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The Great Daily

—OF THE—

Great Northwest

Average Daily Circulation of THE JOURNAL For the month of November,

61,475

Only 2-CENT Daily in Minneapolis.

REMEMBER, all this circulation is the 5 o'clock edition, which is delivered directly to the homes. All the members of the family have time to read it.

The Journal carried in November 1976 columns of advertising, 400 columns more than any other Minneapolis or St. Paul paper, daily or daily and Sunday issues combined.

A Wise Move.

It seems to us that the plan to have public meetings in which various features, methods and purposes of labor unions will be discussed indicates that our Minneapolis labor leaders have been quick to catch the significance of the signs of the times. As a rule, Minneapolis has been fortunate in its unions and their leaders. Such excesses as have lately been witnessed in Chicago have never been known here, and, indeed, are an impossibility. As a whole, the population of Minneapolis is morally superior to that of Chicago, and this superiority shows in our labor unions as well as elsewhere. The local labor leaders plainly see that the road of union labor will be rough indeed if the public comes to be of the impression that it is synonymous with such brutality and tyranny as have been exhibited in the manner of conducting the livery drivers' strike in Chicago.

The proposed meetings should be good for the unions and good for the public. We shall be disappointed if they do not bring out the fact that organized labor stands for something else besides organized industrial warfare. They will doubtless reveal something of the deep meaning and underlying purpose of the organization of labor and will show a depth of earnestness that will surprise the casual observer.

Labor unions may be temporarily baffled or even dispersed thru reactions following their own excesses, but the public might as well make up its mind that it will always have labor unions with it. Indeed, it is well that it is so. Disintegration of labor unions in the present arrangement of society would mean retrogression. The better the public knows these organizations and encourages them in good works and discourages them in bad, the more nearly will they approach the ideal of their particular service to humanity and progress.

In view of the fact that Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru have recognized the independence of the republic of Panama, it does not seem likely that the United States has incurred much South American ill will thru the isthmian affair.

The Wilderness Not a Waste.

It is not bad national economy to have a wilderness in a nation. Land is not worthless to a nation because it will not grow corn and wheat and cannot be profitably plowed. Even if a large portion of our plains and mountains shall never be more capable of population than to-day, they need not be considered waste lands. It is good for man to see wild, unharnessed nature. It is even good for him to know that there is a wilderness, even if it shall be denied to him to ever see it.

The possession of a vast extent of wilderness has had much to do with shaping our national character. In his recently published book, "The Way to the West," Emerson Hough dwells on the part the wilderness has had in giving us the men that have made the nation great and strong. He fears that with the wilderness, that is to say, the west, so nearly converted to civilization, the American of the future will be an inferior type of humanity. In one of his essays Thoreau expresses some such idea as that so long as we know that there is somewhere a wild country with primitive men, a country where there are wild animals and great uninhabited stretches, where the covering of snow in winter is broken only by the wilderness creatures and the only paths are those of the deer, we shall from time to time get a few tonic whiffs from it that will save us from the dangers of society.

Instinctively we feel that human life must be tame in a country that has been tamed to continuous cultivation, laid out in regular fields, stripped of its forests, drained of its lakes and swamps. Genius and wilderness are related. We expect to see our great men come out of the new countries. The fact that the old countries produce an abundance of great men does not keep us from looking to the new for leaders. We instinctively feel that the man with his feet firmly planted on the earth, who is at home out of doors, who knows the forest and its mysteries, the waters and their depths, whose life has been passed in the midst of nature's grand disorder, is a greater man than the child of the apartment house and the office.

We can't keep the land a wilderness, but we can keep a wilderness in the land. In a country that is all fertile and capable of sustaining an agricultural population, it is not easy to retain wildernesses while an expanding population presses for new homes. But in this country we have sandy forest lands and arid deserts and great mountain chains that will always remain wildernesses unless man makes desolations of them. That is all we need to do—refrain from making desolations of what would otherwise be wildernesses.

The United States is very popular in Panama just now. A little later on, judging from the experience with Cuba, it will be very unpopular. With little new nations the appreciation of favors expected is considerably stronger than of those rendered.

The Business Outlook.

As the year draws to a close it is possible to detect from day to day a gradual change for the better in the commercial and financial reports. A few more days will carry the business world over into a new period. What the year 1904 will bring forth is now the matter of paramount consideration. A few weeks ago the tenor of the general news was such as to leave little ground for hopefulness and bad reports were numerous enough to overshadow the more favorable developments. It was the climax of the feeling of cautiousness, that, starting some six months ago, soon ran into hesitancy and finally developed into outright pessimism. So uniformly unfavorable were the news items during the last half of November, so numerous the reports of strikes or threatened strikes, of wage reductions affecting many thousands of men, of lack of new business and the closing of great industrial plants, and so continuously bad was the general summary that it was impossible for business men not to have been affected thereby.

Difference of opinion has been noted as to the meaning of the recession for several months past, so very pronounced in a number of leading lines. While on the one hand it was contended that this was really nothing more serious than a temporary setback, a necessary thing certain to result in benefit in the long run, fear has not been wanting that the unfavorable signs might be only the forerunners of worse things to come, and in view of the increasing frequency of unfavorable happenings the belief had been growing that a bad year might be expected. This feeling reached its height about Dec. 1. Since then there has been less of it. The wave of pessimism has spent itself or has been checked, for confidence has been in good part regained, and increasing hopefulness has been a feature of the past week.

Two years ago the business situation at this date was remarkable. Never before in the business history of the country had there been the approach of a new year with so much of the industrial effort for that year already planned. Anticipation was then not only the tendency of the day, but it was forced upon business men by a condition of congestion in manufacturing lines abnormal beyond precedent. Not to figure far ahead at that time was to take the risk of being left entirely. The consequence was a rush of business of such magnitude that, in the time of retrospection and prospection incidental to the holiday week, it was possible to show that many great industries already had their capacity sold out for the entire year that had not yet opened. A year ago the situation was much the same. Business for future delivery was by no means so heavy, yet there was a great volume of orders entered ahead. This year the contrast is marked. So far from having sold their capacity far ahead, the great industries, with some exceptions, have little in hand for next year, and are about cleaned up on old business. Hence, a widespread impression that the new year is about to open with conditions less favorable than for some time, and hence the tendency towards increased hesitancy, the very tendency that has brought about present conditions.

In the year to come, the country will consume more than ever before. The people have their wants, which must be met, and, generally speaking, they have money. It is the general expectation that building will be carried on next year on a larger scale, especially in the cities of the west and northwest. A number of business lines report very bright prospects, notwithstanding the present scarcity of orders. The trouble with the country at this time lies in the fact that every business man has long felt that there would have to be a recession. Factories rushed with orders they could not fill, miles of loaded cars that the railroads could not move—these were the conditions some time ago. The country had to have the recession. It came. It is here now. Every man wants to wait until he thinks it has about spent its force, until things are on the bottom, so to speak, before he commits himself to large new ventures. Merchants will buy what they actually need, what necessity compels them to have, but are hesitant about taking up anything new. Meanwhile consumption is going steadily on, stocks are being reduced the country over, the danger of a great overproduction by manufactures has been eliminated, and, instead of starting in on a basis of high commodity prices and large general stocks of merchandise, the year will open with conditions in this respect better than for several years past. The people will have to be supplied, merchants must have new goods sooner or later, and because the railroads have done little in the way of contracting for new equipment, it is not to be supposed that they will let the properties suffer for lack of betterment. This business will come in the new year.

When the present year opened there was much prosperity, yet one grave matter for doubt was prominent. It was the fact that, with all our prosperity, we were buying much more abroad than we were selling, and the trade balance was against our country and growing larger. To-day we stand at the opening of a new year, with our country sending out merchandise in such quantity that new record figures are being made in exports, the balance against us is wiped out and Europe owes money here. Gold is pouring into New York, and with this, the great decline in stocks, which has made the situation safer, and the return of money from the west and central west, which has at last become heavy enough to more than counterbalance the demand still existing from the south, the banks of New York are in splendid condition, as are likewise the banks of Minneapolis and other interior cities.

So long as the present feeling of ultra conservatism remains, merchants will scale down orders and every one will continue the policy of retrenchment. But this will pass. It will not be a wonderful year for business unless precedent should fail, for it will be a presidential campaign year, but it will be a year of prosperity for the business man who is conservative without fear, cautious yet not timid. When everything is booming, prices are high and business expansion the rule, then it is human nature to venture boldly under influence of the general feeling; but to the prudent business man, a year that opens with the country in good financial condition, stocks generally light, the boom spirit passed, the water squeezed out of many overcapitalized companies, and highly inflated prices no longer the rule, is a good year to make a start for profits along prudent and conservative lines.

The appointment of J. J. McCardy of St. Paul to succeed Captain Castle as auditor for the postoffice department will be received with satisfaction in Minnesota. Mr. McCardy is peculiarly fitted for the duties of the office, and we have no doubt that he will discharge them satisfactorily. With McCardy on the watch, there will be mighty little chance for grafting in the postoffice department if it is anything that is within his ken. His long and efficient service as city controller of St. Paul entitles his appointment to be considered as one based on merit rather than political favor.

A Faithful Official.

Governor W. H. Taft left Manila last Wednesday for the United States, where, it is understood, he will succeed Secretary Root as head of the war office.

No man ever relinquished a public office with a more distinguished record of efficient, tactful and faithful service than Judge Taft, in his career as governor of the Philippines. President McKinley was most fortunate in selecting him as head of the Philippine commission which was sent to the archipelago in 1900. In common parlance he seems to have been the "man for the place." The place was a most difficult one to fill. Our government was entering upon the serious duty of colonial or dependency administration for a people who had largely to learn the rudiments of just and enlightened government. England and the Dutch government had profited by their long experience in governing such people, and had learned the essential feature of conducting the government of dependencies as much in accordance with the opinions and wishes of the inhabitants as is compatible with a condition of political dependence and the maintenance of the supremacy of the home government. When the code for the civil administration of the archipelago was put into effect, the principle under which Governor Taft worked was to show the Filipinos that the first object of our government was to use all its powers chiefly for the betterment of insular conditions, and so minister to the well-being of the inhabitants. Taft entered personally upon the work of establishing civil administration, and made himself personally acquainted with the country and the people, not omitting participation in the social life of the humblest citizens. Easily approachable and showing a deep interest in all that concerned the people, he won their confidence and admiration, so that it is not surprising to note the affection which the Filipinos have continually shown to him.

When the question of the friars' lands came up it was remarked by a Manila attorney, former secretary of the Philippine commission, that if the people of the United States would let Governor Taft settle the dispute, "exact justice would be done to everybody, as he was absolutely honest and understood the situation perfectly." The settlement of the friar question was left to Governor Taft, who showed that he, indeed, understood the situation perfectly, in his correspondence with Cardinal Rampolla, the late Pope Leo's secretary of state, and during the conferences at the Vatican, where he showed that the withdrawal of the friars was in the interest of the whole people of the Philippines, who were bitterly opposed to their presence, while the United States made no demand for their withdrawal and hoped only for a voluntary action on the part of the religious orders who, composed of Spaniards chiefly, had incurred the animosity of the people who were now free from Spanish rule. The Vatican heeded the representations of Governor Taft; a basis of harmonious settlement was attained; the Vatican sent an apostolic delegate to the Philippines, and the four hundred thousand acres of friars' land has been purchased by the United States for about $7,000,000. The settlement of this question in the right way was only possible thru the calm judicial mind and fine tact of a man like Governor Taft. He has shown himself wonderfully able to meet the demands of dependency administration, and has set an example in this field, new to Americans, which will enhance the prestige of this great nation as one which rules righteously. Twice offered a seat on the supreme bench and twice declining, altho his health was impaired by the trying climate of the Philippines, he faithfully stood to his beneficent work until it has reached a stage of stability where it can be taken up and prosecuted by one actuated by the same understanding of the demands and duties of the position.

Sensitive scientists have always been depressed by the knowledge that the span of human life on this globe is about 3,000,000 years. The sun will get cold in that time. The discovery of radium and its properties led to the hope that there might be quite a chunk of it in the sun, and thus make it possible for that luminary to do business more than 3,000,000 years yet. This hope has been dashed, however, by the announcement that the spectroscope shows no radium in the sun. Let us weep.

Sanitation and Graft.

Surgeon General Wyman delivered an address recently before the American Public Health association on sanitary reform in cities and towns which embodied many excellent suggestions. He expressed his belief that the insanitary condition of American cities "presents a condition parallel to that of their political corruption," and that moral reform would more easily follow better sanitation.

There would seem to be little reason to raise a doubt as to the correctness of this view. The city of New York presents an object lesson of this kind. During the complete domination of the Tammany style of municipal government the streets were reeking with filth, and, in some instances, almost impassable, and when the reformers secured their chance one of the first things they did was to reconstruct the street-cleaning force and clean up the disease-producing filth.

Dr. Sternberg declared before the same body that, while cholera, yellow fever and bubonic plague are no longer feared by sanitarians, endemic filth diseases like typhoid fever are still to be dealt with so as to rob them of their menaces. Exemption from typhoid can only be obtained by the introduction of pure drinking water, the closing of wells always liable to be contaminated thru surface drainage and by street, alley and backyard cleaning of no superficial character. These effective methods of sanitation are usually neglected by municipalities under the demoralizing influences of the graft system.

Mayor Weaver of Philadelphia vetoed the $16,000,000 loan bill of the grafters, but the council passed it over his veto. Instead of appealing to the public and making life interesting for the gang, the mayor is "good friends" with them and asks them to send him as a delegate to the republican national convention. He doesn't want any little thing like a $16,000,000 graft to come between him and his friends the grafters. That's the trouble with the average American politician. He is always afraid to offend "the boys," and will strive to be on good terms with men he knows to be unregenerate scoundrels.

Contrasted Civilizations.

The Chinese minister at Washington, Sir Chentung Lian-Chang, is said to be arranging to transport 100 Chinese boys to this country to receive education in our schools and universities, where seventy-five Chinese students are absorbing American ideas.

Japan, in her outreach for western ideas, has distanced China. She, very early after the revolution of 1868-70, which started her on the road of modern progress, saw the advantages of American education and she has introduced many ideas derived from our educative processes. In Japan the good things of western civilization are quickly appreciated and adopted.

Sir Chentung's ideas as to the education of Chinese youth are not those of the empress, who has made a record as an antireformer of a very pronounced character. If China wants to get ahead, she will have to be a close imitator of Japan, which is certainly a most useful object lesson, and help herself out of the quagmire of intellectual stagnation, of arrested civilization. Last year an edict was issued from Peking ordering political science and western arts to be placed among the studies at the Hamlin academy and other schools, and directing the minister of education to draft a new scheme of education for the empire, but that official has not accomplished the work.

In 1898 the emperor, Tsai-Tien Kwang-Hsu, issued several reform edicts, but the reactionary empress dowager nullified them; restored the regency and shunted Kwang-Hsu on a sidetrack where he has since remained. If China had an emperor of intelligence, liberal views, self-assertive and free from any reactionary dictation from an old harridan, who is a reputed murderess and a demonstrable enemy of the progress of her own country, there would be a different state of affairs in the celestial realm.

Six hundred men are regularly employed on the new steamship Kaiser Wilhelm.

NEWS OF THE BOOK WORLD

Some Prohibitions for Mothers—A Long List of Things to Be Avoided in the Rearing of Good Children—Some Songs by the Wayside—A Novel or Two—Glimpses at the Magazines.

A long list of commandments for mothers is put into readable and accessible form in Gabrielle E. Jackson's **Don'ts for Mothers.** There seems to be a very considerable amount of common sense in many of these don'ts. As this opinion is based about ninety-nine hundredths on undigested observations, it may not be worth much to those mothers who would like to know something about the merits of the book. To give some idea as to what the book contains, therefore, we give a few of the don'ts.

Don't give baby something because he cries for it. Wait until he quits, and then give it if it is wise to do so.

Don't when the two-year milestone is reached, overlook a spoon hurdled wildly to the floor on the score that "baby is too young to understand." Insist gently, but firmly, upon the same fingers picking it up, and insist for three hours if necessary. Right and wrong can be learned at an early age.

Don't omit to establish at the very beginning implicit confidence, absolute trust, and the sweet intercourse possible between mother and child.

Don't permit the slightest discourtesy, either to yourself or others, whether of high or low degree.

Don't offer bribes as an inducement to good behavior.

The foreword of William J. Fischer's little volume of verse called **Songs by the Wayside,** says: "The poems of William J. Fischer reveal that a new man is about to arrive in the field of American letters. * * * His voice is a young glad voice, yet full of power and originality. * * No one can read this little volume without becoming conscious of the young poet's promise." This is the estimate of Charles J. O'Malley. Mr. O'Malley, it will be seen, only claims for Mr. Fischer "promise." It is well that he goes no farther. There may be some who will not even admit that claim; certainly there would be few who would admit more. Two stanzas of four verses each make a small sample, but they are all we have space for here, and they indicate fairly well the merits of the writer's verse. They are from "The Long Ago:"

Soft in the twilight's gentle glow,
They come, the thoughts of long ago—
Glad thoughts, by mem'ry borne along
Like echoes of a distant song.

Ah, tender thoughts of youthful dreams
And life's glad, sunny springtime gleams!
Ah, thoughts of love, from sorrow free,
What fond scenes you recall to me.

Katrina Trask's **Free, Not Bound,** is a story warm from a true woman's heart of hearts. None but a woman can understand a woman. Her heroine, Elizabeth Dearford, a splendid, high-toned English girl, who had married a New England deacon just before the war of the revolution, hungered for the fullness of her husband's love, and did not get it, because David Dearford was such a slave to duty from the Puritan standpoint that he thought it sinful to gratify himself by spending any time with her, when he had any duty to perform. She found herself not in accord with his views of religious obligation. She did not like the one-sided Sinaitic sermons she heard at the meeting-house; but her heart, her whole nature, loved her husband devotedly. Then came a day when she was tried and cast out of the church for heresy, her own husband not protesting. Then David went to the war and his wife's heart got frost upon it. Women's hearts are very sensitive things. It is cruel to trifle with them. A love like Elizabeth's could not be plucked out of her nature and cast away. The denouement is full of dramatic force and the girl will, to most readers, remain the central, luminous figure, while David appears far in the background.

Christine Brush's fine story, **The Colonel's Opera Cloak,** first appeared in 1879, and it has been in constant demand since. The new edition is well illustrated and is put forth with all the attractions that tasteful, artistic and mechanical work can contribute to it. The author has made her leading character just "The Colonel's Opera Cloak." New readers of the lively story will be as interested as their predecessors in the story of a family of southrons who had come north, with the fiery spirit of unrepentant rebels, after the disastrous, heart-breaking events of the four years' war. It is needless to say that the colonel's scarlet-lined opera cloak is the "It" of the book.

OPIE READ
Author of "Kentucky Colonel" and other stories—Cut reproduced from New York World.

Dispatches from Rome to-day say that Professor Giovanni Livi, director of the state archives at Bologna, which town is the principal center of Dante's fame, has found a parchment dated 1523, on which are two pen sketches representing Dante crowned by Bologna. This discovery will prove of great interest to those who are searching for an authentic portrait of the poet.

BOOKS RECEIVED

DON'TS FOR MOTHERS. By Gabrielle E. Jackson. Boston: Lee & Shepard. Price 50 cents net.

SONGS BY THE WAYSIDE. By William J. Fisher, M. D. 12mo., cloth. Ornamented. Boston: Richard G. Badger. Price $1.25.

FREE, NOT BOUND. By Katrina Trask. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Price $1.10.

THE COLONEL'S OPERA CLOAK. By Christine C. Brush. Illustrated from the drawings by E. M. Kemble and A. C. Beecher. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

MR. RILEY'S WIFE

New York Times.

A friend of James Whitcomb Riley tells a story of an encounter the bachelor poet once had with a woman reporter. The energetic young woman, after strenuous effort, had finally caught Mr. Riley at the telephone. This is the conversation that followed:

"Is that Mr. Riley?"

"Yes. That is Miss ——?"

"Miss Jones, of the Courier-Journal. I've been trying all day to get an interview with you, Mr. Riley."

"Ah, would it were now a view instead of an interview," said the poet, gallantly.

"Oh, thanks. How long will you remain in Louisville, Mr. Riley?"

"Only a short time."

"Is your wife with you?"

"No, ma'am, she is not."

"Where is she, may I ask?"

"You may ask, my dear Miss Jones, but I find it very difficult to answer. I am in absolute ignorance as to her whereabouts. For aught I know to the contrary, she may right now be at the other end of this telephone."

There was much laughter, and afterward an effort to resume the interview. But in vain. Mr. Riley had escaped.

READ THIS AND PONDER

J. T. Trowbridge, the author, tells in his autobiography the following incident of his young manhood: "After I had been so far prospered as to be able to place a small deposit in a savings bank the father of a family once besought me for a loan of $60. When I told him, to my sincere regret, that I had no such sum at command he made answer that his quarter's rent was due, that he had been unable to collect some bills he had relied on to make up the needful sum and he didn't know which way to turn if I couldn't help him. 'I haven't it,' I repeated; 'but,' I thought of my poor little savings-bank deposit and of a family man's natural distress on being unable to pay his rent—'I might possibly raise it for you.' Altho I knew there would be a loss of accumulated and prospective interest if I withdrew my money from the bank, and I could not think of taking interest from a friend, his expressions of gratitude paid me in advance for any such sacrifice. I went at once and drew the $60, which I handed him without saying how I had come by it. He paid me in a week or two, thanked me warmly and added this naive remark: 'If you hadn't lent me the money I should have had to take it out of the savings bank and have lost the interest.' I smiled and held my peace."

THE POPE'S SIGNIFICANT ORDERS

The papal carriages, with the armorial bearings of Pius IX., were not interfered with by Leo XIII., who never had any occasion to use them outside the Vatican. Now, however, much to the surprise of the officials, Pius X. has ordered that his own escutcheon shall replace that of Pius IX. on the vehicles, a significant fact pointing to the intention of the present pontiff to drive some day thru the streets of Rome.

GREENLAND THAWING OUT

The ice in Greenland is melting more rapidly that it is formed. Comparison of the descriptions of the Jacobshaven glacier shows that its edge has receded eight miles since 1850, and it has lost twenty or thirty feet in depth.

AN EXPRESSIVE EPITAPH

In an address before the Merchants' Association of Boston the other night C. S. Mellen, president of the New Haven railway, told this story:

"Out in the wild and woolly west, in the strenuous times when the Indians were less controllable than at present, there was a party of mining prospectors suddenly attacked by a roving band bent on trouble.

"After a serious fight, and just as the Indians were giving up, one of the miners who had been the life of his party, who had performed prodigies of valor and encouraged his comrades, who had by his ability assumed, without question, the leadership of his party, was shot and instantly killed. His comrades could do nothing but perform the last rites, and, having buried him, wishing to do what they could to perpetuate his memory and bravery, one thought to be better fitted to the task than the others was selected to write upon the cracker box which was to serve for a headstone an epitaph. It was a poser, and after much thought and great perturbation, he evolved, in his profanely effective western way, this:

He done his damndest.

"His companions considered it solemnly, and allowed it expressed the situation fully and was satisfactory. More no man could do, and no measure of doubt was in any one's mind that those who read would understand.

"When the history of the present administration of our country is written, I hope it will appeal to some friend in Boston to that extent he will express in the language of the effete east the same sentiment regarding what I shall have done for the city of Boston. (Great laughter and applause.)

"In conclusion, gentlemen, let me say there has been, too much sympathy wasted, in my judgment, upon the man behind the gun. Engage in the railroad business and you will know how the man in front of the gun feels, and you will also learn to become more careful, possibly, in the way you handle one."

WHEN GOODNOW LEFT SHANGHAI

Celestial Empire, Shanghai.

The Hon. John Goodnow, consul general here for the United States, and doyen of the consular body, left on Tuesday by the steamer Hongkong Maru for San Francisco, accompanied by his wife. Mr. Goodnow went home in 1900, simply on business, but this time he is taking a well-earned holiday, after having worked very hard as one of the commissioners in preparing the new commercial treaty between the United States and China. During his absence Dr. S. P. Barchet, the United States interpreter and assessor at the mixed court, will act as vice consul general and C. Kleimenoff, consul general for Russia, will be senior consul at Shanghai. Mr. Goodnow expects to be away till the middle of March next. He has worked incessantly for six years and has done good work for his country during that time, and we join with many others in wishing him and his wife an enjoyable trip and a safe return. A large number of his friends of all nationalities collected at the jetty to witness their departure and to wish them bon voyage.

King Edward pardoned an Irish peasant at the instance of Queen Alexandra, and English lawyers are looking up the precedents in the case.

THE NONPAREIL MAN

Our Sad, Post-Christmas Duty Lies in the Way of Dethroning and Unmasking the Domestic Hen, Whose Claim to Being the Source of Unbounded Affluence Is Successfully Disputed by the Biddy Sharps of Cornell University and by the Cream, Minn., Correspondent of the Janesville Argus.

The secret of the mystery of the hen is said to have been solved by the department of animal industry at Cornell university. This department has been studying biddy's curves for some years and has thrown a great light on her methods of thought and action.

Almost everyone has read the wonderful stories that have been told of the immense wealth to be obtained provided a person would drop his regular business and go into the egg industry. A hencoop, scientifically run, is popularly supposed to make wages that throw the Klondike diggings into the shade. Ingenious experts at figures have demonstrated again and again that the humble hen, if given half a chance, would soon pay off the national debt. Poultry journals have fanned the flame of hen excitement by telling wondrous stories of what hens do when fed on somebody's preparation for making hens lay and pay. Almost all of us have a bug somewhere in our noddles that some day we will start a hen ranch in a beautiful country place beside a lake and make wealth far beyond the dreams of avarice by raising eggs for market.

Yet we have all of us had friends who have gone into the hen business and who to our surprise still seem to be somewhat pressed for money. The vast wealth has not rolled in on them. Why is this?

To answer this perplexing question the Cornell university department of animal industry has made this prolonged study.

We grieve to be obliged to shatter many fond illusions by quoting the conclusions to which the university hen sharps have come. They have shown quite conclusively that biddy as an Aladdin's lamp is an illusion, a dream of the night, a phantasm of the poultry journalistic brain.

In twenty-nine flocks of 5,200 selected fowls, which were observed during the seventeen weeks from Dec. 1, 1901, to March 29, 1902, and for the same period of the following year, the average production per 100 fowls was 22.8 eggs. The average food cost was 17 cents a dozen, and 100 hens earned during the long seventeen weeks $16 above the cost of keep.

Sixteen dollars' profit in seventeen weeks on 100 fowls is not a princely income especially where the hired man borrows his tobacco.

The university does, however, hint at the real science of successful egg raising. It lies in making hens and eggs by a "by-product," as it were. If the hen can pick up her own living, the eggs are clear gain. But if the farmer builds hen palaces, feeds assorted hen food and hires a man to watch the biddies to see that they do not waste time loafing around and picking their teeth, he is simply a hen philanthropist.

While we were hard at work on the conclusions of the university on the hen industry the Janesville, Minn., Argus, published by Mr. Hen-ry, came to hand with an article from its Cream, Minn., correspondent that bears out all that the university has stated regarding the hen's expensive tastes. The Cream writer says:

Mrs. Davidson dressed a spring chicken one day last week and noticing his crop was quite full of corn we made a careful count and discovered that this young gormand had made a light breakfast on 407 kernels. Now he ought to have another feed before retiring which would make him say 800 kernels for his day's ration. Six hundred kernels make an average ear and 135 ears a bushel, or $1,000 in a bushel divided by 800 gives a little over 100 days that a bushel of corn lasts this chicken. The corn is worth 50 cents and the chicken, which weighed six pounds, is worth 10 cents per pound or 60 cents. A little calculation will then show that he will eat his head off in just four months, but he was seven months old. Now we would like to ask the man who makes the picture puzzles to find the profit in this deal.

Sad as the duty is, we fear the hen, as a source of unbounded wealth, must come down from her pedestal.

Christmas having passed, what do you say to paying next year's taxes for amusement?

A Boston scientist has discovered that scarlet fever germs lurk in strawberries. Can a berry as cheap as the prune have anything "lurking" in it?

The Chaska Review's local columns show that the brick metropolis has a policeman known as "Duffy the Terrible."

There was a general hunt at Cream, Minn., last week and Milmer Hoverson, trying to cross the Le Sueur river, fell into the drink. Hilmer reports that the water is quite cold this winter.

Ex-President Marroquin of Colombia has offered his entire fortune to the nation for the purpose of fighting the United States in order to get back Panama. Seeing that Colombia has no navy and hence cannot get to Panama by water without having her transports shot full of holes and seeing that it is impossible to get to Panama overland because of mountains and jungles, it is a little difficult to see how Colombia, notwithstanding her martial ardor, is going to fight anything for the simple reason that there is nothing she can get at. Of course the Colombian army can mobilize and march back and forth on the beach and shake its fist at the sea and some magnificent and fiery orations may be delivered, but, with nothing to fight, an army is always at a decided disadvantage. If you are going to have a successful war it is quite necessary to have an enemy. A war without an opposing force soon wears itself out by ruining the morale of the army.

The officers get to playing croquet with the ladies and the force gets fat and lazy. Almost all the authorities on the art and practice of war are agreed that to wage a war with any snap to it at all, an enemy is one of the necessities. This proposition is so axiomatic that it is not necessary to enlarge on it very much.

Now with no enemy it is difficult to see how Colombia is going to get enough military glory to go around among a governor's staff.

Colonel Jomini, the great military authority, wires us that he can see nothing in it for Colombia in the line of war except possibly in the way of a revolution. A good vigorous up-to-date revolution might furnish some very agreeable fighting to while away the summer and fall. Before giving up altogether the idea of dipping their hands in their brothers' gore the Colombians should give this matter of revolution some serious thought.

—A. J. R.

ANGLO-FRENCH AMENITIES

The era of good feeling between France and England begun by the visit of King Edward to Paris and President Loubet to London will not languish thru want of efforts to keep it alive. French deputies have visited London and the London Chamber of Commerce has visited Paris, and many were the dinners and speeches that marked the occasion. Now Jules Claretie would have England send to Paris her representative literary men, artists and actors. He would have Herbert Spencer or Swinburne preside at a banquet in Paris at which the most representative men of France were the hosts. It is possible that something in this line may be done in the late spring.

Thirteen new theaters, to cost $8,000,000, are building in New York city.