses and which will not stain, spread or penetrate the meat, will in itself save the government between $300,000 and $400,000 next year.

LABOR TROUBLES.

What Secretary Straus Has to Say on Important Subject.

Oscar S. Straus, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, has nothing to say concerning the status of the telegraphers' strike, but he expresses himself plainly as not regarding compulsory arbitration as the solution of difficulties between capital and labor. He believes that different cases require different remedies, and that there is no hard and fast rule by which differences that arise between capital and labor can be adjudicated.

OSCAR S. STRAUS.

"The importance of establishing good relations between capital and labor," he says, "is recognized in all civilized lands. Economic conditions within a country, especially such as arise between industrial forces, have a far reaching effect and are often the cause of embarrassing international relations. More than one-half of the troubles in this world arise from misunderstandings. Especially is that true when classes are concerned, such as are brought about through labor disturbances growing out of disagreements between employers and wage earners. No one has recognized the importance of promoting industrial peace, both with a view of preserving continued peace at home and avoiding conflicts abroad, better than President Roosevelt, who devoted the world's peace prize awarded him last year for the promotion of industrial peace.'

Secretary Straus believes the trouble between Japan and America on the Pacific to be more economic than racial. He says that what might be called a Japanese situation does not exist.

All Around the Globe.

Theatrical combine of $100,000,000 capital formed.

The world's population is estimated at 1,480,000,000 persons.

The decline of the tea trade is viewed with alarm in China.

Ten million people have opened accounts with the postoffice savings banks of England.

Nevada seems destined to forge to the first place in the production of precious metals.

The government bureau of plant industry finds that ground granite makes excellent fertilizer.

Colorado, Montana and Utah have shown a decided decline in the production of precious metals.

There is an average of one child killed every three days in New York City by being run over by vehicles.

Missouri Pacific Railroad Company claims in court bill that federal and not State authority is in control of common carriers engaged in interstate commerce.

A report is being circulated in Washington that President Roosevelt, dissatisfied with the peace conference at The Hague, will call a conference of his own, assembling the ambassadors of the powers accredited to Washington to take up great questions.

Seventeen of the largest manufacturers of pictorial postal cards in Austria and Germany have combined to raise the price of their production 6 to 7 per cent, and their customers, numbering about 700 wholesale firms, have resolved to make the retail dealers bear this advance.

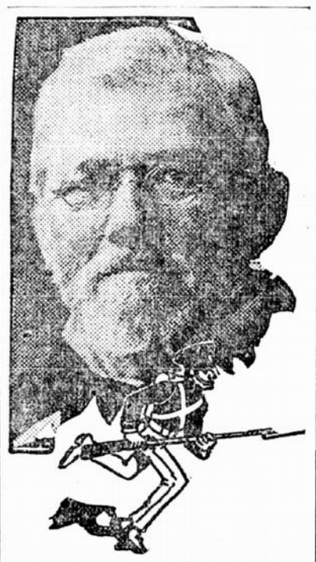
WAR VETERANS CELEBRATE.

Only 520 of Gen. Scott's Mexican War Soldiers Are Still Alive.

There are in the entire country just 520 veterans of the Mexican war, and these recently celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the fall of the City of Mexico in San Francisco. On that occasion the grizzled warriors recalled the tragedies that gave to the United States a vast portion of her territory.

Major Edwin A. Sherman of Oakland, Cal., is the president of the veterans' association. In speaking of the Mexican war Major Sherman said:

"Gen. Winfield Scott, the American commander, fought and won the battles of Contreras, Churubusco, El Molino de



MAJOR E. A. SHERMAN.

Rey, Castle of Chapultepec, Vera Cruz, and last the City of Mexico. The total American loss was 3,204, equal to one-half of the army that captured the City of Mexico.

"By the treaty that closed the Mexican war, a territory over 700 miles north and south and 900 miles east and west, or 630,000 square miles, were ceded to the United States. California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico were added to our national domain and California saved from becoming a British province, by sale for $50,000,000 to pay the Mexican debt.

"For these reasons as well as others the 520 survivors of the Mexican war celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the crowning victory of our arms directed by our matchless general, Winfield Scott, under whom we fought and achieved such glorious results."

Candy and Alcohol.

Dr. A. C. Abbott, health commissioner of Pennsylvania, has advanced the theory that "the appetite for alcohol and the appetite for candy are fundamentally the same, the choice of one or the other indulgence being determined by the temperament of the individual." In support of this, the fact is cited that there has been a falling off in the amount of alcohol consumed per capita during the past few years, and a material increase in the consumption of sugar in its various forms. It is further stated that chemically sugar and alcohol are similar, and their physiological action is in part, the same, and both to some extent supply the demand for a concentrated and quick acting fuel for the body. Much of the prejudice which formerly existed against the use of candy has disappeared, and it is now used, especially in the form of chocolates, by exhausted business men, and even by soldiers on the eve of battle.

Life on Mars Confirmed.

Prof. Percival Lowell of Harvard, in a communication to Nature, a British scientific publication, declares that the observations made during the recent opposition of the planet Mars tends to establish the fact that the planet is at present the abode of intelligent constructive life. Speaking of the observations of the polar caps, which were begun three months and a half before the opposition occurred, it was possible to catch the south polar cap at its maximum and the northern at its minimum extent. Prof. Lowell is satisfied that he was able to observe development of the canal system in the antarctic and south temperate zones.

He says it is a direct conclusion from this that the planet is at present the abode of intelligent beings. He adds that the theory of such life was not on a priori hypothesis on his part, but was the result of observations now fully confirmed. On the photographs taken already he has counted fifty-six canals, and it appears now certain that the positioning of points of the Martian topography will be realized. Three of the photographs are published in Nature and show various canals hitherto unknown to European astronomers.

BIG OIL TRUST PROFITS.

New York Hearing Shows Profit of $490,315,934 in Seven Years.

The hearing before Special Federal Referee Ferriss of Missouri in the government suit to dissolve the great oil combination was begun at New York, with Attorney Frank B. Kellogg representing the government and John G. Milburn and others as counsel for the Standard Oil Company. Mr. Kellogg submitted in evidence statistics compiled by the Standard Oil officials, showing that the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey had earned profits in the last seven years aggregating $490,315,934, and that during the same time dividends had been paid to the amount of $308,359,403. These profits came from the plants owned by the parent company, as well as from those of the subsidiaries controlled by it. This was the first time in the history of the oil trust that a record of its earnings entire had been made public. Acting Controller Fay of the Standard said there were nineteen subsidiary companies, and gave their names. The evidence is being taken for use in the Circuit Court at St. Louis, where the dissolution suit, under the anti-trust law, is to be prosecuted. Mr Kellogg, among other things, wanted the company to produce the minutes of the various meetings at which the absorption of smaller companies was arranged, but the counsel for the company was inclined to resist.

The examination of Charles M. Pratt, secretary of the trust, brought out the fact that the parent company had transferred its $4,000,000 holdings in the Waters-Pierce Oil Company of Texas to a son-in-law of Vice President Archbold from 1904 to 1907, during the ouster proceedings brought against the subsidiary by the State of Texas, and that only $125,000 in cash was paid for the stocks, the remainder being in the form of a note which was never fully taken up, the profits of the Waters-Pierce company going toward the payment of the note. Mr. Pratt admitted that this transaction did not appear on the books of the Standard, the accounts being kept under the title, "C. M. Pratt Investment." Mr. Pratt explained that by this arrangement he held the stocks for the trust merely as a convenience, and when asked if it was not done to avoid the anti-trust laws of Texas he replied, "Not that I know of."

Tabulations were also verified showing enormous earnings of subsidiaries, among which those of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana appeared most remarkable. This corporation on a capitalization of $1,000,000 made profits in 1906 amounting to $10,516,082, and last year paid to the parent company $4,495,500. This amounted for at least one year to the remarkable profit of 1,000 per cent. Mr. Kellogg also brought out evidence showing how the New York branch had been systematically drained by saddling upon it enormous liabilities at the same time that its assets were greatly increased. Counsel Milburn disclosed one line of defense by giving notice that the trust would object to any testimony bearing upon acts committed prior to July 2, 1890, when the Sherman law went into effect.

BIG CORN SHOW.

More than 10,000 Entries for the Exposition to Be Held in Chicago.

That there will be more than 10,000 entries for the National Corn Exposition which is to be held in the Coliseum at Chicago, is the confident belief held by the management, based on the hearty response that met the first appeal to the farmers in the corn belt. Within a few days after sending out the list of the classifications for the entry of corn to contest for the $16,000 cash prizes and the $25,000 in special premiums offered, application for 1,500 entries were made. Quite apart from the educational end of the exposition, it will be especially strong in attractive show features. While the most striking of these doubtless will be the lavish decorative scheme which has been completed at an expenditure of $30,000, a number of specialties have been arranged.

Freight traffic is reported to be increasing at an abnormal rate in New England.

Reports from California state that the Southern Pacific road is preparing to run its trains in that State by electricity.

The fortieth annual number of Poor's Manual, recently issued, places the gross earnings of the railroads of the United States during 1906 at $1,124,500,390, an increase of $234,442,516 over 1905, in spite of increased wages and cost of materials. There were $15,774,118 passengers carried last year, and 1,610,099,829 tons of freight moved. The average receipts per passenger per mile was 2.011 cents, as against 2.028 in 1905. The average revenue per ton per mile on freight decreased from .784 cents to .766 cents. The total assets of all the railroads amounted to $17,534,381,633. The total funded debt of the roads is $7,851,107,778, being a slight increase over the previous year. The increase in capital stock was $364,452,151, the total now being $7,106,408,976. The total increase of liabilities of all kinds was $1,199,615,867. The construction of new road during the year was 5,516 miles, making a total at the end of 1906 of 222,635 miles.

The Erie railroad has received an all-steel passenger coach, which is practically non-wreckable and will not burn. There is less than 300 pounds of wood or other inflammable material used in its construction and all of that has been treated with a preparation which, it is claimed, renders it immune to an ordinary degree of heat. The car looks like the standard passenger coach in general use, but its weight is much in excess of the wooden car, being nearly 100,000 pounds. The car is so strongly built and so well riveted and bolted that it will stand almost any shock that railroad service will give it.

A new railroad has been projected to run from Denver to Seattle, through Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

It is announced that the Pennsylvania road has resumed its aggressive construction and improvement operations on all parts of its system.

As a test of long-distance speed endurance, Union Pacific motor car No. 12 has made a continuous run from Omaha to Denver in 16 hours 34 minutes.

A company has been organized to build a railroad from the Tygart valley in West Virginia to Pittsburg. It is to be known as the Fairmont and Southern road.

IMMUNITY FOR THE ALTON.

In Resenting Slur on His Court Standard Oil Is Hit by Landis.

Another broadside was directed against the Standard Oil Company by Judge Landis in the United States District Court at Chicago Tuesday. Although immunity was granted the Chicago and Alton Railroad by Judge Landis on recommendation of Attorney General Bonaparte, both the railroad and the Standard Oil Company were scored from the bench and a subpoena was issued by the court for James A. Moffett, president of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana.

Mr. Moffett was directed to appear before the special grand jury that was to have investigated the Alton road and "make good" charges made by directors of the New Jersey corporation. The court's latest action is regarded as one of the most drastic moves that

JUDGE LANDIS.

have been made against officials of the oil corporation during the entire litigation.

Judge Landis' denunciation of the tactics employed by the directors of the New Jersey corporation after the imposition of the $29,240,000 fine on the Standard Oil Company of Indiana was couched in language that could not be mistaken. Sarcastic reference to the Alton's position regarding rebates given the Standard Oil Company were made by the court.

In the pamphlet, distributed broadcast throughout the country, the Standard Oil Company takes the position that it is being persecuted rather than prosecuted by the government, and the flat statement is made that other corporations are just as culpable of the practice of rebating as is the oil concern. This is what Mr. Moffett has been given an opportunity to prove.

WU TING FANG RETURNS.

Restoration of Chinese Leader as Minister at Washington.

The reappointment of Wu Ting Fang to his former post as minister of China at Washington is reported from Pekin. Mr. Wu represented China at Washington for more than five years. He was recalled in November, 1902.

Wu is a dignitary of importance. He represents the progressive element among his countrymen. He studied law for four

WU TING FANG.

years in London and was admitted as barrister in the inner temple. He speaks English with ease and fluency, and asks many questions of everybody he meets. The minister has hosts of friends in Washington and throughout the United States.

Finds Remains of Mastodon.

Word has recently been received from Prof. C. W. Gilmore, who, accompanied by Prof. W. T. Shaw of the Washington State College and a party of scientists from the East, is now in central Alaska, that they have found a specimen of the mastodon frozen intact in the great Muir glacier, near the Chilkoot Pass. The party set out on this particular errand and their hopes were more than realized when they discovered this large and perfect specimen imbedded in the great ice field in very much the same position as when overwhelmed by the frigid elements. On some portions of the animal the hair and flesh were still fresh, but crumbled when exposed to the air. It is estimated that the length of the mastodon from the end of its trunk to the tip of the tail was about 75 feet, and that when standing on all fours the height must have been nearly 40 feet.

Short News Notes.

As a result of the gathering of Wisconsin Republican politicians at the State fair at Milwaukee it is positively asserted that Senator La Follette will be a candidate for the presidential nomination next year.

Frank C. Barnes, conductor of a Lake Shore Electric railway car, and Amos Mierka of Fremont, Ohio, were killed and Samuel Jones, the motorman, and thirty passengers were injured when the car ran into an open switch at Woodville road, near Toledo.

A passenger train on the New York Central road ran into a freight car near Utica, N. Y., the locomotive and one car being derailed. The engineer, John Eberlee, was injured.

Five cars on a passenger train on the Alabama and Vicksburg road were overturned and the whole train left the track near Forest Station, Miss. No one was injured seriously.

An obstruction on the tracks of the Great Northern road near Wenatchee, Wash., wrecked the oriental limited. Two cars were destroyed by fire and one passenger, a woman, and two waiters on the dining car were injured.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

CHICAGO.

Activity in the leading producing industries discloses no diminution, although the aggregate of new demands has fallen below the exceptional bookings at this time last year. Delay in agreement upon the new rail specification holds up many contracts for steel mills and lessens the demand for pig iron, but indications are good for an early lifting of this temporary embargo.

Other heavy manufacturing lines maintain steady drawing upon capacity and absorb large quantities of supplies, and current deliveries of finished products are remarkably large in machinery, hardware, cars, furniture and footwear.

The course of prices affords some relief to consumers of raw material and receipts of the latter continue ample, while values of leading outputs of the factories remain unchanged. Financial conditions are paramount in considering new enterprises and, while no decline in the cost of borrowing may be looked for soon, there is a better feeling in the money market, which begins to have a salutary effect upon business.

A most encouraging feature is the sustained enormous marketings of grain and the rapid conversion of these and other farm products into cash, all making substantial addition to the circulation of money, which must eventually stimulate commerce and widen confidence.

Buying of necessaries reflects satisfactory headway, trade in the leading retail departments being seasonably strong and much augmented by liberal purchases of many visitors from the interior. Forwardings of stable merchandise exceed those at this time last year, and country merchants operate freely.

Western advices indicate prosperous conditions throughout the agricultural sections, and country stocks of merchandise under gratifying reductions. Collections at most points are reasonably prompt, while the record of defaults again makes a favorable showing.

Freight movements by both rail and lake are much in excess of those a year ago, and the calls for cars to rush breadstuffs, coal and lumber begin to overtax equipment. The total movement of grain at this port aggregated 16,977,681 bushels, against 9,791,691 bushels last week and 9,627,011 bushels a year ago.

Bank clearings, $246,904,950, exceed those of corresponding week in 1906 by 18.5 per cent. Failures reported in the Chicago district numbered 16, against 23 last week, and 19 a year ago.—Dun's Review of Trade.

NEW YORK.

Retail trade feels the stimulus of long awaited cool weather, as does also filling in order business from jobbers. On the other hand, regular house trade has decreased in volume, now that the first rush of fall trade is over, and shipping of goods on orders is engrossing jobbers' attention to a large degree. Advices as to the real proportions of autumn trade vary with the sections reporting. Collections are still a matter of complaint at many markets east, west and south, the latter section noting that the recent freer movement of cotton has only made for partial improvement. Conditions in the shoe and leather industry are irregular. The restriction of output of sole leather is reflected in firm prices for desirable grades. Some dealers claim concessions in side leather in the Boston market. Shoe shipments from eastern Massachusetts are 4.4 per cent less than a year ago.

Business failures for the week ending Sept. 26 number 166, as against 179 last week, 165 in the like week of 1906, 185 in 1905, 179 in 1904 and 153 in 1903. Canadian failures for the week number 36, as against 40 last week and 27 in this week a year ago.—Bradstreet's Commercial Report.

THE MARKETS

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, $4.00 to $7.25; hogs, prime heavy, $4.00 to $6.65; sheep, fair to choice, $3.00 to $5.65; wheat, No. 2, 96c to 97c; corn, No. 2, 62c to 63c; oats, standard, 50c to 52c; rye, No. 2, 89c to 90c; hay, timothy, $12.00 to $17.00; prairie, $9.00 to $15.00; butter, choice creamery, 23c to 28c; eggs, fresh, 18c to 21c; potatoes, per bushel, 55c to 60c.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, $3.00 to $7.00; hogs, choice heavy, $4.00 to $6.55; sheep, common to prime, $3.00 to $4.75; wheat, No. 2, 93c to 95c; corn, No. 2 white, 61c to 62c; oats, No. 2 white, 49c to 50c.

St. Louis—Cattle, $4.50 to $7.20; hogs, $4.00 to $6.70; sheep, $3.00 to $5.50; wheat, No. 2, $1.00 to $1.01; corn, No. 2, 62c to 63c; oats, No. 2, 47c to 48c; rye, No. 2, 82c to 83c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, $4.00 to $5.65; hogs, $4.00 to $6.95; sheep, $3.00 to $5.00; wheat, No. 2, 98c to 99c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 64c to 65c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 50c to 51c; rye, No. 2, 88c to 90c.

Detroit—Cattle, $4.00 to $5.10; hogs, $4.00 to $6.45; sheep, $2.50 to $4.50; wheat, No. 2, 97c to 98c; corn, No. 3 yellow, 68c to 69c; oats, No. 3 white, 52c to 53c; rye, No. 2, 88c to 89c.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 northern, $1.08 to $1.10; corn, No. 3, 61c to 62c; oats, standard, 51c to 52c; rye, No. 1, 89c to 90c; barley, standard, 99c to $1.01; pork, mess, $15.50.

Buffalo—Cattle, choice shipping steers, $4.00 to $6.50; hogs, fair to choice, $4.00 to $7.00; sheep, common to good mixed, $4.00 to $5.25; lambs, fair to choice, $5.00 to $8.25.

New York—Cattle, $4.00 to $6.45; hogs, $4.00 to $6.70; sheep, $3.00 to $5.60; wheat, No. 2 red, $1.04 to $1.06; corn, No. 2, 77c to 79c; oats, natural white, 56c to 58c; butter, creamery, 25c to 28c; eggs, western, 18c to 23c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 mixed, 97c to 98c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 64c to 65c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 51c to 53c; rye, No. 2, 87c to 88c; clover seed, prime, $10.70.

Agents which minister to the public must be the servants and not the masters of the public, declared Vice President Fairbanks in a speech at the Berrien County Republican Club's supper in St. Joseph, Mich. Mr. Fairbanks guardedly indorsed President Roosevelt's policy in regard to corporations.

Benjamin Spence of the Dominion Temperance Alliance of Canada at the Anti-Saloon League convention at Norfolk, Va., suggested a rivalry between the United States and Canada to see which can first suppress the liquor business.

COLD PLATES AND HOT PLATES.

Many of Former Still to Be Found; the Latter, Happily, Spreading.

"We still find," said an old Washingtonian, "many cold plates. Lots of people seem to regard hot plates as a superfluity, or even as an affectation of style that is not to be encouraged, and so give you cold plates to eat hot food from; thus really spoiling many a good meal.

"I ate dinner yesterday at a place where the food is excellent and admirably cooked, and where everything they give you is good and appetizing, and ample in supply, but where the joy of the meal was marred by cold plates.

"Just why they give you cold plates at this place I don't know, but it is simply the survival of an ancient custom, I guess.

"For hot plates are a modern custom. Formerly people got along very well without them; but it is different now, when it is so easy to provide them. And yet they are by no means, even today, everywhere to be found.

"You might eat today at the abundant, the well-supplied and the well-equipped table of a family whose every member was the personification of kindly grace and hospitality, and yet find here your food served to you on cold plates; rugged people, these, by whom, out of some feeling bred in the days when luxuries were less common, hot plates would still be considered as a mark of concession to effeminacy. And by such a reason, indeed, might the cold plates be accounted for in some small hotels, off the beaten track, though in many another hotel their presence is due simply to slackness, indifference or a failure to rise to modern conditions.

"But the hot plate, by no means a sign of degeneracy, but one marking simply and rationally a desire to rise to our privileges, is everywhere spreading; it will some day everywhere prevail, and meanwhile when we eat where it has not yet come, let us be grateful then for the food."—Washington Post.

A FAD OF THE PAST.

Ha, that was footgear for you—the copper-toed boot. You couldn't wear it out. You were defied to! That was in the days when one pair of boots was expected to last you all one winter. No such foolish notions prevail now.

You have become accustomed to buying a new pair of shoes for each of your children every six weeks. They would turn up their snubby little noses at copper-toed footwear now.

As long as boots were worn by children, the copper toes were entirely logi-

THE COPPER-TOED BOOT.

cal, and the man who invented the metal reinforcement deserved a crown, whether he ever got one or not. There was the grievous sight of toes wearing out while the rest of the boot was good as ever, and without a sound toe the boot was ruined. But the piece of copper at the tip baffled, to a great extent, the mania of the children for kicking their toes on the frosty ground.

The presence of a pair of new red-topped boots (they were always very ornate as to tops) under the Christmas tree was a challenge to the recipient. "Wear me out if you can!" they seemed to say. Then you would proceed to try you hardest to do so. In the long run you were always victor. But the end was delayed generally to the profit of your father's pocketbook. Now the copper-toed boot has passed.

Animal Traits.

It is an interesting study to note in domestic animals the traits of their wild ancestors. There are some characteristics, of course, which are readily recognizable as being similar to those of animals still in a wild state, and for this reason they give a fair idea of the life and surroundings of progenitors. The habits of the dog and cat are too familiar to comment on, but take the foal and compare his traits with those of the calf.

The foal when a few days old can gallop as fast as he ever can in after life. He never leaves the dam and takes nourishment in small quantities, avoiding a full meal, which would impede swift escape. In tying down no attempt is made at concealment, and when he stands his head is held high. These habits show that the animal's ancestors spent their lives in the open and not in the forests and that they were great travelers.

The calf, on the contrary, fills himself with milk and is a poor traveler. When danger approaches his first impulse is to conceal himself. All his characteristics point to the fact that the ancestral home of cattle was in a moist, wooded country, while the primeval horse roamed the plains.—London Chronicle.

Thoughtful.

"Lady with a flashy paste necklace wants to know whether it's pure diamond or not," said the jeweler's shopman.

"Look like married woman?" inquired the jeweler.

"Yes, sir."

"Tell her it is. No use making trouble for poor husbands these hard times."—London Telegraph.

Nervous Prostration.

First Hobo—Meanderin' Mike's ill from overwork.

Second Hobo—Poor old Mike! Wot's he bin a-workin'?

First Hobo—Too many easy marks.—Baltimore American.