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MINNESOTA  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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## SIMPLE LIFE BEST

### Wear and Tear Cause Statesmen to Die Young.

#### SAYS WORK ISN'T TO BLAME.

Yale Professor, After an Exhaustive Study on Question of Vitality of Our Public Men, Declares Quiet Life is the Long One.

New Haven, Conn.—That the simple life is the long one and that the convivial social life of the nation's representatives in congress is not conducive to longevity, but has, on the contrary, been the means of taking off at a too early age many of the best men of the country, are deductions made by Professor Irving Fisher, one of the best known political economists in the country, after an exhaustive study.

"Presidents, vice presidents and congressmen are a select group, endowed at the outset with unusual vitality. The vitality of most of them is severely taxed and materially reduced by the heavy responsibilities and had personal hygiene incident to a public career. A minority escape the worst of these conditions and retain the major part of their natural endowment of vitality. Bad hygiene has been more destructive than the weight of responsibility.

"This conclusion is suggested by the fact that the vice presidents suffer a greater curtailment of life than the



Photo by American Press Association.  
PROFESSOR IRVING FISHER.

presidents, although vice presidents have far less responsibility, but spend much more time in Washington social life than the presidents. It is also suggested by the fact that the civil war period, with its greater weight of responsibility but more simple living, showed a lower mortality than the periods preceding and following, with less weight of responsibility but less simple living.

Professor Fisher said that historically there has been a progressive decrease in those causes of death consisting of infections which kill their victims chiefly at the earlier ages, but a progressive change for the worse in those causes of death consisting of the wear and tear diseases or degenerative diseases which kill their victims chiefly at the later years.

"These opposite changes," Professor Fisher says, "in the infectious and degenerative diseases would explain the improvement in mortality at the earlier ages and, on the other hand, the non-improvement and, in the case of Yale graduates, even positive retrogression in the mortality of the older ages. Again, they would explain the marked exceptionality of the older ages in the civil war period. For if it was plain living which explained the low mortality of that period we should expect the more marked influence of that factor to appear just as it does, at the older ages at which the wear and tear mortality is chiefly registered.

"The damage to vitality which we find in public life is not, therefore, put forward as an argument against entering public service, nor will a knowledge of the facts probably tend in that direction, certainly not among those who place public interests above personal interests, as every public man should. But knowledge is power, and a knowledge of the facts should enable us to protect our public men or enable them to protect themselves and to do so in the public interest. This can be accomplished by better general health conditions in the country and its capital, by better health customs and habits, by better ideals and by a more systematic application of the perfect ideals already existing."

In connection with the lives of the presidents of the United States, Professor Fisher says:

"The longevity of each president is reckoned from the date of inauguration—that is, from the time of his first being president. Thus Washington became president at the age of fifty-seven, when the 'expectation' of life, according to the American experience table, was sixteen years. He actually lived, however, only eleven years instead of the sixteen. John Adams, on the other hand, lived after inauguration twenty-nine years, which was two and three times his expectation of that time."

## PRAYERS CURE AN INVALID.

### Healing of Seventy-year-old Pennsylvania Man Regarded as a Miracle.

Greensburg, Pa.—Walter McCluckie, seventy, for sixteen years a helpless invalid, is able to walk again, and his recovery is declared to be a direct answer to prayer.

He is a member of the Youngwood United Brethren church. Recently a series of cottage prayer meetings was held, and at Mr. McCluckie's suggestion it was arranged to pray for his healing. The Rev. John Watson, pastor of the church, with twenty-five members, went to his home. Mr. Watson read from the third chapter of Acts, where it is recorded that Peter and John caused the lame man to walk, and from the fifth chapter of James, which declares, "The prayer of faith shall save the sick." The minister and others followed with prayers for Mr. McCluckie's recovery.

The prayers finished, Mr. Watson said, "Let us rise and sing 'Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow.'" To the astonishment of all, Mr. McCluckie rose with the others, joined in the singing and then walked about the room. His recovery is regarded as a miracle.

## \$50 FOR SEVEN WINKS.

### Following a Custom of Greece Looked Like Mashing Out in Missouri.

Kansas City, Mo.—George Stamatois, twenty-six years old, 510 Main street, has not forgotten the customs of his native Greece. There it seems to be the fashion to wink at any woman you want to become acquainted with. The Greek custom brought Stamatois to grief in staid Kansas City.

Stamatois entered a department store the other afternoon. He winked at six pretty girls to no avail. He winked at a seventh, who promptly seized him by the arm, showed him a store detective's star and escorted him to a crossing patrolman.

Stamatois answered a charge of "mashing" before Justice Charles Clark, acting judge, in the north side court here soon after.

"That winking trick's a favorite over in Greece, judge," Stamatois said. "That's the way we meet all our nice women. I thought it was all right here too. I've got to show my appreciation of the girls some way."

"That's a poor way," Judge Clark answered. "The wink is not favored in Kansas City. You're fined \$50."

## WITH DONKEY AND DOG WALKS 3,400 MILES

### Price Wins a Wager by a Long Tramp.

Victoria, B. C.—Edward P. Price does not wear medals in recognition of a world's record tramp, neither is he the author of any "Travels by Foot" tales—not yet—but he has made something of a record for stamina and is now hopelessly a victim to a relentless desire to walk every highway which may be casually named in his presence. He has walked from Chicago to San Francisco in a roundabout way, a distance of 3,400 miles. He does not claim that there is anything remarkable about that fact alone, but the circumstances of the trip make a good story.

The first consideration is the fact that Mr. Price at the beginning of his tramp was a tenderfoot.

The Price party, for he did not travel alone, was essentially a tenderfoot group. Perhaps the most experienced member was Bunny, a donkey whose eight years had at least taught him caution. Another member was a collie dog named Prince, which is now much more than mere dog to Mr. Price, and another thing which does not appear in the log of the journey, but upon which he admits the successful conclusion of the undertaking largely depended, was the taunts of Price's friends in Chicago.

Price left Chicago in midsummer, 1914, traveling westward along the Lincoln highway. The tramp was the result of a wager and was to be made entirely on foot with the consideration that the conditions would not be fulfilled unless the journey was finished with both of his four-footed companions. He insists without a blush that every inch of the journey was on foot. The certified statements of the mayors of the various cities along the route form the credentials.

Starting without money, the commissariat was provided entirely by a gun and fishing tackle and the proceeds from singing at the show houses along the way. The camp equipment, including provisions, amounted to 100 pounds, and this was Bunny's burden.

## AMPUTATES HIS OWN FOOT.

### California Prevents Death by Operating With a Pocketknife.

Redwood City.—By amputating his left foot with a pocketknife L. H. Beck of Berkeley saved himself from being drawn to death in the machinery of a dredger on which he was operating. Not once did Beck cry out, say those who were working on the dredger. He directed the binding of the severed arteries and then ordered a launch to take him to Dumbarton bridge, where he was transferred to a handcar in charge of a section gang.

Although terribly weakened from loss of blood, Beck did not lose consciousness once during the long, hot trip into Redwood. He was taken to the Hillside hospital, where physicians expressed amazement at his wonderful grit.

## GETS A CIVIL WAR LETTER.

Bangor, Cal.—L. E. Coley of this town received a letter recently written to him by his brother on Dec. 2, 1864. At that time the writer was a soldier in the Union army, and he tells of the chase into Mississippi after General Price's command. Where the letter has been for the past half century is a mystery.

## CONVICTS TO PLANT COTTON.

### They Will Cultivate 1,300 Acres of a Prison Farm.

McAlester, Okla.—Thirteen hundred acres of the state prison farm will be planted to cotton this year. All work except the overseeing of the labor will be done by prisoners.

The land on which this cotton will be produced was a few years ago merely rocky and a waste. Hills rock covered and eroded by rains and gullies deeply cut by spring floods surrounded the concrete walls of the penitentiary. Hard labor and careful management have changed the surface to a rolling, well drained seed bed.

Rocks were removed from the surface. Gullies were filled up after drains had been laid. Dams and riprap were placed to hold back the fine soil carried down by showers.

In the coming year almost the entire acreage will be devoted to cotton. Of the land still rocky and unimproved hog and cattle pastures have been made. Bermuda grass is spreading, and before many years at the present rate of development enough beef and dairy supplies will be produced to feed the convicts.

## KEEPS MAN'S AUTO.

### Farmer Who Hires Hand Will Pay For Car, Also For Gasoline.

Danville, Ill.—A contract has been signed between Patrick Green, a farmer of Grant township, and Milt Brady in which Green agrees to pay Brady \$30 a month for his services as a farm workman and to pay, in addition, for the upkeep of the latter's automobile. Green is to provide gasoline and oil for the machine throughout the season.

It has been the custom for the farmers of this vicinity to provide a horse and buggy for an employee when needed or to permit the employee to keep a horse and buggy on the farm, the farmer supplying the feed for the horse. This is the first instance, however, that has come to light of a farmer's paying for the upkeep of an employee's automobile.

## OLD MAN GREAT HUNTER.

### Whinner, at Eighty, Has Killed 330 Deer and 500 Cows.

Berkeley Springs, W. Va.—Peter V. B. Whinner, who is eighty years old, is the champion hunter of West Virginia. During a period covering fifty years he has killed 330 deer, about 500 cows and 500 turkeys, besides many foxes, squirrels and other game. Of the 330 deer fifty were bucks having horns from three to five prongs. Two of the deer were white, rare specimens, and one black. The greatest number he killed in one season was thirty-five.

Practically all his hunting was done with a muzzle loading rifle. He said if he had had a rifle like those in use now he could have killed several hundred more deer. He says he has seen fourteen deer in one drive, one of which had white legs, the white extending up to its body.

## FREED CONVICTS ARE FLUSH.

### Fifteen Men Out of Prison Had \$704 Among Them.

Olympia, Wash.—Instead of the usual prison gift of \$5 each, fifteen inmates of the state penitentiary at Walla Walla took away with them a total of \$704, earned in wages, when released recently.

## DEATH IN EMPTY TIN CANS.

### Punch Holes in Bottoms and Save Lives, Says U. S. Health Service.

Washington.—The United States public health service announces that the tin can is a menace. An official bulletin says:

"Malaria experts of the United States health service have found that discarded tin cans containing rainwater are breeding places for the mosquito, which is the sole agent in spreading malaria.

"A hole in the bottom of the empty can might have resulted in the saving of a human life. Certainly it would have assisted in preventing a debilitating illness. Empty tin cans have no business about the premises anyway, but if we must so decorate our back yards let us see to it that the can has a hole in the bottom."

## FED APRICOTS TO HOGS.

### Fruit Market Was Glutted and In That Way Francis Used His.

Pomona, Cal.—Apricot ham is the latest novelty in this community. C. C. Francis, who has a ranch near here, is the producer. Last summer his apricot crop was going to waste because the market was glutted, so he fed the apricots to his hogs.

He butchered two shoats the other day. They each tipped the beam at 245 pounds. He got fifteen gallons of lard, seven pounds of sausage, four splendid hams, some spareribs, a quantity of side meat, eight pigs' feet and 100 pounds of soap out of the kill.

The hogs were carried through the summer and fall on waste fruit, and this winter they were finished on oranges and cornmeal slop. Mr. Francis declares that the high cost of living won't worry him for a while at least.

## \$100 A WEEK; CAN'T PAY WIFE

### Automobile Upkeep Takes Big Part of Jersey Man's Wages.

Jersey City.—Gordon J. Hague of Paterson told Vice Chancellor Lewis that he had not been able to pay his wife alimony as directed because he had only \$3.72 left out of his weekly salary of \$100 after paying his board and the upkeep of his automobile.

## HOTEL FOR GIRLS.

### Home Bequeathed to Workers by New York Merchant.

## EXPERIENCE SHOWED NEED.

Suggests That Hotel For Unmarried Working Women Be Erected in Business District, but Does Not Confine Executives to Any One Region.

New York.—Charles Bertram Webster, a merchant who died March 10 last, bequeathed about one-third of his large estate for the foundation of a corporation which is directed to erect in the retail dry goods district an apartment house wherein unmarried working women shall have apartments at cost.

The decedent, who for many years lived at the Hotel Netherland, was a native of Providence, R. I., a son of Josiah L. Webster, a dry goods merchant there. He came to New York early in life. In 1896 he retired from active business, but never lost his interest in it or in the people who worked for the firm.

Before providing for the project which had long been in his mind, Mr. Webster bequeathed to five cousins \$5,000 each, set aside \$25,000 to Thomas W. Beckley, described as a "servant," and gave \$10,000 to his coachman, Frank Falkner.

He bequeathed to Joseph L. Webster, his brother, all his horses, carriages, harness, clothing, jewelry and automobiles and two-thirds of his real estate. He then said:

"Having been engaged for many years in the business known as a department store in the city of New York and having employed a large number of unmarried women in that business, I have realized that the domestic environments of many of them are not conducive to their morals or health, and I have concluded to endeavor to improve the condition of some of them by giving them the opportunity to live in clean, well ventilated, comfortable and attractive apartments, and for that purpose I direct my executors to form, or cause to be formed, as soon as practicable after my death a corporation for benevolent purposes under the membership corporation law of the state of New York or under such other law of the state of New York as may be applicable at the time.

"The particular objects for which such corporation is to be formed are to generally improve the conditions of unmarried working women and particularly to establish, maintain and conduct apartments in the borough of Manhattan for occupation by unmarried working women regardless of their religious belief or nationality and wherein they may find comfortable and attractive homes.

"The name of said corporation shall be the Webster apartments, and the territory in which the corporation shall be principally conducted shall be the borough of Manhattan."

The decedent suggests that the building be erected in the vicinity of the retail stores, but does not confine the executors to any particular district. He says he thinks the sort of building he desires can be erected and equipped for about \$400,000, but he does not confine his agents to this sum. They can spend more if they think necessary.

"The building shall contain a library and restaurant," directs the decedent, "and such other appointments as will tend to render the apartments comfortable and attractive. Apartments are to be let furnished and unfurnished.

"I direct that said apartments shall not be conducted for profit, but solely for the purpose of providing unmarried working women with homes and wholesome food at a small cost to them and in deserving cases without cost to them. I direct that the directors of said corporation shall fix the rentals and the prices of food with the view of carrying out that purpose. The cost of maintaining the apartment and restaurant in excess of the receipts therefrom shall be met from such income as the corporation may have exclusive of the receipts from said restaurant and rentals.

"The decedent asks the executors to serve as officers of the corporation until the first annual meeting.

## VETERAN WAITED DEATH, BUT NOW LIVES LIFE

### After Digging Own Grave He Falls In Love and Is Hoping He Will Live Longer—Notes Cause Happiness.

## WESTERN BLIND COUPLE EASILY RUN BIG FARM.

### They Are Musicians and at One Time Traveled All Over the Country.

Jet, Okla.—Despite the fact that both are totally blind, Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Hubbard successfully operate the farming part of a half section of land they own just west of Jet, in Alfalfa county. Both are retired musicians and expect to spend the rest of their days on the farm enjoying life. They have traveled extensively all over the United States giving concerts, but three years ago settled down to the rural life near here.

Mrs. Hubbard was blind at birth, and her husband was made so previous to their marriage. Curiously enough, they use different systems of reading, and each reads a great deal, especially the books that are sent to them on the "round robin" plan from the blind schools. Mrs. Hubbard is an adept at reading by the raised letter system. Her husband uses a more modern way of reading and one considered by those who know it to be faster than the raised letter system. It is a series of holes cut in the paper at intervals. They are located, from one to six, both above and below a standard line, designating a character. Reading occupies a great part of their time when they are not at work doing one of the many chores about the farm.

To the casual observer the farm is no different from the usual well arranged farm in the community. It is a noticeable fact that all of the machinery and implements used are kept in sheds and out of the way.

Time was when these two people were on the road all the time. Blind musicians with the ability they are able to show are in demand in the musical circles of the country, and they found no trouble in getting all of the engagements they could fill. Playing practically every instrument made, the two of them composed an orchestra, one of their program numbers being a duet in which seven instruments were played at the same time.

## WEDS MISS AFTER GIVING SKIN FOR GRAFTING UPON LITTLE GIRL.

### Denver.—A romance, like those you read about in novels, culminated recently when Miss Lillah Alma Peck, a nurse at the County hospital, formerly of Madison, Ind., was married to Vincent Brunner, Jr., of Mishawaka, Ind.

Several months ago Brunner read in an Indiana paper that little five-year-old Mary Lena Lewis, who was badly burned in a Colorado forest fire, needed healthy skin grafted on to her seared body. The appeal touched his heart, and he, being a healthy young man, came to Denver and gave a portion of his skin that the child might recover.

During the skin grafting operation he met Miss Peck, and the romance began.

## TOWN GREET'S COUPLE.

### Cornet Band Serenades Bridegroom, Eighty, and Bride, Thirty-nine.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—All Staatsburg turned out and, headed by the village cornet band, serenaded Timothy Herrick, eighty, who returned from a visit to Syracuse, bringing with him his bride, formerly Miss Martha Wallace, thirty-nine, a schoolteacher of that city.

Herrick, who for fifty years has been superintendent of the William B. Dinsmore estate, recently refurbished his cottage. Nothing was thought of this, however, until his arrival with the bride.

Herrick has six children, all married. His first wife died four years ago.

## WOMAN PAYS FOR STOLEN RIDES.

### Newcastle, Pa.—Conscience troubled an elderly woman who recently paid the local cashier of the railway company 15 cents for three rides she said she beat conductors out of eight years ago.

## SIXTEENTH BABY BORN.

### Iowa City, Ia.—Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Holland, residing near Iowa City, claim the badge of honor for Iowa. Their sixteenth child, a son, was born recently. All of the other fifteen, save one, a boy, who died in infancy, survive.

## WALKS 4,000 MILES TO REGAIN HIS HEALTH

### When Doctors Seem to Be Giving Up Hope He Handles Own Case and Resorts to Walking.

## HEROISM WINS BRIDE.

### Weds Miss After Giving Skin For Grafting Upon Little Girl.

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## EYES ON AVIATORS

### Spectacular Air Battles in Europe Focus Attention.

## AMAZING PROGRESS MADE.

### Many a Sensation is Produced When Bird Men Meet in Air—Participants Could Give Story With Imperishable Vividness—Often Near Death.

London.—Europe's war has produced conditions that make aeroplaning the grimmest adventure known to man. War is man's oldest game. Aviation is his latest. Each day intrepid air men, under twenty-five years of age for the most part, like hawks make course above roof, tent, rampart and battlefield to thrust suddenly below premeditated thunderbolts of death. They fight duels in the air with other indomitable young men in enemy aeroplanes. When something goes wrong a mile or more above earth on a mild June evening in time of peace a queer sensation is produced. The percussive crack heard by thousands of air men above the European battle lines these days and nights in all kinds of weather produces a sensation much more queer. A lieutenant just out of his teens, a wing broken, clinging to his duty, his ears deafened, little knowing whether it is the whistling storm he hears or the whir of shot—thousands of such



Photo by American Press Association.

## BOELKE AND PEGOUD.

### men can testify that an experience of the sort is a thing of imperishable vividness.

Cowdin and Thaw, among numerous Americans who have joined the fighting air men, can tell many such tales. Boelke, Immelman, Gurney, Bone, among the newcomers, and Vedrine, Beaumont and Garros, to mention a few of the veterans, are making ineffaceable records. These men use the aeroplane, or avion, as they call it, not merely as a scouting vehicle, but as a deadly instrument of offense.

Lieutenant Boelke of the German army recently brought down his thirteenth machine over the Forges forest. Lieutenant Baron von Althaus brought down his fourth aeroplane over enemy lines west of Ikhons. The element of sport enters even into aeroplane warfare. After all, thinks the aviator, the shame is not so much in being caught as being caught by a mere amateur with a paltry record of two or three captures to his name.

Lieutenant Immelman recently bagged his tenth enemy aeroplane. The gallantry and bravery of Lieutenant Warnford illustrates the spirit of these European aviators. Single handed he attacked a Zeppelin and destroyed it. A few days later, accompanied by the American writer Needham, he made a pleasure trip, and both men were killed in landing.

On intimate terms with death were those fifty air men who fought the greatest aerial battle of the war recently when the allied aeroplanes raided Mulhausen, Upper Alsace. Five German aeroplanes and three French fell, the occupants of all being killed.

On the outbreak of the war Adolphe Pegoud, the famous French aviator who gained renown in 1913 when he originated the feat of flying upside down in an aeroplane and looping the loop, joined the French squadron and was often mentioned for valor. He started the American people when he came to this country and did the loop the loop. His daring feats will go down in aeronautic history.

## Wild Beasts Kill Deer.

Eugene, Ore.—The snowfall has resulted in a great slaughter of deer by predatory animals, in the opinion of C. J. Hills of Oakridge. He tells of finding several carcasses, one indicating that the deer had been killed by a wildcat. At this point the snow was twenty feet deep, and the deer had been there apparently several days in a space ten feet square. It had eaten a bunch of maple bushes for food. As it could not get out of its snow prison it became easy prey.