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Keokuk, Iowa..... June 3, 1909.

A Buffalo man died last Saturday after beating a carpet. Never beat a carpet on Saturday.

The town of Zephyr, Texas, was clearly misnamed. It should have been called Tornado.

It is a fair guess that the local Democratic party wishes it hadn't "won" in the recent city election.

"Kansas," declares an orator from that state, "was a howling wilderness sixty years ago." The wilderness has disappeared but the howling has been kept up ever since.

It has been suggested that Senator Lorimer be put on the committee on contested elections. His knowledge of the true inwardness of protracted deadlocks should make him a valuable member.

The Illinois legislature is expected to resign sine die tonight. In case this expectation is realized the state would do well to observe tomorrow as a day of thanksgiving for mercies already too long delayed.

Credit must be accorded Alderman Hickey as a man who "does things." He is strong and purposeful and knows how to accomplish results. His latest achievement was to "do" the Democratic party in Keokuk.

The Jacksonville Courier congratulates itself and its local readers that "it wasn't much of an Indian uprising at Keokuk yesterday, after all." There's no telling, however, to what extent hostilities will be carried when they are renewed.

Senator Bailey of Texas is accused of using the phrase, "men like I." This is ungrammatical, of course, but the Chicago Tribune claims that it is more than that; that it is impossible; that there are no other men exactly like Senator Bailey.

The famous Wright brothers of airship fame when youngsters lived in Cedar Rapids and attended the grammar school there. Their father was pastor of the United Brethren church and later was elected bishop, removing to Ohio. You simply can't lose Iowa.

Gambling and immorality are said to have increased in Cuba since the Americans surrendered control and the country's finances are also in poor condition. Nolens or volens, the island seems to be headed for a protectorate—as the best thing that could happen to it.

A Chicago woman, seeking a divorce, charges that her husband lavishes most of his income upon his four former wives. Her case has prompted the suggestion that possibly the burden of alimony will eventually and automatically correct the "easy divorce" evil.

The number of share holders in the Pennsylvania railroad has increased from 22,045 in 1897 to 57,540 at the last dividend period. Other corporations make a similar showing. Concentration of capital in large corporations does not necessarily mean concentration of ownership.

A Kansas contemporary says three of the new "suffragette" cocktails will make a man go home and scrub the kitchen floor. The Gate City suggested in a recent issue that this possibly explains why Kansas is a prohibition state. The Waterloo Reporter goes a step further and exploits the idea that it may also explain why more persons rob their own trunks in Kansas than in any other state in the union unless it be in Maine. But there the effect of the "pine-top cocktails" is to go nutty and climb trees. As far as practical results go the Reporter concludes that Kansas has the better of Maine.

Hon. Lafe Young was orator for the Memorial day services in Des Moines and delivered an eloquent address on the philosophy of the war and the results achieved. He declared that the union army did what all effort otherwise failed to do, for the army preserved the union. The army did what political conventions, resolutions and compromises failed to do. The struggle for slavery was more or less a disunion struggle from the start. Mr. Young declared that both sections of the country are better off today for the struggle. The south can justify mourn her dead. They were brave

men. But the south has no other cause of grief. The parade in Des Moines was participated in by about 500 war veterans.

It will have to be admitted that the alderman from the Second ward plays the part of ringmaster in the local Democratic circus to perfection. It would warm the cockles of old Dan Rice's heart to see the way he makes the other fellows dance and cringe when he cracks his whip.

LESSENER COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living was 5.2 per cent less in 1908 than in 1907, according to figures presented in a report by the Bureau of Labor. The estimates are based upon the prices of 258 representative staple articles. It is stated the prices in 1908 were only slightly in advance of those in 1906. In 1907 food prices were the highest in nineteen years.

As compared with 1897, the year of lowest prices during the nineteen year period, the advance in 1908 was 36.9 per cent. As compared with the average for the ten years, 1890 to 1899 the advance was 22.3 per cent.

The decline from the prices shown by the October, 1907, data continued without interruption, until August, 1908, with the exception of a slight advance in July.

Fuel and lighting decreased 3.1 per cent in 1908 from the 1907 cost; metals and implements decreased 12.6 per cent—which was the heaviest decline of any of the groups; lumber and building materials decreased 9.4 per cent.

Drugs and chemicals increased 7 per cent; house furnishing goods decreased 3.8 per cent and the miscellaneous group decreased 5.7 per cent.

The average wholesale price of raw commodities for 1908 was 5.9 per cent below that for 1907, and the average wholesale price of manufactured commodities for 1908 was 5 per cent below that for 1907.

Of the 258 articles included in the report the prices of 107 were at the highest point during the year in January, while on twenty articles attained their highest in December.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Less than one-tenth of the manufactures of the United States are exported while the imports of manufactured articles equal less than one-twentieth of the home product. These are the figures of the statistical abstract prepared by a bureau of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Another exhibit contained in the report shows that the proportion of the total manufactures exported has been steadily increasing since 1850. In that year it was .066 per cent and in 1905, the last year in which comparative figures are obtainable, it was .082.

In the latter year the value of exported manufactures was \$895,000,000. In some respects these figures might be misleading because the bureau classes as manufactures, cured meats and grains which have been converted into foodstuffs. Such articles reduce materially the value of exports of what is ordinarily called manufactured goods.

There has been a decrease, however, in recent years, of the percent of foodstuffs exported which would indicate that the amount of other manufactures exported had increased more than is indicated by the figures.

The really noteworthy part of the report is the summary of the total value of the manufactures of the country. In 1850 they were estimated at \$1,000,000,000, while in 1905 the estimate had risen to \$16,000,000,000. Of this vast sum, \$10,000,000,000 represented the valuation added to raw material by the process of manufacture.

In discussing these figures the Omaha Bee makes the point, and it is a most important one, that while foreign commerce is valuable and worth fighting for, yet the immensely greater size of the domestic trade in manufactures and the labor required to add that \$10,000,000,000 to the value of raw material makes a home market worth still more and must not be ruthlessly sacrificed or impaired.

MEDICAL EXPERT TESTIMONY.

Alphonso T. Clearwater, who succeeded Alton B. Parker as justice of the New York Supreme Court when Judge Parker became chief judge of the court of appeals, and who was chairman of the committee of the New York Bar Association to consider the regulation of the introduction of medical expert testimony, contributes to the June number of the North American Review an enlightening article on "Medical Expert Testimony." He analyzes and describes the loose and unsatisfactory conditions in which testimony of that class is admitted to the trial of criminal and testamentary cases, and suggests measures by which the objections to such testimony may be removed. Judge Clearwater says:

"The expert witness, to be free from embarrassment of any personal relations to or with the parties to an action, should have no client to serve and no partisan interests or opinions to vindicate. He should give his opinion as the advocate neither of another nor of himself. When he speaks, he should speak judicially, as the representative of the special branch of science which he professes, governed by the opinions of the great body of authorities in that branch, and in accord with the result of their most recent investigations. When this is done, and not until it is done, shall we have expert testimony rescued from the disrepute into which it has fallen. By the adoption of some such system the mature judgment of the best minds could be obtained, and the superficial opinions of quacks and mountebanks would not be thrust upon the jury to their confusion and the hindrance of justice."

THE STUDY OF FORESTRY.

Teachers throughout the country have been invited by the United States forester to co-operate with the forest service in an effort to obtain more definite knowledge of the characteristics of the most important forest trees of the United States. To do this it will be necessary to obtain a large number of volunteer observers who will collect material on the time of leafing, blossoming, and fruiting of the various kinds of forest trees. In his letter inviting the co-operation of the teachers, Forester Pinchot says:

"Knowledge of this kind is greatly needed and will be of value from the standpoint both of education and of practical forestry. For educational purposes the results obtained for each species, averaged and presented graphically by means of colored charts, will be available to all who are interested in the subject, and form 'littoral tree calendars' and particularly to schools. They will be valuable aids to nature study.

"Children can readily be interested in the actual work of obtaining records. This should form an attractive outdoor feature of the school work that should serve to develop the faculty of accurate observation, and at the same time to promote an interest in forestry which may lead to a better appreciation of its aims and methods. It may also prove to be a profitable addition to botany courses for older students.

"A study of this kind will be of great value to practical forestry, since the proper treatment of forests depends partly upon a knowledge of these characteristics of trees. For example, the time of year at which a tree leafs out and blossoms is one of the indications as to whether or not it is frost-hardy in a given region, and the length of time that a tree is in leaf influences the growth it is able to make during the season. Knowledge of the time when seeds of each species ripen in various localities is of great value to those who are collecting seed, since seed often deteriorates or is eaten by squirrels and birds if not gathered and stored as soon as ripe.

"Another result of this study will be a more intimate knowledge of climate as manifested by plant growth, for differences in climate are shown by plant life as well as by instruments, and a preliminary idea can thus be gained as to whether a given region is suited to a valuable tree which it is desired to introduce there. Many such examples could be given, but sufficient has been said to show that the results of these observations will be a real help to practical forestry, in addition to the general interest and educational value. Volunteers will later be supplied with publications and charts containing the information they help to gather, as a return for the services rendered."

On request, the forest service will be glad to send forms upon which to record data and a pamphlet containing full instructions as to the nature of the observations and how they are to be made.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

According to the Washington Democrat there are caste lines in insurance agents and the big fish subsist on the little ones.

A Nebraska paper prints the story of a gambler who was "quietly married." The Des Moines Tribune concludes he must have changed his clothes before the ceremony.

Alex Miller says that if he were a woman he would always wear petticoats that "frou-frou." "It makes a woman seem so dressed up," he declares. Now what is "frou-frou?"

The Des Moines Tribune concludes that that Connecticut man who decided that he is too crazy to be married must be a rare one. It says that the average man is just crazy enough.

She—What did papa say when you asked for my hand? He—Why, he couldn't say a word. She—He couldn't? He—No; your mother was there.—Yonkers Statesman.

Dolon—So Casey was running me down an' ye stood up for me? Calahan—O! did; O! siz to him. Casey, ye're no coward—and ye work hard an' pay yer dibs—and ye don't get drunk an' lick yer wolfe—but in other respects ye're no better than Dolon.—Judge.

A statue of Pocahontas will soon be erected at Jamestown Island, Va. William Ordway Partridge, the distinguished sculptor, has just completed the statue, which is of heroic size. Ten thousand dollars was contributed by popular subscription, most of the patriotic societies of the country contributing, chief among them being the Colonial Dames. The Pocahontas Memorial Society of America agitated the idea, and it is to this society that the completion of the statue is due.

The Sioux City Journal records that when Governor Johnson tried to "josh" Governor Carroll by inviting him to give a milking exhibition at the Minnesota state fair the Iowa governor did not get hot under the collar—that is to say, under his three-ply linen collar. Instead, he "came back strong" by agreeing to perform the stunt for 60 per cent of the gross gate receipts on milking day. The incident leads the Journal to the conclusion that sitting on the east side of a cow facing north and separating her from her

milk during fly time, is calculated to develop one's sense of humor.

"Free lumber," avers the Omaha Bee, "seems to have gone by the board." "Yea, its bark was wrecked," affirms the Chicago Tribune.

Brooklyn, N. Y., thieves who stole sixty-five cents have been sent up for seven years, which leads the Dubuque Telegraph to say "a warning to all wrong-doers to confine their operations to high finance."

Two little darkeys went walnutting, and after filling their pockets and everything else about them that would hold walnuts they started home. Passing a cemetery one suggested that they go inside and divide the walnuts equally. To this the other agreed and whereupon the two lads climbed the wall, dropping two outside as they were doing so. Piling the walnuts in a heap, they proceeded to make a division. While they were thus engaged a negro came along the road and hearing voices in the cemetery stopped to listen, and this is what he heard: "Ah'll tak' this one," "Ah'll tak' that one," "Ah'll tak' this one," "Ah'll tak' that one." "Foh de Lawd's sake," he exclaimed, "de debil an de Lawd's dividin' up de folks," and taking to his heels he fled down the road. About a mile and a half away a white man rushed out and checked him as he sped. "Hold on here," he shouted, "what's the matter? What are you running for?" "Oh, don't stop me, boss, don't stop me; I must get away from hyah," wailed the frightened negro. "But what's the matter?" pursued the white man. "Oh, the debil an' de Lawd's back in de cemetery dividin' up de folks. Lemme go, lemme go." "Here, that won't do, you will have to come and go with me and see what is going on," said the white man, and taking him by the collar forced him to retrace his steps. When the two reached the cemetery the two voices were still going on: "Ah'll tak' this one," "Ah'll tak' this one." Then suddenly one said, "Now we'll get the two outside and then we will be done." And they do say that the last seen of the couple on the outside the white man was way ahead of the negro.

Folly of Taxing Tea.

Council Bluffs Nonpareil: Fears are still entertained by those who are opposed to the levy of an import duty on tea—and a majority of the people of this country are opposed to such a tax—that an effort may yet be made to impose such a duty.

The fact is that the tea industry in this country is so insignificant and so unprofitable that it cannot grow to a point of importance under the most liberal protective policy that could be devised. Much has been said of what has been done in South Carolina in the way of tea culture, but the facts seem to be that after over twenty-five years of work only about 10,000 pounds are raised in that state annually. Inasmuch as the consumption of tea in the United States is about 100,000,000 pounds yearly, it is justly argued that it would be an injustice to tax 80,000,000 people for their tea for the benefit of an industry that shows no more vitality and no more evidence of growth than the culture of tea has done in this country during the past quarter of a century.

At the present time the average price paid for tea by the ordinary user is about thirty cents per pound. A tax of ten cents per pound or even five cents would simply add that much to the present price. The fact that there is no tea trust brings tea raisers and tea merchants into close competition, and under the circumstances, excessive profits are impossible.

Should the time come when a fair percentage of the total amount of tea used in this country can be advantageously raised here, a certain amount of protection to the interest might be regarded consistent with the protective policy, but under present conditions there is no warrant for raising the price of 100,000,000 pounds of tea in order to protect the culture of an insignificant fraction of that amount raised in this country.

Sunday Rest Pays.

Davenport Democrat: The United States Steel corporation has issued an order ending Sunday work down to the minimum. For the first time in years the wheels in some of the departments did not turn last Sunday. But this does not prove that the corporation has a soul, a conscience or any moral principle. Hitherto most of the repair work has been done on Sunday, but it has been figured out that to give the mills one day of absolute rest in seven will save time and money in the long run. So Sunday is to be observed because it pays. The change is a good one for the employes no matter on what ground it is made.

A Vanished Type.

Hartford Times: To the best of our knowledge and belief, there is not one earnest and consistent advocate of genuine tariff reform in congress. The division is merely between those who make no pretense of being tariff reformers and those who make loud pretenses and will vote for high duties only when they and their constituents are to be particularly benefited.

Some Unreliable Things.

Washington Herald: A Mexican has invented an aeroplane that goes up in the air and sails around most beautifully, but has great difficulty in effecting a satisfactory landing. Reminds us so much of some of our statesmen out on Capitol Hill.

Mad Mullah. Note—It is reported that the Mad Mullah has a band of hunters on the Roosevelt trail near Nairobi.

Mad Mullah, on a summer day, Called out his band in fierce array.

"You hot Somal men," said he, "Must get some great big game for me;

"The rhino, hippo and them all, Compared with this are mighty small."

Mad Mullah smiled when thus he spoke; His hot Somalis saw the joke.

"We're on; we're on," they yelled in glee; "Now turn us loose and you shall see

"How quickly we will go and find That great big game you have in mind."

Mad Mullah grinned, for well he knew What hunting stunts his band could do.

"Good, hot Somalis," said he then, "Now scatter and come back again

"With that big game, for if you fall The bunch of you shall go to jail."

"You said you would; don't stir my ire; You know how I despise a liar.

"You'll have a corking time, I hope, And bring him hither on the lope."

The hot Somalis bowed and skipped, Resolved to have the big game nipped.

Mad Mullah, in the desert hot, Waits, wondering if they will or not.—W. J. Lampton in New York World.

A Partnership.

Said the baseball bug To the lazy germ, "We're getting close To the heated term, When the skies will shine Like a sheet of flame And the crowds will gather To watch the game. I'll chase the players From base to base While you tempt men To a shady place, Where they can gaze Till their souls enthrall And yell at the umpire All they choose. We'll show the world On a summer hour How the smallest may oft Exert most power The statesmen great And the financier Will yield to the spell As we draw near. In affairs we will be A leading firm," Said the baseball bug To the lazy germ.

—Phlander Johnson in the Washington Evening Star.

To Reduce Drownings.

Dubuque Times-Journal: There have been so many drownings at Des Moines lately that the city council has decided to legislate on the matter. The city solicitor has been instructed to draft an ordinance to regulate boating. It will provide that persons under nineteen years of age shall not be permitted on the river without a guardian, that boat owners shall furnish life preservers and an attendant who can swim.

The substitution of launches for skiffs and sail boats has reduced drownings on the upper Mississippi. The launch is safe unless disabled, or overloaded, or incapable handled, or unless an explosion occurs. It is usually supplied with life preservers. As an additional precaution, the law should require every one who handles a launch, even if merely for his own pleasure and that of his friends, to pass an examination. The principal danger is overloading. This was responsible for two serious accidents in the east recently. The canoe is extremely dangerous and the law should permit its use by licensed persons only. Most drownings result from the capsizing of skiffs because they are most frequently overloaded and in incapable hands and supplied with no life preservers instantly available. Besides the skiff seems to be the favorite craft of those returning from island picnics in no condition to realize their danger or use their heads. Neptune rules the deep, but Gambirinus is his most successful solicitor.

Successful Ringbone Cure.

Iowa City Republican: The man who claims to have a chemical which will burn up the contents of cess pool tells how he came to learn his secret. He experimented with acids in removing ringbones from horses and finally applied his new chemical to a ring-boned horse and in five minutes there was nothing left of the horse but a quart of ashes. He refuses to sell or divulge his secret. As a ringbone cure, it seems to be a success.

A Shocked Congregation.

Davenport Democrat: A Methodist minister at Whitmore, Neb., shocked his congregation a few days since. He surprised his parishioners by marrying a woman they had not been talking about, and never heard of in fact. So it is not always possible to fathom the intentions of a minister.

Governor Carroll's Cow.

Iowa City Republican: They are giving Governor Carroll too much credit for milking his cows. If he had

When the National Engineering and Construction Co. built the new Milwaukee Grand Avenue viaduct they refused to endanger the lives of

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