

A COMMON IDIOT DOES GREAT SUMS.

Marvelous Skill of Reuben Fields in Mental Arithmetic.

A Local Salesman Tells How He Was Puzzled by a Missouri Clodhopper's Performances.

One of the most marvelous stories of mental feats that ever came to light is told by A. L. Sayles, a well-known commercial traveler who is at present in charge of a department with Weinstock & Lubin of this city.

Mr. Sayles gave the story to a "Record-Union" reporter a few days ago, laughing and living over his experiences again as he recalled the days when he was a merry drummer on the road. He said:

"It was away back in the eighties. I was just approaching a little Missouri town called Henry, when the conductor of the train, whom I knew well, offered to bet me \$5 that he could demonstrate to me every-day idiot of my acquaintance, a fellow who could not write his own name, and who had never been fifty miles from home, could knock me silly at invoicing goods. You can imagine that I took him up in a hurry, for I am rapid at figures, and, having had a commercial education and an active experience in the business, I imagined that the conductor was simply trying to bluff me out of betting. Then, again, I imagined that he knew some fellow who had an aptitude for mathematics and who had been drilled like a parrot on some of the many systems of so-called lightning calculation, and that he would put him up against me.

"The train whistled, the brakes were put on, and looking toward the engine I saw a few old-fashioned backs and a dozen typical Missouri River 'bottom-ites' on the platform. It was a division station on the Western Railway, and when the conductor had doffed his hat and donned a citizen's coat and hat he invited all of the little party—myself and those who had witnessed the bet—to take a drink at the little grocery by the station. It was good old Kentucky goods that we sampled.

"A heavy-set fellow, wearing a beer keg, whittling at a broom handle, grinned at us as we entered the place. The conductor shook his hand, called him 'Rube,' and invited him to join us, but we were not introduced to him. When we had finished drinking the conductor buttonholed the unsmiling fellow, took him back to a card table and spoke a few words to him. When they parted a dollar was slipped into the slouchy chap's hand. It was then, for the first time, that I suspected he was the mathematician.

"The conductor excused himself from me, but before doing so he said: 'Boys, all come down to old Bill Flanders' store after dark.' Then he told me as we walked along the narrow street leading to the hotel—there is only one there—that the invoicing contest would take place at Flanders' store.

"That pleased me, for Flanders invariably bought cheese, oysters and crackers from the grocery house for which I was then traveling.

"At 7 o'clock sharp we went to the little frame store. I was surprised to find twenty or thirty fellows there ahead of us. As we entered I was stared at and grinned at, and the fellows commented to their companions as I passed down to the proprietor's desk. They seemed by their grinning to say: 'Ah, now we have got a sucker!' They thought I was a horrible dupe, for every man who wears a 'billed' shirt comes through the definition there.

"Sure enough, there sat the half-witted and shaggy looking fellow toward whom my suspicions were directed, and the conductor stopped to chat with him, while I got old man Flanders' ear. I told him quickly and the fun began. I begged him to give me a pointer that would prevent me from making an ass of myself. The old fellow said: 'Look ye, hyar, don't ye teach it! Don't ye teach it, for that 'ar feller is possessed of the devil, and he'll ker-whollup yer dead sartin!'

"I was nervous, anyhow, and the old man's advice settled it. I decided right then that I would rather lose the \$5 than to make a clown of myself in a hopeless set-to with a man suspected to be possessed of the devil.

"I stood on the center of the floor and I said to the fellows in the store: 'Gentlemen, it is my treat, and I'll give up my money and back out, for Mr. Flanders tells me that my antagonist is sure to best me. There was a regular yell of laughter. I sent a boy for a gallon of beer and the fun began. I demanded of the conductor that he show me what his man could do.

"Rube," said he, 'you've knocked the socks off this durned drummer without saying a word, and now suppose you do a little figuring for him. Blaze away, savvy, with your sums. I say that the fellow had no paper or paper and I offered mine, whereupon he led the chorus of laughter, and they all said that the beer was on me again. He did not use pencils.

"I said, 'How much will 1,356 and 1-3 yards of calico cost at 2-15 cents per yard? Quick, give me a flash here, give me what I found to be the correct result. I

kept on giving him long sums in multiplication, subtraction and division, and he answered me correctly to my full satisfaction. He could make the most wonderful calculations instantaneously and without pencil or paper. He recalled, or even outdid, anything that Zerach Colburn could do.

"The name of the wonderful mathematical prodigy of whom I speak is Reuben Fields. His home is at Higsleville, Mo. He never went to school, for he would not go. He is regarded as half-witted by most people, while others believe that he was once bright but has since become partly insane.

"When doing sums in his head there was a strange glitter in his otherwise lifeless gray eyes. He seemed for the moment so abstracted that he forgot where he was. His mind grasps fractions and sums running up into the millions as accurately and infinitely faster than the best educated arithmeticians can handle the simplest single numbers.

"I have not told you another wonderful feat which this half-witted Missouriian performs. He will awake at any hour of the night and tell you the exact time, or if you ask him the hour at any time he will tell you to the second without a moment's hesitation. He says that his gifts are from God.

"Large wholesale houses at Kansas City and St. Louis have offered him high salaries to do their invoicing, but he refuses all such propositions. Barnum and other showmen have been trying to secure him for many years, but he says that if he should travel and make a business of exhibiting his powers God would rob him of his mind and drive him insane. If you do not believe all I have told you just write to Colonel A. K. McClintock, a well known citizen of Henry, Ray County, Mo. He can tell you all about Reuben Fields."

SEARCHLIGHT PROTECTION. The Most Powerful Searchlight in the World for San Francisco.

The Government has recently secured the only direct electric searchlight in the world for the entrance to San Francisco Bay, to be used in the protection of our western outpost in case of possible attack. The wisdom of this action on the part of the Government will be conceded in view of the possibility of international complications resulting from the war.

The light from this great projector is conservatively calculated to be equal to that of not less than 375,000,000 candles. The distance from which it can be seen is considerably over 100 miles, and moving objects can be detected by its light almost as far as marine glasses can carry.

F. W. Blanchard Building Company, Principal place of business, Los Angeles. Directors—Frederick W. Blanchard, A. M. Brookman, Marlon H. Blanchard, C. W. Shattuck and J. A. Coldwell, all of Los Angeles. Capital stock, \$100,000; amount subscribed, \$10,000.

Fruit Shipments. Forty-two cars of fruit were sent East yesterday: Peaches 8, plums 9½, pears 23, grapes ¾, apples ¾. Fifty cars went out on the same date last year.

Balloon Ascension. A balloon ascension and parachute drop will take place at East Park this afternoon.

Oak Park Concert. A grand concert will be given this evening at Oak Park by Neal's orchestra. Special program of popular music.

THE AMATEURS WILL OCCUPY THE FIELD TO-DAY.

Red Seals and Pommers at Snowflake Park—Athletics and Phoenix Men at Oak Park.

The Red Seals and the A. J. Pommer teams will take a shy at one another on the Snowflake Park diamond this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, and each team expects to carry off a victory.

Both nines have done some very neat amateur work this season. The Seals have not yet met defeat, but as the Pommers will show some strong men on their bench, the Seals will be obliged to look out for No. 1.

The Athletics Club and the Phoenix Mills ball teams will line up at the Oak Park grounds this afternoon, and the prospects are that a good game will be the result. Last Sunday the teams put up one of the best amateur games seen here this season, the Mills being beaten only after a gallant struggle.

Out of thirteen games played this year the Phoenix Mills team has won ten, one being from the Gridleys. Fitzgerald will pitch for the Athletics, and Shields and Frank Newbert will do the same for the Athletics. The game will be for blood, and the winners will line their pockets with the \$100 put up by the other fellows.

A glance at the line-up makes the outcome look decidedly uncertain. It follows: Phoenix—Devine, third base; Smith, shortstop; Pope, first base; Treichler, second base; Griffin, center field; Thielan, left field; Cowden, catcher; Merkley, right field; Fitzgerald, pitcher; Baker, extra.

Athletics—Hannon, shortstop; G. Newbert, second base; Ridley, first base; W. Newbert, third base; F. Newbert, right field; Shields, pitcher; Payen, center field; Wiseman, left field; Johnson, catcher; Pope, extra.

The Young Corkers defeated the Young Lawyers by a score of 20 to 0 yesterday, and while the battery for the winners was Ried and Heintz, the youthful gentlemen who did the reporting forgot to say where the game was played.

The Young Corkers will accept a challenge from the Young Lawyers whose players are under 12 years of age. Their line-up is as follows: C. Heintz, catcher; Ried, pitcher; Hart, first base; Johnson, second base; Treanor, third base; Valentine, shortstop; Yuber, right field; Kleinsorge, center field; Poorman, extra.

The Alkalis will play the Ryans at Fifteenth and P streets at 10 o'clock this morning for a purse of \$15. The nines are evenly matched and a good game is anticipated. The line-up will be as follows:

Ryans—McCaffrey, catcher; Conroy, pitcher; Kyne, shortstop; Smith, first base; Hawley, second base; Vantine, third base; O. Henley, left field; Koostera, center field; Bogart, right field.

Alkalis—W. L. Fitch, catcher; McManus, pitcher; Fritske, shortstop; Schoenberger, first base; Richmond, second base; Storrer, third base; Hilbert, left field; Vassals, center field; Clark, right field.

The Gilt Edge team struck a snag when it went up against the Santa Cruzans in San Francisco yesterday. The score stood 2 to 1, with the locals on the short end. They will try conclusions with the San Francisco Athletics to-day, and while Sacramentoans expect a victory, it will be remembered that the last time the teams met down here the Gilt came out second best.

DIED. McDONALD—In this city, July 29th, Mary Edith McDonald, beloved wife of Bartholomew McDonald, mother of Mary Agnes, Bartholomew, Francis, Margaret, Daniel, Edward, James, John, and William, Ireland, aged 34 years and 11 days. (St. Paul, Minn., papers please copy.)

WILDER—In Franklin Township, Sacramento County, July 28th, Benjamin W. Wilder, husband of Eliza C. Wilder, father of Mrs. Ellen E. Walther, Olive A. James, and George D. Wilder, a native of Rhode Island, aged 77 years. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, from the parlors of Miller & McMullen, 905 K street, Interment City Cemetery.

HAYFORD—In this city, July 30th, Clarence R. husband of Annie J. Hayford, son of G. O. and Eunice G. Hayford, brother of Carroll L. Hayford, a native of Maine, aged 34 years, 4 months and 22 days. Funeral notice hereafter.

LAKE—In this city, July 30th, Mary, wife of D. A. Lake, a native of Illinois, aged 32 years. Funeral notice hereafter.

LOEPPER—In this city, at the Marquette Home, July 30th, Frederick Loeffer, aunt of Julius Ziegler, a native of Germany, aged 32 years, 4 months and 24 days. (San Francisco, Sacramento and Placer County papers please copy.)

Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, from the parlors of Miller & McMullen, 905 K street, Interment City Cemetery.

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PURE, RICH REBLOD

Dr. Townsend's Vegetable Extract of Sarsaparilla will enrich your blood, making it pure and healthy. The immediate effects of its use are an improved condition of liver and kidney and a clearer and smoother skin. Price reduced from \$1 a bottle to 75 cents.

C. C. C. Pharmacy, Tenth and K

sheets and pillow cases

All this week, beginning Monday, August 1, we will sell the best quality of sheets and pillow cases—the kind your mother used to make—at astonishingly low prices, actually at the price of muslin. These figures will tempt you, but to properly appreciate, you must see the goods.

- Pillow Cases. Ready-made Bleached Pillow Cases, 45x36 inches. Regular price, 16c each. Sale Price, 12½c. Ready-made Bleached Pillow Cases, 50x38½ inches. Regular price, 19c each. Sale Price, 14c. Ready-made Bleached Pillow Cases, 54x38½ inches. Regular price, 20c each. Sale Price, 15c. Ready-made Hemstitched Bleached Pillow Cases, 45x36 inches. Regular price, 20c each. Sale Price, 15c. Ready-made Hemstitched Bleached Pillow Cases, 54x38½ inches. Regular price, 22½c each. Sale Price, 17c. Ready-made Hemstitched Bleached Pillow Cases, 54x38½ inches. Regular price, 27c each. Sale Price, 20c.

B. WILSON & CO. Corner Seventh and J Streets.

The Real Thing. You pick up a Dominguez cigar and look at it. The color, the shape, the weight, the way it is made, all proclaim it a fine cigar. Then you light it and begin to smoke. All lingering doubts as to quality are now fled. You know you're smoking the real thing.

HALL, LUHRS & CO., Agents. Your Money Back. None genuine without this picture and signature with pleasure if we don't give you your fever, ague or malarial. G. S. Wait's Fever and Ague Mixture, \$1 a Bottle. Manufactured by GEORGE Z. WAIT, cor. Sixth and J.

A FEW 8-day and 30-hour Clocks left. Cost from \$3.50 to \$60; can be bought for one-third their cost, at Administrator's sale, 506 J Street. BEECHAM'S PILLS FOR BILIOUS AND NERVOUS DISORDERS. Such as Wind and Pain in the Stomach, Giddiness, Fullness after meals, Headache, Dizziness, Brownish, Flushings of Head, Loss of Appetite, Constiveness, Blisters on the Skin, Cold Chills, Disturbed Sleep, Frightful Dreams and all Nervous and Trembling Sensations. THE FIRST DOSE WILL GIVE RELIEF IN TWENTY MINUTES. Every sufferer will acknowledge them to be A WONDERFUL MEDICINE. BEECHAM'S PILLS, taken as directed, will quickly restore Females to complete health. They promptly remove obstructions or irregularities of the system and cure all such. For a Weak Stomach Impaired Digestion Disordered Liver IN MEN, WOMEN OR CHILDREN Beecham's Pills are Without a Rival. And have the LARGEST SALE of any Family Medicine in the World, 25c at all Drug Stores. HUGH McWILLIAMS, The Florist, Conservator, Twelfth and O Streets, Sacramento.

DR. WELDON, 806½ J Street. YOUR GROCER can and will sell you just as many bars, just as many ounces of the King of Soaps for the same money as the cheapest outside manufactured soap. Give the Sacramento made, labor saving soap a trial, since it costs no more. CAPITAL SOAP CO., SACRAMENTO.

TO LET. 25—Seven rooms, completely furnished on southeast corner of Seventh and N streets. \$11—A flat of 6 rooms, bath, hot and cold water, on west side of Eighteenth, P and Q streets. \$40—Fine residence of 9 rooms; modern improvements; nice lawn and shrubbery; very pretty place. \$14—New cottage, built last year, 5 rooms, bath, patent closet; choicest dwelling in city for the money, 1507 E street. \$15—No. 1122 F street, cottage of 5 rooms, with modern improvements. \$30—Brick store building with frame addition, northwest corner Seventeenth and N streets; it is a splendid location for a butcher shop in conjunction with a grocery store. W. P. COLEMAN, Real Estate Salesman, - 325 J Street P. BOHL, Manager. ONLY ONE DOLLAR A YEAR—THE WEEKLY UNION. The best weekly.

SUMMER AND HEALTH RESORTS

THE WORLD-FAMOUS HOTEL DEL MONTE, MONTEREY, CAL.

THIS WELL-KNOWN ESTABLISHMENT is now conducted on the American plan. The service and accommodations are of the best, and the charges are moderate. There is no resort place in the world where the tourist and pleasure seeker can obtain so much for his money as at the Hotel del Monte. Warm salt-water bathing facilities a special feature.

TAVERN OF CASTLE CRAG. This delightful mountain retreat is now open, and will welcome its host of friends with its usual good cheer. The tavern is conducted on the American plan. Rooms on first and second floors, main building and annex. \$1 per day, \$7.50 per week, \$65 per month. Rooms on third floor, main building, and annex, \$2.50 per day, \$18 per week, \$160 per month. For full information address: GEO. SCHONWALD, Manager, HOTEL DEL MONTE, TAVERN OF CASTLE CRAG, Monterey, Cal. U.S.A., Castle Crags, Shasta Co.

SUMMIT SODA SPRINGS ON LINE OF C. P. R. R. ELEVATION, 6,000 FEET. DAILY mail. Telephone connections. New accommodations. Open June 1st. Address GOLDEN & JACOBS, Donner, Placer County, Cal.

DEER PARK INN (LAKE TAHOE), ELEVATION, 8,000 feet; now open; superior accommodations; table unsurpassed; log cottages with open fires and private baths; fine mountain views; best trout fishing privileges in the mountains. Rates, \$3.00 per day, \$20 per week, \$150 per month. Trip from Sacramento, \$5.00. For booklet and reference call at Purnell's Book Store, 310 J Street. S.W.M.F.

GOLDEN EAGLE HOTEL Corner Seventh and K Streets. STRICTLY FIRST-CLASS. FREE 'BUS to and from the cars. GRAY & TITUS, Proprietors.

CAPITAL HOTEL. S. W. Cor. K and Seventh Sts., Sacramento. CONDUCTED ON THE EUROPEAN plan. Strictly first-class. Electric cars pass the door every three minutes. BLESSING & GUTHRIE, Props.

WESTERN HOTEL. THE LEADING HOUSE OF SACRAMENTO. Cal. Meals, 25c. WM. LAND, Proprietor. Free 'bus to and from hotel.

STATE HOUSE HOTEL. Corner Tenth and K Sts., Sacramento. BOARD AND ROOM, \$1.25 TO \$2 PER day. Meals, 25c. Accommodations first-class. Free 'bus to and from hotel. W. J. ELLDER, Mgr.

TURCLU HOTEL. 803 K Street. CONDUCTED ON THE EUROPEAN plan; strictly first-class; hot and cold baths free to guests; electric cars pass the door.

THE BELVIDERE HOTEL. 1023 Sixth Street. UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT. NO Chinese element patronized. Free 'bus to and from hotel. First-class table. Low rates.

THE METROPOLITAN. 427½ K Street. AN ELEGANT MODERN ROOMING house, centrally located. Rooms in suites and single at popular prices. Free 'bus solicited. MRS. E. J. C. KETCHUM.

MAISON FAURE. RESTAURANT DE FRANCE AND Oyster and delicatessen. Formerly near Golden Eagle Hotel. Meals a la carte at all hours. Family orders, Banquets and Wedding Parties. L. FAURE, Proprietor.

THE SADDLE ROCK RESTAURANT AND OYSTER HOUSE. FIRST-CLASS HOUSE IN EVERY RESPECT. Ladies' dining-room separate. Open day and night. BUCKMAN and RAGHER, Proprietors. No. 1019 Second Street, between J and K, Sacramento.

IBAY RESTAURANT. 1025 Second Street. Private room and facilities for open day and night. Orders served outside. Oysters in every style. BATT and JOHN RADONICH, Proprietors.

UNDERTAKERS. GEO. H. CLARK. AL P. BOOTH. Clark's Undertaking Parlors, NO. 107 AND 109 FOURTH STREET. Telephone 124.

MILLER & McMULLEN, Undertaking Parlors. 905-907 K Street, Old Fellows' Temple. EMBROIDERING SPECIALTY. Telephone—Cap. 188; Sunset, rec. 683.

W. F. GORMLEY. Undertaker and Funeral Director. Mortuary parlors and hall 916 J Street, opposite plaza. Telephone: Capital 700; Sunset, blue 551.

DON'T BE LED into experimenting with inferior lard. OUR LARD is made from the best material and is of superior excellence and purity unequalled by any other lard.

Be Sure Our Name is On the Can. MOHR & YOERK PKG CO., 1024-1026 J STREET.