PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Report on the Public School System of Kansas.

The following report presented by a special committee to the Kansas State Teachers' Association on the Kansas school system will be found of interest:

To the Kansas State Teachers' Association:

The committee appointed at the last annual meeting of this association, to report on the desirability of a change from our present district system to either the township or county system, early in September sent a circular of inquiry to every county superintendent in the State. More or less complete reports were received from about forty counties, and these faithfully represent the condition of all parts of the State, as will be found in perusing the tabular statements embodied in this report.

In the first place, let us ask attention to the fact that the present system results in a choice of three school officers from a very small community, and from a very limited number of men. They may be (perhaps generally are) as good men as can be found in that community; but this fact does not relieve them from being only too often very poor school officers.

Now the county superintendents referred to, in making their special reports, answered very generally this question: "How many school officers in your county visit their schools?" A careful compilation of the replies shows that out of nearly 8,000 officers, only some 1,800 (or less than one-sixth) discharge this very plain duty. In other words, the result is the same as though in all the odd-numbered districts the officers never visit their schools, and in the even-numbered districts, only one member of the board knows by personal observation the conditions and needs of the weighty matter intrusted to him! This would seem bad enough, and might well cause us to look more carefully into district affairs; but there is worse than this. Another question was: "What proportion of your school officers thoughtfully and intelligently discharge their duties?" It is quite possible that some school officers are busy men, with no time for visitations—and yet give much thought to their work. It is not impossible that excellent teachers make visits from the board almost unnecessary. But there can be no excuse for carelessness, thoughtlessness or incapacity. Yet answering for more than 7,000 officers, but 2,000 were reported favorably. On an average, then, in each district about seven-eighths of a man "thoughtfully and intelligently discharges his duties" as a school officer! And the education of our children, and intelligent citizenship, and the future of this State, depend largely on the results of this two-sevenths management! Is it not time to investigate, to see whether the system or the men are to blame; to see what remedies are needed, and what can be applied? It is quite probable that districts do as well as they can in selecting officers. Further, the superintendents in question have doubtless understated rather than overstated the evils prevalent in their own counties. This last should be constantly in mind. Men speak as favorably as possible of their constituents, even in confidential and privileged communications. We may be sure that the case is worse than actually reported, rather than better.

To proceed: Superintendents having within their jurisdiction over 7,000 officers report 2,000 of these as "wholly unfit for their positions." It might be questioned as to the respects in which these officers were unfit, but on one point the returns are painfully explicit. It is with much hesitation that we quote the figures. As Kansans and citizens, we are ashamed of the showing. But we believe that the evil will never be remedied till the facts are brought to the public eye, ear and bonscience.

Asked, "How many officers are virtually illiterate?" the gentlemen interrogated say more than one-fifth—1,600 in 7,200 (round numbers)! We wish to pause right here to ask careful consideration of the facts thus made prominent. As business men, as practical men, it is time citizens carried to school matters practical and business sense. If taxes are not a good investment, then taxes had better come to an end. They can not be a good investment, however, when expended by a body of men a large per cent. of whom have no knowledge of the business, while still a larger per cent. give it no attention whatever. If of any seventy hired men, only thirteen gave the business in hand the benefit of their presence and personal effort, twenty-one "thought about it," and thirty-six knew nothing about it at all, how long could the employers of such laborers keep out of bankruptcy? Suppose that Superintendent Parnham, at the capitol building, should report to the commissioners: Total number of men employed and paid, 70; average reporting for duty, 13; number who say "they are thinking about it," 21; cripples, blind, and "wholly unfit" for work, 36, about how long before Superintendent Parnham would be on his journey to Lawrence? Yet this is precisely what we seem to be doing all over this State—partly because we are wedded to precedent, (the district system,) and largely because we are so very busy making money that we can not stop to see that it is wisely expended. For our children's sake, if not for our own, we should seek a remedy for the prevailing inefficiency of a large per cent. of our rural schools.

There is another phase of our present system which is almost as disheartening as the wretched showing made in official zeal and ability. That is, the limitations, inequalities and rank injustice of the resulting taxation. We are generally so alert to perceive that which touches our pockets that it is remarkable that this inequality of burdens has not made itself felt before.

From part of the reports referred to the following contrasts have been drawn. The figures may speak for themselves. They are said to be confined to districts in which one teacher only is employed:

COUNTY.	Lowest district valuation	School population	Highest district valuation	School population
Anderson	$10,245	30	$47,505	67
Atchison	14,000	33	105,100	65
Crawford	12,114	54	53,710	58
Chautauqua	5,267	40	29,706	41
Cloud	9,750	55	65,826	57
Cherokee	4,015	28	62,212	74
Dickinson	12,481	30	87,747	73
Doniphan	12,021	78	81,192	41
Ellsworth	7,570	21	80,288	81
Elk	6,577	12	52,844	60
Ellis	3,491	23	85,207	63
Edwards	3,190	47	33,764	34
Hodgman	4,495	28	52,993	48
Harvey	7,249	17	61,198	35
Harper	7,680	33	53,775	106
Jewell	6,881	36	33,040	34
Marion	10,266	30	58,752	46
Mitchell	4,747	21	61,377	64
Rooks	1,674	37	28,175	58
Rush	1,489	15	23,857	48
Sedgwick	15,400	23	191,650	72

Remember, these are communities within the same county limits, in some cases side by side, engaged in the same struggle for existence, and for education as one of the essentials to an enjoyable existence. By a purely artificial division of territory, by lines which can not be seen but can be most severely felt, for reasons that are frequently inscrutable and are often those of some little clique with political influence, these people find themselves under the most unequal system of taxation that can be devised. Why should Atchison County be so divided that one community has over $1,600 assessable values for every child of school age, while another has but $150? Why has one district in Chautauqua $225 assessable for each child, and another but $125? What thoughtfulness, or justice, or equity can be claimed for a system that produces such results as can be seen through the entire list.

The showing ought to arouse public indignation. The least it can do is to promote discussion. It will perhaps be objected that the contrasts exhibited in the statistical tables were exaggerated in this respect; that they touched extreme cases only. It is impossible, of course, to make a minute showing of every phase of the present slovenly, unjust and inequitable system of managing and providing for our schools. But in order that the question may be wisely discussed and the presentation of facts as fair as possible, the following table has been prepared. Again the reports are made for districts employing but one teacher. The counties are taken, without selection, from the alphabetically arranged list, as far as complete returns have been made:

COUNTY.	Av. valuation, 5 lowest districts	Av. age school population	Av. valuation, 5 highest districts	Av. age school population
Allen	$14,962	47	$50,031	66
Anderson	12,938	35	45,579	59
Atchison*	17,796	40	90,157	56
Brown	24,902	43	71,507	62
Chautauqua	6,270	37	26,327	55
Cherokee	9,421	46	51,875	83
Cloud	11,190	40	58,511	56
Crawford	12,976	61	47,252	59
Dickinson	13,043	33	52,150	63
Doniphan	14,249	43	66,460	71
Edwards	5,071	39	47,027	33
Elk	10,026	31	47,323	61
Ellsworth	9,873	34	58,402	50
Harper	10,109	36	42,124	75
Harvey	12,048	36	56,937	54
Jewell	8,431	43	27,426	40
Marion	11,904	30	45,217	50
Marshall	13,148	34	40,177	53
Mitchell	6,471	27	47,961	43
Nemaha	16,442	33	45,814	46
Pawnee	10,852	17	76,963	43
Rush	3,537	26	20,370	36

*Returns not quite definite.

We can not see the use of pursuing these comparisons further. The result is the same from Alpha to Omega, from A to Izzard! Any one can see the existing inequalities at a glance.

We venture the assertion, that if these inequalities and disabilities were political rather than educational—if they affected the political interests or prospects of parties as they do the educational of communities—there would be a redistricting, or a revolution; and that before next spring!

What is a fair estimate of the annual cost of a good school? We do not mean the very best; but the least that we have a perfect right to demand and expect in every district, if our system is to be more than a farce.

Something as follows:

A good teacher six months, at $50	$300
Janitor	50
Fuel	20
Repairs, improvement of grounds, etc.	25
Additions to library, apparatus, etc.	30
	$425

We do not care to discuss this statement by even one printed line of argument. Any one whose opinion is worth any thing, knows that this is really a minimum—and by no means all that can be desired.

What kind of schools, then, can be expected in the five lowest districts in each county reported in the last table?

Examine the following table for the answer:

COUNTY.	Av. valuation, 5 lowest	Max. levy 20 mills gives
Allen	$14,962	$299
Anderson	12,938	258
Atchison	17,796	355
Brown	24,902	498
Chautauqua	6,270	125
Cherokee	9,421	188
Cloud	11,190	223
Crawford	12,976	259
Dickinson	13,046	260
Doniphan	14,249	284
Edwards	5,071	101
Elk	10,026	200
Ellsworth	9,873	197
Harper	10,109	202
Harvey	12,048	240
Jewell	8,431	168
Marion	11,904	238
Marshall	13,148	262
Mitchell	6,471	129
Nemaha	16,442	328
Pawnee	10,852	217
Rush	3,537	70

That's a comfortable showing! In twenty-two counties—representative counties, selected at random—the average district of the five lowest valuations can raise, by taxing itself to the extreme legal limit, $232, or a trifle more than half enough for a good six months' school! No wonder that the chief qualifications of some rural teachers seem to be "cypherin' and liekin'!"

Take the average of the five highest valuations (holding still to districts employing but one teacher); suppose them to tax themselves equally with the five lowest, and then compare the educational possibilities of the children of one with those enjoyed (?) by children in the other. Compare, or better, contrast, the tables as you read.

COUNTY.	Av. valuation, 5 highest	Max. levy 20 mills gives
Allen	$50,031	$1,000
Anderson	45,579	911
Atchison	90,157	1,803
Brown	71,507	1,430
Chautauqua	26,327	526
Cherokee	51,875	1,037
Cloud	58,511	1,170
Crawford	47,252	945
Dickinson	52,150	1,043
Doniphan	66,460	1,329
Edwards	47,027	940
Elk	47,323	946
Ellsworth	58,402	1,168
Harper	42,124	842
Harvey	56,937	1,138
Jewell	27,426	548
Marion	45,217	904
Marshall	40,177	803
Mitchell	47,961	959
Nemaha	45,814	916
Pawnee	76,963	1,539
Rush	20,370	407

This shows an average of $1,014; or considerably more than four times the average of the five lowest! This is called equality of taxation, "equality before the law," educational equality. In the estimate given above $425 was considered the minimum expense of a tolerably good six months' school. It was shown that many districts could not raise this amount under the present limitation; while some districts, under a 20-mill tax, could raise three or four times this amount. Can a single valid objection be raised to spreading the aggregate running expenses of all the schools of a county upon the county rolls?

The State has three objects in view in public education. It wishes to make each man an intelligent voter; it wishes to make each independent of the necessity for public aid—that is, to lift him above possible pauperdom; it wishes to make him strong enough to bear his share of all public burdens. These are such essentials in a free republic that we have accepted as a truism, "the State must educate, or perish."

Education, then, is a public necessity, a public duty, a public burden, (as far as expense goes,) and a public blessing. Its methods, therefore, should be as largely public and as little communal as possible. In this State, as in most Western States, the county is really the political unit. The desirability and justice of distributing to the county at large what had been so long carried by townships (under the rather limited New England system)—such as bridges, the care of the poor, etc.—has long been recognized. The school, which should have been first to receive this more just as well as more generous treatment, has thus far been left to be handled in a happy-go-lucky way by the petty little communalities which we insist on retaining, for no reason other than "for the sake of self-government." As though self-government did not exist in the county; or as though self-government were desirable for its own sake rather than for its results!

Let us suppose a county system, for taxation at least, and note the results. The task of making the necessary computations for many counties, is arduous and unnecessary. One county, a thoroughly representative one, will be sufficient. In this county we find, outside of its one city, a valuation of $3,200,000. It has eighty-five school districts—far too many, if any reasonable amount of discretion had been used in districting the county. But we will take it as it is. The problem then is: 85 times $425 equals $36,225; $36,225 equals 11.8 mills on $3,200,000.

Think of it! A good six-months' school in every district in the county for less than a twelve-mill tax. If any district wishes to do more, let it do so; but here is an absolute guaranty of good work throughout the county.

It seems impossible to study the figures in the foregoing tables, and the inferences drawn from the answers of superintendents, without concluding that our school system is wretchedly inefficient, and that our Legislature should at once be asked to enact a law which will secure for us a juster taxation, more efficient supervision, more intelligent officers, a simpler machinery, a uniform course of study, uniform text-books, and, as a consequence of all these, infinitely better results in our schools than it is possible to expect under the present system.

Your committee therefore recommend, that all laws in relation to our independent school district system be repealed. We have carefully examined the school systems of various States, and we conclude that the model system of schools for a State, approved by the National Association of Superintendents, at Philadelphia, in 1876, and also by the veteran Commissioner of Education, General Eaton, who has given the best years of his life to a study of school systems, is the best for Kansas, and it is the system your committee now respectfully present to you. As that part of the Kansas Kansas school system which relates to higher education is in the main satisfactory, it has not been touched in this report; and all the recommendations made have reference solely to the rural parts of the State, excluding all cities of the first and second class.

In dividing the State for school purposes, we recommend:

That the county should exercise a limited general supervisory control over its schools; should select a county superintendent; should have a county board of education; should secure uniformity in text-books; should have power to establish county high schools.

That the County Board of Education should be composed of the school trustees of corporations which are under the supervision of the county superintendent; should consider the general needs and wants of the schools under its charge; should seek to unify the school work; should arrange a course of study; should make general rules and regulations in regard to the employment of teachers, time of commencing schools, the government of the schools, and the conduct of the teachers and pupils, etc.; should adopt text-books; should levy a county tax.

That the city or township should be left to the local control of its schools; should elect its officers; should build its own houses; should select its own teachers from among those that have been duly qualified under the laws of the State; should be permitted to levy local taxes for the building of houses, etc.; should be permitted to levy local taxes for the continuance of the schools beyond the minimum period fixed by the State; should be permitted to levy local taxes for the maintenance of schools of an advanced grade.

That districts should be formed for the purpose of localizing the patrons of the school; should have an advisory power in the selection of teachers, and the erection, removal or repair of school houses.

That trustees of townships and cities should be three for each corporation; should be elected by the people; should serve for three years, one retiring annually; should receive school revenues; should have power to levy local taxes, within specified limitations, for grounds, buildings, furniture, repairs, supplies, apparatus, etc., and for library purposes and for additional tuition purposes; should be compelled to locate, establish and maintain a sufficient number of schools, for a certain number of months in each year; should have power to abolish old school districts, create new ones, build and remove houses; should be compelled to make provisions for instruction in certain prescribed branches; should have power to establish township or town graded schools; should have power to provide instruction in branches additional to those prescribed by law; should employ and contract with teachers, being restricted in their selection to those who have been duly licensed by competent authority; should properly account to proper officers for all school revenues that come into their hands; should receive reports from teachers, and should transmit reports to the county superintendent and other county officers; should have authority to dismiss refractory pupils from school; should be prohibited from contracting debt; should carry out the orders of the county board of education in respect to course of study and text-books.

We further recommend, that no person shall be eligible to the office of county superintendent who does not possess a diploma from a college or university legally empowered to grant literary degrees, or a diploma or State certificate issued according to law by the authorities of a State Normal School, or a certificate from the State Board of Education, or a first-grade certificate from a county or city examining board; nor shall he be eligible unless he has a sound moral character, and has had successful experience in teaching within three years of the time of his first election.

We further recommend that in each county, the tax levied by the county board be sufficient to secure each district in the county six months' school each year; and that the one-mill State tax be restored.

We have placed before you as concisely as possible the evils we seek to remedy; and, in like manner, recommend a system which has received the approval of the most eminent educational bodies and men in the land. We sincerely hope that the substantial outlines of the system will be adopted, and that immaterial details may not delay your action. We recommend that this report if adopted be printed at the expense of the association and that a copy be sent to each member of the State Legislature.

We further suggest that a committee be appointed to draft a bill embracing the system herein outlined, and to further the passage of this bill at the next session of the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN MACDONALD,
J. H. CANFIELD,
H. D. MCCARTY,
W. H. SWEET.

The State Teachers' Association adopted the foregoing report, and added to the original committee the following gentlemen: Hon. J. H. Lawhead; Hon. H. C. Speer; Superintendent R. W. Turner, of Jewell; Superintendent J. H. Lee, of Riley; Superintendent Matt Thompson, of Wabaunsee.

DYNAMITE EXPLOSION.

Suspicious Explosion of Dynamite on a Baggage Car.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 19.—A baggage car attached to the New York limited express which arrived in this city at 10:30 last night, was almost blown to pieces by dynamite or some other terrible explosive a few miles east of Altoona, Pa. A trunk was put on the train at Duncannon, near Harrisburg, and was checked through to Pittsburgh. Mingus was arranging the trunks in the car and picked up a small trunk and threw it on top of some other baggage. An explosion followed which lifted the top of the car as though it was made of paper and scattered the fragments in all directions. The shock was terrible and startled the engineer and trainmen. It also attracted the attention of the passengers and when it was found that the baggage car had been almost blown to pieces the greatest excitement prevailed. The train stopped and the baggage was transferred to another car. Mingus was quite seriously injured but will soon recover. The Pennsylvania railroad officials are determined to sift the matter to the bottom. The owner of the trunk was arrested when he presented the check for his trunk at the baggage room this morning. He said that he was a Hungarian coal miner and that his name was John Kagman. He came from Hazleton in search of work and strenuously denied that there was any explosive in the trunk. It contained he claimed nothing but clothing and some matches. Pending a thorough investigation he will be detained.

Said to be False.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—Every branch of the French Imperialist family protest against the current story of the late Prince's attachment, and denies its truth in detail and the existence of a natural son. Baron Bourgoing declares that he "never left his Prince during his too brief early manhood," and brands all the recent sensational statements as false. The whole matter will be published in book form.

Bank Robbed.

OLATHE, Kan., Jan. 20.—Tuesday night burglars broke open the back door of the Johnson County Bank and, with the aid of drills and powder, blew open the doors of the vault and the safe inside of the vault and secured a large sum of money.

KANSAS HISTORY.

Annual Meeting of the State Historical Society.

The annual meeting of the State Historical Society was held at Topeka on the 18th, at which a large number of honorary members were elected, and members of the board of directors chosen. The directors presented their report of the work of the society for two years, as follows:

AN INTERESTING COLLECTION.

Bound volumes added to the library, 2,860; unbound volumes and pamphlets, 10,008; volumes of newspapers and periodicals, 2,513; single newspapers and newspaper cuttings containing special historical material, 763; maps, atlases, etc., 81; manuscripts, 1,592; pictures, 263; miscellaneous contributions, 177; scrip, currency, etc., 41. Thus it will be seen that the library additions of books, pamphlets and newspaper files during the two years number 15,381 volumes. Of these 14,367 have been procured by gift and 1,014 by purchase. The total of the libary at the present time is as follows: 8,352 bound volumes, 21,103 unbound volumes, 6,248 bound newspaper files and volumes of periodicals; in all, 35,703 volumes.

The growth of the library during the two years has been greater than that for any similar period. This has been due in part to the growth of the State in population, adding to the number of home contributors to our collections. It has been largely due to the fact that the uninterrupted prosperity of the society for the eleven years of its existence, and the unparalleled growth of its library in that period has given the society a reputation for permanency which has attracted the attention of the older libraries and library workers of the country, inducing great liberality on their part in gifts to our library from their duplicate collections.

Of such older libraries which have contributed largely to our collections during the past two years, the Boston Public Library, the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, and the library of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass., have been most liberal.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

The accession of those publications of the United States Government which go to make up the materials of the political history of the country has been unusually large; especially of such as come under the head of Congressional debates. Of this class our library has received, during the two years, seventeen volumes of the series denominated Annals of Congress, covering the period from 1789 to 1824; twenty-nine volumes of the Register of Debates in Congress, 1824 to 1837; seventy-four volumes of the *Congressional Globe*, 1833 to 1872; forty-two volumes of the *Congressional Record*, commencing with the year 1873; in all 162 volumes of this class. Thus with what we have otherwise secured with very little cost to the State, we have nearly a complete set of these volumes which contain a connected history of the discussions in Congress and in the country, of every important subject of public interest since the foundation of the Government, including that decade of years in which Kansas affairs occupied so conspicuous a part in Congressional proceedings.

The unusual growth of the newspaper branch of our library is a marked feature, and of the 5,570 newspaper volumes now in the library, 1,157 have been added during the year past.

There are now being published in the State 758 newspapers and periodicals, the regular issues of which are all being preserved in the library of this society. It is the experience of historical research in these days that files of newspapers are the fountain head of all exact data and information. And when it is considered that this society has gathered very full files of the earliest newspapers published in Kansas, and that within the last eleven years it has gathered all Kansas newspapers, and now contains nearly complete files of all the newspapers published in the newer counties, it may be truly said that its work in this department is unparalleled in the history of library making. Our accumulation of materials of historical information of this class, as touching the whole country, has become very large.

A notable portion of the gift, ninety-seven volumes of newspaper files from the Boston public library, is that of sixty-four volumes of dates from 1767 to 1830. This is a most rare and valuable contribution to our library of newspaper files, and goes largely to increase the richness of our collection in earlier dates in this most important branch of historical materials.

One of the largest gifts of newspaper files which the society has ever received, has come during the year from Hon. F. P. Baker, of Topeka. This gift consists of sixty-five bound volumes, almost wholly of Topeka newspapers, published between the years 1859 and 1885, many of them of the earlier years of this period.

Among the manuscript accessions of interest which have added to the very full history of this class of historical material which the society possesses may be mentioned a gift made by Mr. Edward Byram, of Atchison County, of 711 papers of his grandfather, Rev. Jotham Meeker, a missionary to Kansas Indians, and who set up the first printing press in Kansas. Mr. Meeker began printing in the spring of 1834, at the Shawnee Baptist Mission, in what is now known as Johnson County, Kansas. He did a great deal of printing, chiefly in the Indian languages, for the use of missionaries of all denominations in their efforts to instruct the various tribes of Indians which then occupied that portion of the Indian Territory now in the limits of Kansas. His press was used for twenty years in this work, and up to the time when the settlement of Kansas was begun. The press was afterwards owned by the well-known Kansas editors, G. W. Brown, S. S. Prouty and S. N. Wood. The manuscript papers relate to Mr. Meeker's missionary work, to his printing and to incidents pertaining to life among the Indians in Michigan and Kansas during a period of thirty years.

The society has received large accessions of pictures, historical recollections and miscellaneous contributions.

The library and collections of the society have grown far beyond the accommations for room in the State-house. The board urges the importance of a provision in the new capital, on its completion, for suitable and ample room for the society for many years to come.

The new directors chosen were: J. G. Pratt, Edwardsville; J. B. Abbott, De Soto; N. A. Adams, Manhattan; J. H. Dowing, Hays City; George W. Knapp, Clyde; C. E. Faulkner, Salina; G. W. Veale, J. B. McAffee, T. A. Osborne, J. K. Hudson, Topeka; Cyrus Leland, Troy; L. B. Kellogg, Emporia; C. H. Kimball, Parsons; H. H. Williams, Ossawatomie; Dr. Charles Williamson, Washington; E. B. Crew, Delphos; A. W. Smith, McPherson; T. A. McNeal, Medicine Lodge; T. B. Murdock, El Dorado; Noble L. Prentiss, Atchison; E. B. Purcell, Manhattan; John H. Rice, Fort Scott; H. H. Kelly, McPherson; A. L. Coleman, Centralia; T. T. Taylor, Hutchinson; W. S. Tilton, Wa Keeney; T. Wane Ames, Gypsum City; T. S. Haun, Jetmore; J. R. Burton, Abilene; J. B. Clogston, Eureka; T. P. Fenlon and T. A. Hurd, Leavenworth.

A resolution was adopted that the first white man born in Kansas, Colonel A. S. Johnson, who was present, be requested to donate his portrait to the society. Colonel Johnson subsequently sent the society a life-size crayon portrait of himself.

A Political Rumor From the Dominion.

OTTAWA, Ont., Jan. 19.—The announcement last night that Secretary of State Chapleau has resigned from the Cabinet on account of some misunderstanding with the Premier has caused considerable excitement in political circles, as through his influence in Quebec, Sir John MacDonald had calculated to keep the Liberals from sweeping the Province at the approaching election. Chapleau was strongly opposed to the dissolution of Parliament, and was one of the members of the Cabinet who threatened to resign some weeks ago on account of a disagreement with Sir John. Some of Chapleau's friends disbelieve the statement, but the statement comes from well-advised authority.

—A healthy, full-grown fur seal will eat forty pounds of fish per day. Indeed, he must have about that weight or he will begin to pine and fade. Any one desirous of having a seal for a pet can figure pretty close on the cost.

DAVID SCOTT, champion Australian cricketer, says St. Jacobs Oil acts like magic.

Hospitals and curative institutions successfully use Red Star Cough Cure. No opiates. Costs twenty-five cents a bottle.

THE call to arms—"John, take the baby."—*Toledo Blade.*

Brown's Little Joke.

"Why, Brown, how short your coat is," said Jones one day to his friend Brown, who wittily replied: "Yes; but it will be long enough before I get another." Some men spend so much for medicines that neither heal nor help them, that new clothes is with them like angels' visits—few and far between. Internal fevers, weakness of the lungs, shortness of breath and lingering coughs, soon yield to the magic influence of that royal remedy, Dr. R. V. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery."

WAIL of the stage carpenter—all work and no play.—*Texas Siftings.*

If Sufferers from Consumption,

Scrofula, Bronchitis and General Debility will try Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites, they will find immediate relief and permanent benefit. The Medical Profession universally declare it a remedy of the greatest value and very palatable. Read: "I have used Scott's Emulsion in several cases of Scrofula and Debility in Children. Results most gratifying. My little patients take it with pleasure."—W. A. HULBERT, M. D., Salisbury, Ill.

RAILROAD brakemen should emigrate to Switcherland.—*St. Paul Herald.*

$500 Reward.

The former proprietor of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy, for years made a standing, public offer in all American newspapers of $500 reward for a case of catarrh that he could not cure. The present proprietors have renewed this offer. All the druggists sell this Remedy, together with the "Douche," and all other appliances advised to be used in connection with it. No catarrh patient is longer able to say "I can not be cured." You get $500 in case of failure.

IMPRESSIONS of America—Footprints in the snow.—*New Haven News.*

An Expensive Delay,

Is failing to provide the proper means to expel from the system those disease germs which cause scrofula, indigestion, debility, rheumatism, and sick headache. The only reliable means is Dr. Harter's Iron Tonic.

THE trouble with a buzz-saw is that it never has false teeth.

THE COMBINATION OF INGREDIENTS used in making BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES is such as to give the best possible effect with safety. They are the best remedy in use for Coughs, Colds, and Throat Diseases. Sold only in boxes. Price 25 cts.

THE home-stretch—Trying to make both ends meet.

LIFE is burdensome, alike to the sufferer and all around him, while dyspepsia and its attending evils holds sway. Complaints of this nature can be speedily cured by taking Prickly Ash Bitters regularly. Thousands once thus afflicted now bear cheerful testimony as to its merits.

NEVER speak to yourself when any one is near.—*The Judge.*

"ONE of the best friends to the Poultry yard is the very effective Bone Mill advertised by Wilson Bros., Easton, Pa. The one we have gives entire satisfaction. Grind up the offals of bone and fill the egg-basket. It will pay."

UPSIDE down—Feather bed.—*N. Y. Independent.*

FUNCTIONAL derangement of the female system is quickly cured by the use of Dr. R. V. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription." It removes pain and restores health and strength. By all druggists.

IT is the engaging girl that is the soonest engaged.

HALE'S Honey of Horehound and Tar relieves whooping cough.

Pike's Toothache Drops Cure in one minute.

NEVER attempt to handle a snow-shovel without gloves.

IF a cough disturbs your sleep take Piso's Cure for Consumption and rest well.

THE GENERAL MARKETS.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 21.			
CATTLE—Shipping steers	$3 75	@	4 25
Native cows	2 00	@	3 00
Butchers' steers	3 00	@	3 70
HOGS—Good to choice heavy	3 50	@	4 75
WHEAT—No. 2 red	71	@	71½
No. 2 soft	77	@	79
CORN—No. 2	30	@	30½
OATS—No. 2	27	@	27½
RYE—No. 2	43	@	43½
FLOUR—Fancy, per sack	1 60	@	1 65
HAY—New	8 00	@	9 50
BUTTER—Choice creamery	23	@	25
CHEESE—Full cream	13	@	13½
EGGS—Choice	22	@	22½
BACON—Ham	10	@	10½
Shoulders	5	@	5½
Sides	6	@	6½
LARD	5½@		5¾
POTATOES	40	@	45
ST. LOUIS.			
CATTLE—Shipping steers	3 70	@	4 25
Butchers' steers	3 00	@	4 10
HOGS—Packing	4 50	@	4 70
SHEEP—Fair to choice	2 60	@	3 40
FLOUR—Choice	3 25	@	3 50
WHEAT—No. 2 red	82	@	82½
CORN—No. 2	34½@		35
OATS—No. 2	28	@	28¼
RYE—No. 2	52	@	52½
BUTTER—Creamery	24	@	28
PORK	12 20	@	12 25
CHICAGO.			
CATTLE—Shipping steers	3 50	@	4 90
HOGS—Packing and shipping	4 50	@	4 70
SHEEP—Fair to choice	2 90	@	5 00
FLOUR—Winter wheat	3 90	@	4 50
WHEAT—No. 2 red	78	@	78½
CORN—No. 2	35½@		35¾
OATS—No. 2	26	@	26¼
RYE—No. 2	53	@	53½
BUTTER—Creamery	20	@	28
PORK	12 00	@	12 25
NEW YORK.			
CATTLE—Common to prime	4 30	@	5 55
HOGS—Good to choice	5 00	@	5 25
FLOUR—Good to choice	3 50	@	4 70
WHEAT—No. 2 red	92	@	92½
CORN—No. 2	47½@		47¾
OATS—Western mixed	36	@	37
BUTTER—Creamery	28	@	33
PORK	12 15	@	12 75

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IT IS A PURELY VEGETABLE PREPARATION CONTAINING PRICKLY ASH BARK AND PRICKLY ASH BERRIES SENNA-MANDRAKE-BUCHU AND OTHER EQUALLY EFFICIENT REMEDIES. It has stood the Test of Years, in Curing all Diseases of the BLOOD, LIVER, STOMACH, KIDNEYS, BOWELS, &c. It Purifies the Blood, Invigorates and Cleanses the System.

DYSPEPSIA, CONSTIPATION, JAUNDICE, SICK HEADACHE, BILIOUS COMPLAINTS, &c disappear at once under its beneficial influence.

It is purely a Medicine as its cathartic properties forbids its use as a beverage. It is pleasant to the taste, and as easily taken by children as adults.

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PRICKLY ASH BITTERS CURES ALL DISEASES OF THE LIVER KIDNEYS STOMACH AND BOWELS. FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS PRICE 1 DOLLAR

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Will purify the BLOOD regulate the LIVER and KIDNEYS and RESTORE the HEALTH and VIGOR of YOUTH. Dyspepsia, Want of Appetite, Indigestion, Lack of Strength and Tired Feeling absolutely cured: Bones, muscles and nerves receive new force. Enlivens the mind and supplies Brain Power. Suffering from complaints peculiar to their sex will find in DR. HARTER'S IRON TONIC a safe and speedy cure. Gives a clear, healthy complexion. Frequent attempts at counterfeiting only add to the popularity of the original. Do not experiment—get the ORIGINAL AND BEST.

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