

Opelousas Courier.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PARISH OF ST. LANDRY.

Published on Saturday by Leonce Sandoz,

OPELOUSAS, - - LOUISIANA

Many Germans are leaving Kansas and settling in Maryland. The great West has been over-boomed, and thousands of people want to get away, says the Atlanta Constitution in explanation.

The beauty of the elm is more than skin deep, says the New York Post, and a high light of forestry gives it the first rank as a shade tree both for streets and parks, because it is likewise strong, vigorous, and can be grown in many places. The leaves are so tough that dust has little effect on them. Certain kinds of maples also have a good standing for shade, beauty, and rapid growth, though the soft maple is useless for heavy shade. Oak trees, the English and the Turkish, though rarely seen as shade trees in our streets, take high rank for that use.

"Taken as a whole, the average cost per mile of the stone roads constructed in the country towns of Connecticut the past three years appears to have been a little over \$5000 per mile, while the yearly cost of maintenance is estimated at about one per cent. of cost," says J. H. Hale, the Connecticut fruit grower. "As the towns are able to borrow money at four per cent. interest and maintenance account make the actual annual cost per mile of a good macadam road, sixteen to twenty feet wide, only \$250 per year, as against anywhere from \$200 to \$1000 for a road made of 'gutter-wash' and stupidity."

The St. Louis Republic says: "The Texas State Grange at Franklin the other day overhauled the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station with a forcible whereas and a be it resolved to the effect that cotton cannot be profitably grown and made ready for market for less than about 8 1/2 cents a pound. The experiment station's bulletin making it out that cotton could be made at a cost of two cents to four cents a pound was altogether too good to be true, unless in a few rare cases. But in view of the prices realized of late, it is hoped that the average cost of the crop is very much less than 8 1/2 cents a pound. Whatever the cost, the all-cotton farmer is always in danger from crop failure or market failure."

Great excitement prevails in France owing to the discovery that, of the twenty-eight companies which own the various submarine cables which encircle the globe as with an iron net, no less than nineteen are English, and that during the recent troubles in connection with Siam the dispatches addressed to the French Government from the far east were read and known at the English Foreign Office several hours before their delivery in Paris. France is, in fact, entirely dependent upon English companies for cable communication with her various colonial dependencies, including even Tunis, and actually goes so far as to grant a State subsidy of \$30,000 per annum to the English "African Direct Telegraph Company," whose lines she is obliged to use in order to reach her possessions on the west coast of Africa. Of the twenty-eight cable companies only two are French, one Danish, three North American and three South American. Indeed, of the 125,000 miles of submarine cable which constitute the telegraphic system of the world, more than three-quarters are in the hands of the English, who are placed thereby in a singularly advantageous position with respect to other nationalities.

As a result of his investigations, Professor McCook estimates the army of tramps in the United States at 45,845. Practically all of them are in the prime of life and in good health, with nothing to prevent them from earning a livelihood, three-fifths of them having trades by which to support themselves, and nine-tenths able to read and write. And yet they are loafers and non-producers, refusing to assume the obligations of citizenship, and are a mere burden to society. At a conservative estimate, their maintenance costs the public \$3.50 a week, eighty-four cents of which is spent for spirits and tobacco; and if to this is added police and hospital charges, the expense is increased to \$4.40 a week, as much as it costs to support the most dangerous criminal. The aggregate sum thus required to keep the tramp army in motion is \$9,169,000 a year, a sum double the cost of the Indian bureau, and more than one-quarter of the annual interest of the public debt. Worse than this, the army is a constant menace to public morals and public health, the greater that it is always in motion, in that of those who are ill by far the larger proportion suffer from exceedingly loathsome and contagious diseases. The tramp evil is thus a most pressing one, not only because of its demoralizing effects upon industry, but because of the moral and physical dangers to which it exposes the working population.

SWING HIGH AND SWING LOW.

Swing high and swing low, while the breezes they blow - It's off for a sailor thy father would go And it's here in the harbor, in sight of the sea. He hath left his wee babe with my song and with me "Swing high and swing low, while the breezes they blow?" Swing high and swing low, while the breezes they blow - It's oh for the waiting as weary days go! And it's oh for the heartache that smiteth me when I sing my song over and over again! "Swing high and swing low, while the breezes they blow?" "Swing high and swing low" - the song singeth so, And it waileth anon in its ebb and its flow, And a sleeper sleeps on to that song of the sea. Nor reckon he ever of mine or of me! "Swing high and swing low, while the breezes they blow -" Thus off for a sailor thy father would go! - Eugene Field, in Chicago Herald.

A LOVE LETTER.

BY S. A. WEISS.



QUIRE MADDOCK sat at breakfast, reading the leading country newspaper, and chinking with toast and indignation at a fierce editorial attack upon his own political party.

"Confounded nonsense and idiosyncrasy!" he exclaimed, at length, as he contemptuously tossed aside the paper. "Here, Eva, child, another cup of coffee!"

As his daughter received the empty cup, he noticed something of an expression of sadness on her usually bright face, and his conscience reproached him as being the cause of it.

"Since the death of his wife, whom he had tenderly loved, his daughter had been dearer to him than anything on earth, and he did not like to see her looking unhappy.

"What is the day's programme, Eva?" he asked, quite mildly. "Hadn't you better drive down with me to Chester and see the Lyne girls while I call on my lawyer?"

"No, thank you, papa. The Lyne girls are coming here to tea and croquet this afternoon."

"Ah! And who have you to meet them?"

Eva's hand was a little unsteady as she poured out the coffee, and her aunt, Miss Maddox, quietly answered for her:

"Young Mr. Moffit and his sister, and the Harmon girls and Jack Riverton, and Mr. Patton will bring a friend with him."

The squire's brow darkened. "Wasn't Jack Riverton here yesterday?"

"No, not yesterday. Seems to me he is always here. Fity his father don't keep him more closely to his desk in his office, or that he can't find some other place than my house in which to pass his superabundant leisure. And I don't see," he added, irritably, "I don't see why he should have been invited here, when I have already expressed my objection to him."

"He is not particularly invited," his sister answered. "It is only the second meeting of our little croquet club - all that we can find to amuse us in this dull country neighborhood. And, of course, you can't blame him for coming with the rest."

HUNTING FOR BIG GAME.

THE PERILS OF ELEPHANT SHOOTING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Laws for the Protection of Elephants - The Heaviest Tusk in the World at the Fair.

THE heaviest elephant tusk in the world, so far as known, is at the World's Fair in the Cape Colony exhibit. It is seven and a half feet long and weighs 158 pounds. At the thickest part it is about six inches through. The mate to it, which is a little lighter, is in the museum at Cape Town. There is an elephant tusk larger than this, belonging to the King of Siam, but it is not so heavy.

The elephant who carried these monstrous tusks - more than 800 pounds of ivory, or twice the weight of an average man - was killed in the Zambesi country, South Africa, some years ago. He was about fourteen feet high and was a genuine king of the forest who would have dwarfed Jumbo himself.

Elephant hunting is the first of all sports with the gun, but the slaughter of these great animals has been so prodigious since the Arabs and other traders have so far brought their rifles to the tribes throughout Africa, that many fear their speedy extermination. However, Robert Lee, who is one of the men in charge of the Cape Colony exhibit, and who has traveled much in the elephant country, thinks that the great beast will hold on for many generations yet. Africa is so vast, many regions are so difficult of access, and the elephant is so tenacious of life, he says, that man cannot kill all his tribe as he has slaughtered the buffalo in America.

"Elephant hunting is extremely dangerous," said Mr. Lee. "I know of no other sport in which the hunter is so liable to become the hunted. I am not a sportsman myself, and I have never tried to kill an elephant, but I was once with others who thought they would accomplish such a feat."

"In 1887 I accompanied Colonel Carrington's expedition into the country north of the Transvaal. While riding along through an open country we saw a herd of elephants. I think there were about twenty of them. We came close enough for a shot. The Colonel called for his elephant gun and blazed away at the elephants. Instantly the whole herd darted toward us, stampeding fiercely and really presenting a most terrifying appearance. None of us paused for another shot, but turned our horses and galloped away as fast as we could, the elephants in full chase. So far as we knew, the Colonel's bullet had missed entirely."

"My horse was not an especially good one, and I brought up the rear of that flying column. An elephant, despite his awkward appearance, can run very fast, and I began to think of my sins. My horse stepped into a hole, stumbled, fell and threw me over his head. I wasn't much hurt, and I jumped to my feet instantly and seized the horse's reins. The animal wasn't much hurt, either, and I got him off again in about fifteen seconds. I think I don't know how close the elephants were to me when I fell, for I never looked back. I overlooked the rest of the elephants were to be seen no longer. People who are fond of a chase with plenty of danger in it should hunt the elephant. I don't care for it myself."

Mr. Lee says he has seen many herds of elephants along the Zambesi River, and they are still more plentiful further north. Though Cape Colony has been settled about as long as the United States, there are still some elephants in a portion of its mountainous region, known as the Knyasi country. They are supposed to be about five hundred in number, and protected by the Government.

Elephants are said to grow larger south of the Zambesi than north of it. There are considerable herds in the country of Kama, King of the Bows. This man is the most advanced of all the South African kings or chiefs. He has provided a set of game laws for his country, and they are rigidly enforced. Hence in the large territory over which he rules the elephants are increasing in numbers rather than diminishing. Kama, naturally a man of good disposition, is largely a missionary, a Scotchman, and a very enlightened and humane man.

"I know Khama very well," said Mr. Lee, "and I accompanied one of the expeditions of the English into his country. He is a remarkable man in appearance, as well as in character. He is at least six feet four inches tall, and enormously fat. He received us kindly and asked us many questions. He was greatly pleased with our clothes, and discarded his African attire in favor of a suit like ours."

During the Revolution the most elaborate of uniforms were designed for the American officers, and the men were ordered to wear green shirts, "if they could be procured." As a matter of fact very few uniforms were worn, everybody wore what he happened to have and the navy was clothed in motley array. The native born American seamen, most of them, wore the canvas petticoat, and they all wore the hair in a braid down the back, waxing it to make it curl up at the end. As many of the seamen were foreigners the costumes of all Nations were displayed on many ships. It was not until 1800 that there is a record of a crew in white duck uniforms. - Chicago Herald.

A Fight on a Locomotive. An extraordinary fight took place between the driver and stoker of a passenger engine, when the train they were conducting was traveling at a high rate of speed between Venice and Grassano. The two began to quarrel, and just after leaving the latter station they attacked each other with knives. Then the driver drew a revolver and fired at the stoker, severely wounding him. The latter, however, succeeded in stopping the train before any accident occurred. Both men were seriously injured. - New York Telegram.

As a usual thing, a woman's eyesight is better than a man's.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

The average woman lives longer than the average man.

All medical authorities hold that fruits are essential to prolongation of life.

Attempts have been made to counterfeit meteorites, because they are so valuable, but without success. According to the tracks found in a stone quarry in Connecticut, a bird with a foot eleven inches in length inhabited those parts.

Dr. Brown-Sequard says that pressing in the neighborhood of the ear, especially in front of the right one, will stop a fit of coughing. The hydrographic office at Washington is disposed to attribute the heat and drought in Europe this season to the scarcity of icebergs in the North Atlantic.

The Chicago Common Council has empowered the Mayor of the city to negotiate for the erection of garbage crematories of a capacity of 100,000 tons a day. Criminals are usually of weak physical organization. In 1885 sixty-seven per cent. of the men in French prisons and sixty per cent. of the women were sent to the hospital at some time during the period of incarceration.

The narrowest part of the Strait of Florida, through which the Gulf Stream flows at the rate of five knots an hour, is fifty miles wide, and has a mean depth of 359 fathoms. If this were stepped up the climate of this country in winter would be totally changed. A recently constructed submarine boat, destined for the French Navy, is moved by electricity, carries a crew of twelve men, and can run under water for two hours. It is planned to lodge under an enemy's vessel a torpedo powerful enough to break a big steamer in two.

A. D. Risten, in a recently published paper in the Astronomical Journal on a new method for determining the direction of the sun's motion through space, concludes that he has obtained results which not only show the reality of such motion, but that its rate is 10.9 miles per second. After two years' trial with pine, oak and greenheart in the Suez Canal Company's arsenal basin at Port Said, it has been found that while the pine and oak are almost entirely destroyed by the "tarant" or borer worm, the greenheart has suffered no injury whatever. This wood is a native of British Guiana.

Experiments with a bicycle fitted out with a small chemical tank and fire axe are being made by a South Boston fire company. The bicycle has cushion tires and with its whole outfit weighs about sixty pounds. The tank holds about two gallons of chemical, which amounts to an extinguisher to about twelve pairs of water.

It is popularly supposed that the sudden downpour which usually follows a bright flash of lightning is in some way caused by the flash. Meteorologists have proven that this is not the case, and that, exactly to the contrary, it is not only possible but highly probable that the sudden increased precipitation is the real cause of the flash.

Surprise and alarm were depicted on the face of the Rev. J. N. Braden, who had been strolling along the roads in Backoon Township, Penn., and paused to rest his back against a rail fence. His arms sank into the slimy folds of a black snake nearly seven feet long, which was stretched along the top rail. It took him just two seconds to turn a back summersault over the fence, and then he killed the snake.

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PENSIONS!

Act of June 27, 1890. - Pensions soldiers and sailors of the war of rebellion who served 90 days and were honorably discharged from the service, and who are incapacitated for performance of manual labor, and for the widows, children, dependent parents, fathers and mothers. All pensions under this Act will commence from the date of filing the formal application (after the passage of the Act) in the Pension Bureau. No application for pension under this act will be good unless filed in the Pension Bureau on or after June 27, 1890. (Date of the Act) or if not in the form, substantially prescribed by the Secretary. The rates: For dependent father or mother, \$12; the widow, \$8 and \$3 additional for each child of soldier under sixteen years; and if the widow dies, the child or children can draw such pension. The soldier is entitled to any rate from \$5 to \$12 per month, according to inability to earn a support. A pensioner under existing laws may apply under this one, or a pensioner under this one may apply under other laws, but can draw only one pension at the same time. This law requires in a soldier's or sailor's case: (1) An honorable discharge. (2) That he served at least ninety days. (3) A permanent physical or mental inability to earn a support, but not due to vicious habits. (It need not have originated in the service.) CASE OF A WIDOW - (1) That the soldier or sailor served at least ninety days. (2) That he was honorably discharged. (3) Proof of death, but it need not have been the results of his Army or Naval service. (4) That the widow is "without other means of support than her duty labor." (5) That she married soldier prior to June 27, 1890, the date of the Act. DEPENDENT PARENTS' CASE. (1) That the soldier or sailor died of a wound, injury or disease, which, under prior law, would have given him a pension. (2) That he left no wife or minor child. (3) That the mother or father is at present dependent on her or his own manual labor; being "without other present means of support than their own manual labor, or the contributions of others not legally bound for their support. The benefits of the first section of the Act of June 27, 1890, are not confined to the parents of those who served in the war of the rebellion, but are extended to all parents whose pensionable dependence has arisen on account of the death of a son who served, since said war, in behalf of the United States, as well as for disabilities contracted before or since discharge. (4) That in case a minor child is insane, idiotic or otherwise permanently helpless, the pension shall continue during the period of such disability, and this proviso shall apply to all pensions heretofore granted, or hereafter to be granted, under this or any former statute, and such pensions shall commence from the date of application therefor: after passage of this Act. The rules and regulations of the Department will govern all applicants and attorneys. Under Act of June 27, 1890, pensions are granted to Soldiers and Sailors disabled from old age, infirmity, etc. NOTICE! - Dr. W. R. Lastrapa having recently been appointed U. S. Examining Surgeon for Pensions at Opelousas, La., it is now of special interest to claimants of Pensions to come to me and make out their applications, so that you may now be examined without having to sustain the expense of a long journey to New Orleans for medical examination, at which place they have heretofore been required to go.

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