THE OPELOUSAS COURIER

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

OPELOUSAS, : LOUISIANA.

Fire Signals.

At a meeting of Hope Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, held on July 9, 1901, the town was divided into Fire Districts and a Code of Signals was adopted in order to facilitate the location of fires in the future. The town was divided as follows:

District No. 1—All that portion of town bounded north by Bellevue street, west by Union street, south and east by corporation line.

District No. 2—All that portion of town bounded by Bellevue street on the south, Union street on the west, and corporation line on the north and east.

District No. 3—The portion of town lying west of Union street, and south of Bellevue street, with the corporation line as the south and west boundary.

District No. 4—The portion of town bounded on the south by Bellevue, east by Union, north and west by corporation line.

The Signals adopted were short taps to indicate the district in which the fire is located, followed by a rapid alarm, same to be repeated until general alarm is given.

To illustrate, should an alarm be sounded for District No. 3, first three taps, one, two, three, followed by rapid alarm, and repeat.

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MONEY TO LOAN.
Office of St. Landry Homestead and Loan Association, Opelousas, Sept. 19, '99.
The undersigned is authorized by the Board of Directors of the St. Landry Homestead and Loan Association to offer to its members loans at eight per centum. For particulars apply to
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In a desirable neighborhood in Opelousas, with an entire square of land, well shaded with live oaks, magnolias, cedars, pecans, etc., about 9 squares from the Courthouse, 5 squares from High School, 2 squares from Catholic Church and convent. House is two story, brick basement, 8 rooms, four fireplaces, out-buildings, etc., all under good fence. Will be sold cheap for cash, or part cash and balance on time to suit. Apply at this office. tf

NEW JAPANESE NAVY.

MANNED BY A RIGHT GOOD, STURDY AND HARDY LOT.

Japan Is Fortunate in Possessing for Seafaring Purposes a Population Made Up of Boatmen, Sailors and Fisherfolk.

I would like to lay certain facts before the public with respect to the Japanese navy, which, while it is quite one of the best in existence, appears to me to attract less attention in England than its sister service and than it deserves, writes a correspondent of the London Spectator. Just why Japan should possess such a fine navy is largely due to the fact that, with her long and much broken coast line, one-half of which faces the mightiest of oceans, and the other half the stormy seas divding her from the mainland of Asia, and with innumerable creeks and streams running in all directions, she is singularly fortunate in possessing for her naval purposes a population, a goodly proportion of which is made up of boatmen, sailors and fisherfolk. And a right good, sturdy and hardy lot of men they are, too, with plenty of "go" and dash in them, and just the material for the making of good men-o'-war's men.

Leaving out certain matters of much interest from a historical point of view, it is interesting to know why the Japanese navy has been modeled upon lines strictly British.

Yokosuka may be considered the headquarters of the Japanese navy, but Kure in the Inland sea, is in no way behind in importance, for in addition to superior dock yard accommodation and a fine arsenal, the harbor there is in every way—for naval purposes—one of the finest in existence. Saseho, close to Nagasaki, is magnificently situated for commanding the waters lying between Japan and Corea, and no less so as a base for offensive operations in the Gulf of Pechill and China seas. Malzuru, on the Sea of Japan and Muroran, in Yezo, are yards of secondary importance and are more coaling stations and harbors of refuge for small craft than anything else as yet. Should Japan be drawn into a war with Russia, they might, however, be of inestimable value to her as places of embarkation for troops destined for the mainland of Asia, as well as for the purposes already mentioned.

The education of Japanese naval officers is in the first place carried out at the Naval College at Etajima. The cadets enter when about 17 years of age, and after a three years' course join a training ship for cruising purposes. Returning to Japan, they are then posted to sea-going men-o'-war, and upon being promoted to sub-lieutenant, go through gunnery, torpedo, etc., schools, and later on through a course at the Naval Academy at Tokyo. The work done is good, but though the Japanese are apt pupils and keen soldiers when young, they too often fall off as they grow older, and this, I think, is largely due to certain old-time family customs that still hold sway in Japan. Every Japanese officer marries somewhat young, and no sooner has he prepared a home than members of his family at once begin to make his home theirs also. Household cares induced by such a state of affairs often prove too much for many of them; their early keenness vanishes, and then a general falling off in efficiency soon takes place.

As I explained in my former letter on the Japanese army, the Satsuma element is the all-predominating one in the Japanese navy. This most undoubtedly worked all right so long as Japan had a navy of 100,000 tons and less, but since its excessive augmentation during the last few years men of other clans have been joining in ever-increasing numbers, and bid fair in time to challenge the Satsuma predominance, and the consequence is that the Japanese navy, like the Japanese army, is no longer the happy family affair it was a few years back. The officers then knew each other, got on together, and so everything worked for efficiency. The cadets now joining are certainly not of the same high stamp they were when I first took up my duties at the naval college, Etajima, and this means a good deal—certainly more in Japan than in England.

The Japanese blue jackets and petty officers are very fine men indeed, far better so, on an average, than their comrades of the army. They are better fed, clothed, and looked after, and a very great proportion of them join the service voluntarily. Taking them on the whole, they are a fairly intelligent lot of men, far more so than the Russians, but in physique they cannot in any way compare with them. Recruited entirely from the fisherfolk classes, they are a fairly hardy lot of men, and having been brought up to the sea, soon make themselves quite at home on joining. The stokers and engine room artificers are not as good as they might be, but from all I have been able to gather they are improving.

Of the strength of the ships in the Japanese navy, there is no need to write, for the fullest of information regarding that may be obtained from books and annuals devoted to such matters. The best of the Japanese ships are as good as the best in any navy. The Russians undoubtedly have officers and men superior to any the Japanese can bring forward, but I firmly believe—and I have seen a good deal of both—the average Japanese officer and man are every whit as good as the average Russian. Whether the Japanese is quite so stubborn a fighter as the Rusian time alone will tell, but there can be no doubt that while the Russians have a great contempt for the Japanese, the latter, on the other hand, have some considerable respect for Russian prowess. The naval strength of Russia in Far Eastern waters is now, so far as first class fighting ships are concerned, quite equal to that of the Japanese; but the Japanese possess a huge secondary fleet that might be brought into most effective use after the first line had fought a crippling fight. The Russians are, however, immeasurably inferior to the Japanese in regard to coaling and dockyard facilities and bases of operation. And then the much vaunted Japanese patriotism? That, too, like their true fighting capabilities, has yet to be put to the test, and until it is done no one can say how the Japanese forces and public will behave in the face of reverses, no matter how unimportant they may be.

THE GENTLE OUTLAW.

Gov. Ferguson Is Astonished by the Manners of Bill Doolin.

In yesterday's issue the Journal printed the personal account of Gov Tom G. Ferguson of his meeting with Bill Doolin, the notorious Oklahoma outlaw. The chief point of interest in the story was that the governor found that the outlaw, in friendly intercourse, was so harmless in appearance so gentle in word and action, and withal such a quiet, obliging and lovable character that he seemed incapable of committing crime, either by violence or treachery. The governor showed Doolin to be of the cast in which Byron's Corsair was moulded, "the mildest mannered man who ever scuttled ship or cut a throat." And so Doolin in fact was, during the days of his supremacy, and so have been most of all of the desperadoes in the frontier life of the west.

There is nothing very surprising in this peculiarity when you come to think about it carefully. As men are not all good, so also are they never all bad. The deepest villain that ever drew breath, drew gun or stretched a halter has had some streaks or fits of goodness and displayed occasionally a pride, a sense of honor or feeling of pity or remorse which contrasted strangely and often grotesquely with the general tenor and course of his bloody and vicious career. At least it has been so in the west. The James gang and the Younger boys are reputed to have waylaid and robbed the rich and then given up the booty so gotten to relieve the needy and distressed. Quantrell was such a loving and exemplary husband that one of his widows composed this epitaph for inscription upon the tombstone over his last resting place: "One hero less on earth, one angel more in heaven." It is not at all certain, however, that Quantrell, in spite of his domestic virtues, is really in heaven, but it is quite probable that had he lived until the animosities excited by his bloody deeds had subsided, many morbid minded people would have coincided with the flattering opinion entertained by his widow, and would have been glad to do him special honor as a conqueror and a hero.

The ruffians and the totally bad men who took to the road in the pioneer days in the west all died early. It was only your insinuating, plausible rogue who lasted for any considerable time. The drunken, boasting, bullying, noisy fellows do not make successful desperadoes.—Kansas City Journal.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

After driving a London omnibus for sixty-one years, from 1842 to 1903, James Perry has retired.

Girls dressed in gaudy red, black, and white uniforms are selling butter and cheese in the streets of Berlin for a new company.

The remains of a heretofore unknown animal were recently discovered in Northern Egypt. The bones indicate that it was an ancestor of the rhinoceros.

The wagons of the London fire company are to be supplied with bells so that the firemen will no longer be compelled to utter cries to clear the streets.

The bashi-bazouk shaves his head, except a tuft at the crown, which is to be used by the angel to jerk him into paradise if he should be slain by his intended victim.

In view of the fact that contagious diseases may be conveyed from mouth to mouth, many children in England now have on their hatbands the words, "Please do not kiss me."

In the absence of horses both a plow and a mower were used tied behind his automobile by Mr. Raser, an Ohio farmer. The machine was geared too fast to give the best results.

During the summer large numbers of women come from Poland, Silesia, and Galicia to Central Germany to work in the sugar-beet fields. They are driven in gangs by a male overseer.

Watchdogs are to be employed to guard the German government dockyards. A dog is to accompany each sentinel, and the animal will be set upon any stranger who fails to respond to the challenge.

Dogs with collecting boxes attached to their collars are comparatively common in Europe. It may not, however, be generally known what large sums they earn for the charities they represent. It is stated in the last part of the Animal World (Hutchinson) that one which used to beg for a hospital in Ireland collected in five years nearly $15,000. He had a special banking account, which was submitted periodically to a chartered accountant.

The Soldier's Idle Time.

Military life is necessarily made up largely of loafing. You cannot keep a man continuously at drilling, marching, or any other branch of military training for eight hours a day and five or six days a week. You have to invent a great many other jobs for him, even to make a pretense of keeping him occupied. But these jobs are nearly all "loafing" jobs, and when it is all done the soldier has a great many more idle hours on his hands per diem than any other man in the same rank of life.

I do not know whether it is possible to arrive at any remedy for this; but if it is, the direction in which I should look for the remedy would be to make every soldier work at some other trade for a certain number of hours each day. The number of hours might be shorter in the summer, when there is more opportunity for training and military exercise, and longer in the winter. If this were practicable, no doubt it would make an enormous difference in the value of the soldier as a citizen when he leaves the ranks.—London Truth.

Novelties in Wheat and Corn.

By Priscilla Leonard.

NOT very long ago Sir William Crookes, president of the British Association, asserted gloomily that by 1931 the world would not produce enough wheat to go round. His argument was that there is just so much wheat land upon the globe, and that the wheat-eating races are increasing beyond the limit of future supply. But Sir William forgot the inventiveness of the Yankee; and the American editor who responded that if a steady price of a dollar a bushel was guaranteed America would take the contract to supply what was needed was not far wrong. The wheat land may be limited, but the future possibilities of wheat itself are also to be reckoned with.

Man has been raising wheat for uncounted ages and corn for centuries; yet the grains themselves have changed very little under cultivation since our first record of them. But to-day chemistry and biology have taken a turn toward agriculture, and wheat in Minnesota and corn in Illinois have been the subjects of marvellous and successful experiment.

Ten years ago, for instance, the Minnesota State Experiment Station took up the idea of producing new wheats. It is, in the beginning, a French idea, Mons. Henri Vilmorin having done some fine experimenting.

The American workers have already produced startling results. They began by artificially cross-breeding various wheats. To do this, we are told, the experimenters went into the blossoming wheat at o'clock in the morning, transferred the pollen of one sort to the flowers of another, tied the heads so treated in tiny bags of tissue, to keep out insects birds, and marked them with record tags. When these heads of wheat were harvested, registered and planted by themselves the seed grains were

Some of these infinitesimal crops turned out ly, some encouragingly. Out of the hundreds of wheats thus bred some or ten showed marked advance. These were sowed and reaped until there as enough seed to give out to farmers to use in open "field trials."

It takes about ten years of patient work to bring each new variety to this "farm test." But the results justify the labor. In cases these new wheats yielded at least two bushels more to the acre than the ndard wheat, and were vigorous and healthy. In one case, where the average yield was fifteen bushels, the new "Minnesota Number 163" yielded forty-three bushels—a result which ought to cheer Sir William Crookes to the heart.

Meanwhile, in Illinois, the agricultural College at Urbana has been working away on corn, by selection and careful breeding. The Illinois experimenters, as one report puts it, have been outwitting and reforming nature." They have aimed, not only at increasing the yield, but at controlling the elements of the kernel itself. They have succeeded in growing corn with less or more oil, or less or more protein, at will.

Corn oil is so important an element that one manufacturer has offered five cents a bushel more for every extra one per cent. of oil in the corn. Over one per cent. has already been added, and a further advance is expected for; while five per cent. of protein has been added to another variety.

A "corn register" is now established in Illinois, where the pedigrees of the different new varieties are registered precisely as pedigreed animals are recorded. An increase of ten bushels an acre is prophesied—which would mean fifty million dollars more for Illinois on her yearly corn crop, just as Minneapolis and the Dakotas, with the new wheat, can hope for twenty-two millions more annually.

It all sounds like a fairy tale. But it has been done step by step, with almost incredible painstaking; and it is no more marvelous, after all, than the development of an "American Beauty" from the original wild rose. Who knows what wonderful wheats the twenty-first century may see? If the farmer's boy of to-day finds the farm outlook stupid, the dullness must be more in himself than in the possibilities of agriculture.—Youth's Companion.

Psychology of Panic.

Is the Absolute Paralysis of Conscious Faculties Sometimes a Boon?

By Amon R. Jenkins.

OF ALL things contributing to the Chicago tragedy it would seem on the surface that panic was the greatest factor. Is panic an unmixed, an utter evil? What is panic, anyhow?

Darwin has it as an axiom that nature bestows no permanent quality to life which would injure or which would be any other than a benefit to its possessor. Does it not seem that the fright which paralyzes or incapacitates all judgment is a great, a measureless evil to the possessor? Can there possibly be benefit, then, in the panic or paralysis of fear?

If the cause be sufficient, it can be safely claimed that all can be panicked, paralyzed, or even killed by fear alone—let the man be Andrew Jackson, Cassius Clay, Caesar, no matter.

Human thought is a blend of three orders: The conscious thought of the larger, newer human brain (cerebrum); instinctive and emotional sub-conscious thought of the smallest middle, the most ancient animal brain (pons and medulla), and the marvellous intelligence of each and every unit in the cellular confederation of the body.

The conscious, the larger brain, is but the child, the derivative of the two older forms and powers of thought, and in the greater crises and emergencies of life seems not to be trusted very far; for the very first effect of a great fear is the cutting out of the influence and judgment of the higher brain. The man then becomes as a somnambulist—all perception and effort upon which salvation depends are turned over to the old, the brute brain; and without being at all conscious such a one may do and undergo things ordinarily impossible. Without consciousness or remembrance people have thus been enabled to save their lives where judgment and endeavor had failed.

Another form of great fear is an absolute paralysis of brain and body. Here beneficent nature yields instantly to the seemingly inevitable—beneficent because in the extreme panic and paralysis of fear there can be little or no conscious sensation or suffering, for the conscious brain is no longer in action. To show how strong this paralyzing effect is: In mice worried and paralyzed by cats, the blood will clot after death and the flesh becomes very soft and tender.

The bodies of two Roman soldiers found as on guard at Pompeii will be remembered as showing that some may not be panicked. In the Chicago and Martinique fires, similarly, bodies were found indicating absolute instantaneous paralysis.

Since all may be panicked or paralyzed by fear, it is suggested that all places of large concourse, in or out of doors, should be approved of by men of the utmost honor and ability—by men removed from every possibility of political or other jobbery—by officers and engineers of the Regular army, the officers for the general supervision thereof. What I mean by the army officer is the regular West Pointer, one brought up in the traditions of that institution.—New York Sun.

The Secret of a Girl's Popularity.

By Beatrice Fairfax.

GIRLS frequently write to me complaining that they have no men friends and wondering why it is.

For the benefit of these disconsolate ones I will enumerate a few of the qualities necessary for the snaring of that biggest of all game—man.

First and foremost it is necessary that a girl should be tactful. Now to be really tactful means to be a good many other things as well. The tactful girl never wounds people's feelings, she says the right thing in the right place and knows to a nicety the things that should be done and the things that should be left undone.

The girl who would be popular must also be cheerful. No one cares for the gloomy, complaining girl—men avoid her as they would the plague.

Another admirable quality in the popular girl is that she seldom talks about herself. She listens well and draws a man on to talk about his projects and interests, and you know, girls, that, nice and indispensable as they are, men do love to talk about themselves.

Men love the sympathetic girl, the girl who makes their interests hers, who with sweet understanding can put herself in their place, condoning instead of blaming, and who, when they pour their tales into her ready ears, says: "Yes, I know." The lovely part of it is that she does know.

There is one thing that all men detest and have much contempt for, and that is the girl who tries to be mannish.

Woman's femininity is her greatest charm. The more feminine she is, the more men like her. She need not be clever or pretty, but she must be feminine. They get all the masculine qualities in their own sex, so it is only natural that they should not seek them in women.

Bear this in mind, girls—if you would be popular, be feminine.

Value of Technical Training.

By James M. Dodge.

President of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

IT IS QUITE obvious that all workers in the machanic arts cannot be technical graduates. Some must, through natural limitations or lack of opportunity, follow the apprentice line, and others the trade school. It is from graduates of the latter that leading shop men and foremen are largely selected. These two classes, supplemented by the technical graudate, constitute the vast army of workers in the mechanic arts.

Of course apprentices have made and will make, in rare instances, a better showing than the average technical man, and many of our greatest men have, by sheer force of character, excellence of brain fibre, persistence and self-education, risen to pre-eminent positions independent of all regular systems. To the end of time great examples of this kind will be found. Among those whose names readily come to mind are the elder Krupp, Joseph Whitworth, George M. Pullman, Andrew Carnegie, John Fritz, Prof. John E. Sweet, Edwin Reynolds, George H. Babcock and Coleman Sellers.

The highest wages are paid to the man through whose ability the largest number of other men may be most profitably employed. He does his work with his brain. Thus, on the one hand we see manual labor receiving no wages, and on the other mental labor reaping the highest reward. Between these two extremes is found in every condition of human life.

The Berlin directory, the 1904 edition of which is just out, has completed its 200th year.

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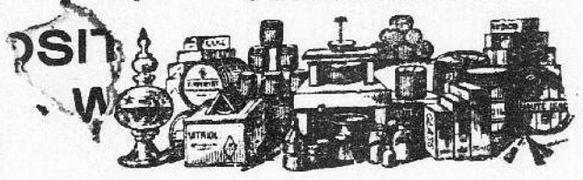
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