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TRAVELERS ABROAD

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The Course of Business.

Business barometers now indicate that the "low" has been passed in the western traffic field, that nothing worse need be feared, and that a healthy reaction will manifest itself in a few weeks. The bearing of these prognostications upon general business sentiment is important. Railroad earnings form a good business index. But as they reflect conditions immediately past, they are not always the safest basis for business forecasts. There comes a change when they are at worst or at best, a change that can show up only in later figures. Of all signs, however, they are the most reliable, and while they cannot precede but must follow the march of events, the figures the roads put out show the relative commercial activity of the country with a nearer approach to exactitude than anything else. Conflicting rumors may come from different sections and good and bad reports appear, but a decrease of 1.21 per cent in the gross earnings of forty-one roads for the fourth week of May, or a decrease of 5.99 per cent in net earnings of seventy-seven roads for April, is cold fact. We may hear that business is to decline, that it is declining, that it has declined, but not until we get the railroad earnings for a particular section, for a certain period, can we judge conclusively as to whether there has actually been recession and to what extent.

When tonnage offerings recently were at a point lower than for a long time and were apparently tending towards still further decrease, the diverting of normal lake-and-rail traffic to the railroads helped them out materially, and altho the number of boat cargoes afloat on the Great Lakes has been largely increased within a day or two, the roads are still finding much business. Meanwhile it is getting closer to harvest time in the southwestern winter wheat states. If the roads can hold up reasonably well until the crops begin to move, it will go a long way towards checking the growing tendency towards pessimism which finds vent in expressed fears of the passing of railroad dividends and is accompanied by vague rumors of industrial receiverships. This sort of thing usually shows up first in the stock market where anticipation is a fine art. There every change of wind brings change of sentiment. The mere suggestion of the possibility of a dividend being passed is sufficient to cause hesitation, and anything tending to affect values is promptly seized upon and emphasized and magnified by manipulators whose plans may fit in with it. With a dull stock market and no particular pressure upon the general list, a recent sale of a single lot of 100 shares of Minneapolis & St. Louis stock registered a decline of 21 points, and one of the Chicago & Great Western issues fell 10 points. When such a tendency continues unchecked other stocks are easily affected. After a time this uneasy sensitiveness spreads to the commercial field, confidence is weakened and further business recession follows. Hence if the railroad reports are to run better from now on, as seems reasonable to expect, it will go far towards allaying nervousness and putting a stop to the present trend towards ultra-conservatism before it has gone far.

It would be too much to expect an increase in business activity on the whole, if precedent counts for anything, for the ante-election period is not a time for it, but it would seem that the country ought now to settle down with steadiness at about the present level until after the nominations are made. Then when the candidates are before the people and the issues defined it will be time enough to consider the possible effects upon business of the election of either candidate, and the effectuation of the principles he may stand for.

Two things contrary to earlier expectations are shown in the government crop report—the winter wheat condition was more than maintained during May, and the spring wheat acreage is a trifle under last year's. It is the rule for winter wheat to decline thru May, and only three times in fifteen years have there been gains. This is one of the exceptional years in that respect and so against the stand at 76.6 on May 1, the June 1 condition is 77.7. Under normal conditions, or anything reasonably favorable, there would have been a material increase in the spring wheat acreage this year. High prices were the main inducement. Moreover the northwest had turned out no bumper wheat crop for several years, and there was disposition to cut out flax and go in more for wheat, and reason to believe a start would be made this year on the largest acreage ever. The fact that in the government report the spring wheat area at 17,140,800 acres is 116,100 acres, or about .07 per cent under last year, is due to the continued wet and backward season in the important wheat raising counties in the Red river valley, which made it almost impossible in many districts to seed wheat in time.

The showing of 93.4 for the spring wheat condition is a good one, even tho it was 95.9 a year ago. Taking the wheat promise on the whole, there is much of encouragement in it considering how very bad the earlier reports were. On the present showing, with good conditions from now on, the country could produce approximately 610,000,000 bushels of wheat, which would leave an exportable surplus of about 110,000,000 bushels after allowing for normal domestic requirements.

The Pioneer Press couples a demand for a change to appointive railroad commissioners with an indorsement of the present incumbents. If the elective system has not produced good results, why continue in office the men who are responsible for the failure?

A Page of History.

Ten years ago one of the political sensations of the day was the work of the pine land investigating committee, which was created by the legislature of 1893 and reported to Governor Nelson Dec. 21, 1894.

This committee drew a bill regulating the sale of state land and state timber, and the collection of trespass, which became Chapter 163 of the Laws of 1895. It is the provisions of this law which R. C. Dunn failed to enforce when state auditor, as shown by the reports of Public Examiner Johnson. That act was carefully drawn, as the result of the most thoro investigation by the committee, which included Senator S. W. Leavitt and Representative J. F. Jacobson, now members of the state board of control, and Representative C. F. Staples, now railroad and warehouse commissioner. The law was full of safeguards to protect the state timber land, and there was a reason for every one of them.

The report of the committee was a scathing arraignment of the administration of Auditor Biermann. It was shown that the law then existing, which was far less specific than the present one, had never been properly enforced, and the state had lost many thousands of dollars. The bill was framed so as to prevent further wasting of the state's sacred trust, the school fund.

Trespass was lightly touched on in this report, for the reason that the prevailing practice of crooked operators was to buy state timber at private sale without competition and without estimates, to mark only a small part of it with the state mark, and the rest with the owner's private mark. This explains the small amount of trespass reported prior to that time. However, the new law made trespass a misdemeanor, and provided a minimum settlement on a basis of twice the value of the timber taken.

Permits to cut state timber were carefully regulated. Among the recommendations of the committee, afterward embodied in the law, we find the following:

That no permit shall be given to cover more than two logging seasons, nor more than one description of land, and no extension or cancellation thereof shall be made, and a separate log mark shall be used on each description.

That, in view of the worthless character of many of the bonds given as surety for the fulfillment of the conditions of the permit, careful legislation should be framed regarding the same.

That all reports of the surveyor general as to the quantity of timber taken from state lands shall be based upon the scale made on the land, instead of upon bank scale, as is now the prevailing custom.

That a form of permit, estimate and appraisal be established by law.

All these recommendations, in detail, with many others, were carried out in the bill drawn. However, when it was presented, R. C. Dunn had become state auditor, and he did not approve of the committee's bill. He drew one giving him practically as much latitude and discretion as his predecessor had enjoyed. This bill was introduced, and his friends fought for it, opposing the committee bill, which barely scratched thru the senate the last day of the session. Mr. Dunn told members of the committee at the time that there were provisions of the bill he did not like, and that he would not enforce them.

The recent reports of the public examiner show that he kept his word.

Trespasses have been settled in many cases for less than the amount required by law. Log marks have not been recorded with the permits. Many bonds have been accepted which failed to comply with the law. On Mr. Molander's admission, the scale was often made after the logs had been hauled away by a logging road. Permits were not recorded until after the first or second logging season. In other details the law, so carefully framed by experienced men, was frequently disregarded. Those who know the subject best are best able to understand the risks run by the state on account of this official laxity.

The state's interests cannot be too carefully guarded. Officials charged with the trusteeship of the state's resources cannot object to the most thoro scrutiny of their work. Certainly the tax-paying and voting public can make no objection. When flaws are found in an official's record, criticism is justified.

There was a reason for the provisions in the law of 1895, and a reason for enforcing them. The public has a right to ask why it was not done.

Chicago's antibillboard ordinance has been declared invalid by the appellate court. Its drastic provisions were pronounced unreasonable. Chicago has been leading the way in the movement against the billboard nuisance, and this repulse in the courts will discourage other cities. Now is the time for the "I will" spirit to assert itself and show that such a palpable nuisance can and must be abated. There must be some reasonable scheme of regulation that will at least mitigate the horrors of the overgrown billboard.

A Fertile Field.

Recent testimony of sales agents of the coal companies in the eastern cities has stirred up no end of unfavorable comment against the coal combine. The interesting thing about it is that the criticism comes not from the yellow journals or anticapitalistic papers, but from the most conservative of the financial papers of the east. For instance, the New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin says:

Certainly the consumers of coal who are now paying combination prices for what to them is a necessity of life are not likely to pay the additional profit to producers any more willingly because one of them undertakes to lay the responsibility on the Creator, while another blandly informs them that they need not buy if they choose to go without. In view of the sweeping victory of the government in the Northern Securities case, where it was not attempted to prove that extortionate rates had been charged, it certainly seems that the anthracite combination should prove a fertile field for exploration under the antitrust statutes. The public is not likely to be dismayed by the argument that some anthracite roads are not earning dividends on their watered stocks.

The adulteration fiend is not content to spoil stomachs and ruin constitutions by impure food and drink, but will not even allow the American people pure medicines to help them get well again. Researches of the department of agriculture show that from 50 to 75 per cent of the medicines commonly dispensed by druggists are either adulterated or of inferior quality. With such unreliable materials, how can physicians' prescriptions be much better than guesswork? Here certainly is provocation for an official crusade.

Turpentine from Stumps.

Figs cannot be gathered from thistles, but good turpentine can be extracted from an old pine stump, and this fact is the basis of a new industry reported from northern Minnesota. The promoters of the novel enterprise are asking farmers for the privilege of clearing their land of stumps.

Such a proposal comes to the owner of a "cut-over" farm, whose ribs are sore from contact with the plow handles in futile efforts to dodge the obtrusive stump, like a message of deliverance. All the promoter wants is the stumps, and the farmer sincerely wants him to have them, so a bargain is easily struck. The turpentine men go on the land with a stump puller and extract all the remnants of the forest, hauling them away to the plant where the turpentine is extracted, and all the stumps, pine or hardwood, are burned for charcoal. It is asserted that the stumps are rich in turpentine and that the process yields good financial returns.

Hitherto the manufacture of turpentine has been practically confined to the south, where the yellow pine is very rich in all by-products. White pine yields them in comparatively small quantities. It is not likely that the industry will ever reach great proportions in the north, but as long as the turpentine man finds his raw material cheap and easily accessible, he is likely to carry on the good work.

What Minnesota is more interested in is the elimination of the stumps. Some cut-over land really needs them to decay and thus enrich the sandy soil, but there are large areas of good farming land, especially adapted to potatoes, red clover and other crops, that will be much more valuable when entirely cleared. It is an enormous labor for the farmer to clear a quarter section of these obstructions. When it is done, he can put in a larger crop acreage, and raise more to the acre, but the clearing means years of labor. If he can have it done for him by the turpentine and charcoal producer, he will not begrudge his benefactor a handsome profit.

A correspondent of a Pittsburg paper who has been traveling in the Transvaal says that the country shows the devastating effects of the war. Gatsrand circuit just before the war with Great Britain was one of the most fertile and populous of the agricultural districts of the Transvaal. Now, three years after the war, it is a desert. Its population has been killed in battle, died of fever or has wasted away in grief and penury. The few that were left emigrated. War is hell.

Greatest of Trust Evils.

In one of the local clubs, where financial men meet and where the problems of trusts and trust methods would naturally be discussed, the question of which of the many trust evils is the greatest was recently debated. The breaking down of competitors by open force or underhand methods, the danger of concentration of power in few hands, the tendency to force the elimination of the middleman, and the discharging of many salesmen and other high-grade employees were some of the aspects of trustism cited as being the most dangerous, but, strangely enough, not much was said about over-capitalization.

Not long ago Secretary Knox said "over-capitalization is the chief of all trust evils and the source from which the minor evils flow."

Many unfamiliar with trust history do not realize to what extent this has been carried, nor is it possible to show it in limited space. Two illustrations taken from "Trusts of To-day," the new book by Gilbert Holland Montague, may help.

It has been a general rule in trust formation first to capitalize the cash value of plants, merchandise, machinery, etc., by issuance of bonds and preferred stock, and then to capitalize good will and estimated savings of combination by issuing about as much common stock. There is much value in good will and established trade. Mr. Havemeyer of the sugar trust once testified that the plants of his company could be duplicated for $30,000,000, but good will, established trade and considerations of a like nature, warranted capitalization at $75,000,000. That company has been able to earn good dividends on this larger total, hence the capitalization is legitimate. Here is an illustration of the use in comparative moderation of earning power as the capitalization basis. It is this very thing that has been shamefully abused.

Take the Steel corporation. Already there existed a number of companies—made up of numerous smaller plants brought together. These later giants combined and became a Goliath, at a time when a boom was on, prices high and earnings exceptionally large. Each big company, already itself inflated, went into the new combination at a still larger valuation. The Carnegie Steel company had securities outstanding to the amount of $320,000,000, but when absorbed it figured in the new company for $163,400,000 preferred stock, $155,200,000 common and $304,000,000 bonds. When the Steel corporation was complete it stood for $1,404,000,000. This was capitalization on the basis of the earnings then showing, a proposition sanctioned by law in most states.

There is a regulator for all this. Its name is Wall Street. The United States Leather company has $125,126,000 in securities, but the street would not give $51,000,000 for them. The Steel trust flaunts a capitalization of $1,404,000,000, but Wall Street says the paper is worth about $570,000,000. For values are values, and it is what a certificate brings in dividends and what one can get for it on sale that count, and not what it may say on the face of it. Wall Street looks at Leather and says that $74,000,000 of the nominal value is no good; at Steel and says $833,120,000, or nearly 60 per cent of represented value, is no good. That is what it usually comes to in the end, for water, in finance as in physics, must seek its level. So from the consideration of economic results, the evil is seen to right itself in the long run according to nature's laws.

But what about the poor investor? Where does he come in? He sees the greatest names in American finance attached to these companies and naturally thinks they are as represented. If it were only the speculators who were hurt it would not be so bad, but, too often, hard-earned money, the savings of the comparatively poor, goes into inflated companies to stay there until lost in receiverships and officially wiped out in the final process of reorganization.

The Oak and Kenwood car just dodged a train on the Oak street grade crossing the other day. A good newspaper story spoiled, and we're glad of it.

MINNESOTA POLITICS

Young of Mankato Looking Over the Hennepin Situation—Second District Will Get Together—Situation in Blue Earth County—Contest Ahead in Cass County—A. H. Hall Files for Congress—Anti-Hearst Men Score Some Successes.

W. E. Young of Mankato, candidate for railroad commissioner, has been in the city in company with Senator A. O. Eberhart of the same place, interviewing local politicians to see what prospect he had for votes from this county. He expects to be the second district candidate, as the district will caucus before the convention and go solidly for either himself or Thomas Crawford of Lakefield. His friends expect southern Minnesota to get one of the two nominations, and expect the fight for that place to be between Young and A. D. Gray of Preston. Mr. Young said:

"Our district has no place on the state ticket, and the counties now in the district have not had such representation for many years. It is one of the strong republican districts, and will have 135 votes in the state convention. I have proposed to Mr. Crawford a second district caucus, the one having a majority to get the solid vote of the district. I am assured of the support of eight or nine other counties in southern Minnesota, outside the second district, and will continue my canvass."

The Collins-Dunn contest in Blue Earth county will be fought out just the same, and the Collins men are confident of winning. If they control the convention they will have a committee confer with Mr. Young and select the delegation, which will not be instructed on the governorship, but will be of a Collins complexion.

The Elbow Lake Herald says:

> The man who believes that Dunn's success doesn't mean trouble for Senator Clapp is made of pretty gullible material.

According to reports from Otter Tail county, the senator's old neighbors have not been caught napping, but are wide-awake to the real situation.

Two contests for the republican state convention to settle already seem almost certain. Beside the tangle in Roseau, there is a double county committee in Cass, and the Dunn and Collins adherents are likely to hold separate primaries and conventions. The Collins men controlled the county convention March 15, and appointed a new county committee, which has called the convention to meet in Walker. A part of the old committee met the same day in Pine River and called a convention to meet in that place. The new committee called the primaries to meet from 7 to 8 in the evening, and the one at Pine River called them to meet from 8 to 9. The probabilities are that the convention at Walker will be a Collins convention, and the one at Pine River will be run by the Dunn men, who will thus come in with a contest.

A. H. Hall has filed for the republican nomination for congress in this district, and a contest at the primary election is now assured. It is pretty sure to be a three-cornered one, as W. T. Coe has made open announcement of his candidacy, and says he will file soon.

The Collins meeting in the eighth ward last night was the "real thing," from the standpoint of attendance, enthusiasm and oratory. It set a mark which will be hard to equal.

The expected happened in Ramsey county, where the anti-Hearst men had everything their own way in the democratic primaries last evening. The seventy-eight delegates to the state convention will not be instructed, but will be opposed to Hearst. R. T. O'Connor of St. Paul and Mayor J. G. Armson of Stillwater are mentioned for district delegates.

The antis are evidently far in the lead in the sixth district also, so that the Duluth convention will not be all one-sided. The influence of John Lind, which brought Frank A. Day in line against Hearst, is counted on to swing the second district.

Judge Collins' friends in his home town of St. Cloud, and that includes about everybody, have started out to nail the story of disaffection there. At a meeting Wednesday evening 200 republicans signed the roll of a Collins club as fast as they could get to the paper, and others have been coming in ever since. It is predicted that 500 names will be enrolled within a few days. —Charles B. Cheney.

There were 595,931 tons of manufactured iron produced in France during 1903, a decrease of 43,740 tons as compared with 1902. The approximate consumption of coal, coke and briquettes in France during 1903 was 47,000,000 tons, an increase of 4,630,000 tons as compared with 1902.

NEWS OF THE BOOK WORLD

"Pilgrim's Progress" to Be Dramatized—Great Possibilities in the Allegory from a Scenic Standpoint—Dramatic Effectiveness Not Wanting—Helen Keller's Hand—Laurence Hutton Dead.

Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" is to be dramatized next season under the direction of Mr. Frohman, and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the First Congregational church, Washington, D. C., recently engaged Mr. Greet's company to play for it as a mode of raising funds with which to spread the gospel abroad.

The above is an extract from Harper's Weekly of to-day. It gave the Uneasy Chair a distinct shock; not that the chair felt there was any serious impropriety in adapting the allegory to the stage, but that it thought the story was not one which would appeal to theater-goers. Certainly to many it would not. Nevertheless, Bunyan's Christian and his experiences could be made wonderfully effective upon the modern stage with all of its devices.

How effective became evident to the chair the moment it reopened its copy of the famous book. Almost the first thing to attract attention was a halftone reproduction of George Cruikshank's conception of Christian passing thru the Valley of the Shadow of Death—Christian following a narrow path and beset on every hand by monsters of frightful mein, reaching for him with tooth, claw and venomous sting. Certainly such a picture if embodied in a dramatization of Christian's adventures would give seekers after new sensations an opportunity not to be missed.

One pictures Christian ascending the Hill of Difficulty, singing softly to himself, as a prelude to sharper action:

> The hill, tho high, I covet to ascend;
> The difficulty will not me offend,
> For I perceive the way to life lies here.
> Come, pluck up, heart; let's neither faint nor fear.
> Better the difficult, th' right way to go,
> Than wrong, tho easy, where the end is woe.

To go back to the beginning there would be the setting out from the City of Destruction on the journey to Zion—a scene which could be made a striking introduction to the play.

Then, for those fond of the swashbuckler, there would be Apollyon. "The monster was hideous to behold. He was clothed with scales like a fish (and they are his pride), he had wings like a dragon, feet like a bear, and out of his belly came fire and smoke, and his mouth was as the mouth of a lion."

And what about Vanity Fair? "And, moreover, at this fair there is at all times to be seen jugglings, cheats, games, plays, fools, apes, knaves, and rogues, and that of every kind. Here are to be seen, too, and that for nothing, thefts, murders," and a great number of other things. And Beelzebub is chief lord of the fair.

The "happy ending" is there, too; that is, it can be, if the dramatizers will stop short of disclosing the fates of Ignorance and Vain Hope. A proper presentation of the welcome of Christian and Hopeful to the long and far-sought Zion could certainly be made a fitting climax. This is Bunyan's vision:

> Now I saw in my dream that these two went in at the gate; and lo! as they entered they were transfigured, and they had raiment put on that shone like gold. There was also that met them with harps and crowns, and gave them to them—the harps to praise withal and the crowns in token of honor. Then I heard in my dream that all the bells of the city rang again for joy, and that it was said unto them: "Enter ye into the joy of your Lord."

Altogether there seems no good reason why "Pilgrim's Progress" should not prove a very effective play—effective in many more ways than one.

—The Uneasy Chair.

HELEN KELLER'S HAND,
From the June Critic, in Which Isabel Moore Has an Article on "Hands That Have Done Things."

The owner of the cast of Helen Keller's hand, pictured herewith, has written under the cast, as it hangs in his library, these lines:

> She is deaf to the sounds all about us,
> What she sees we cannot understand,
> But she hears with the tips of her fingers,
> And her sight's in the touch of her hand.

Any one interested in the general subject of the trusts will find much that is entertaining as well as instructive in Gilbert Holland Montague's new book, **Trusts of To-day.** There are other and more comprehensive books upon the subject for one who would delve into the depths of it, but this book is of moderate length and the text has been so stripped of technicalities, the heavy statistics so sparingly used and the illustrations of cause and effect so aptly chosen, that any one may take it up with assurance that it will not be found tiresome.

If Mr. Montague has laid himself open to criticism at all it is due to the fact that he has scarcely put sufficient emphasis upon the bad features of trust organization and management, and, justly so or not, the reader unconsciously gathers the impression that much that might have been said as to trust evils has not been put into the book, and that the author is rather inclined to gloss them over. So many trust books have "hammered" the octopi that it is perhaps unfair to criticise a book that takes, what may be, after all, a broader view of the question, yet the impression gained early in the book is not easily shaken off. Perhaps it comes in some small degree from the knowledge that it was Mr. Montague who wrote the book called "The Rise and Progress of the Standard Oil Company," said to be a subsidized whitewash for Rockefeller, the sheen of whose halo had been a little bedimmed by Ida Tarbell in her McClure's Magazine articles.

When all is said, however, the facts remain that Mr. Montague really knows what he is writing about, and any one desiring to inform himself about the trusts, their origin, methods, abuses, and the attempted remedies for them, can get the information from this book and get it in a form to entertain and not tire him.

Dispatches from Princeton, N. J., announce the death there of Laurence Hutton, the author and essayist, at the age of 61. The collection of hand casts from which Helen Keller's hand is pictured in this column to-day was the property of Mr. Hutton, and the verse printed with the hand is his.

"Stories Uncle Remus would have been glad to tell if they had been 'ketched in de corners uf his 'memb'ance" is the way the publishers characterize the stories told by Aunt Nancy and Aunt 'Phrony in **At the Big House.** "They are in no sense an imitation or a reproduction of his delightful yarns, but a supplement to them, the completion of the southern lore. Joel Chandler Harris says that Miss Culbertson has got all the stories." They were found among the negroes of southeastern Virginia and the Cherokee Indians of North Carolina.

The author calls special attention to the Indian's sense of humor. She says "they laughed heartily as they told these stories and were visibly disappointed if their auditors failed to catch the point and laugh with them."

"Why Crabs Walk Backwards" is a fair sample of the stories which make up the book. Here is a part of it:

> "Der wuz a day an' time," said Aunt Nancy, "w'en dar wan't no yearf a-tall an' de Lawd jes hatter set ter wu'k an' mek it all f'um de bottom er de lowes' sea ter de top er de highes' mountain. Den He set ter wu'k on de creeturs. Honeys, dat wuz a big job! He jes had one pattern to go by, an' all der wuz to hit wuz body, laigs, haid and tail, an' yit he done mek 'em ev'y one diffn't. Las' dey wuz all done, 'scusin' der haids, an' dey wuz ev'y las' one diff'nt f'um tu'rr. De Lawd tuck an' putt 'em in a row in front uv 'im an' den he sot ter wu'k on de haids.
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> * * * * *
>
> "'Come yer, Efalent,' sez de Lawd, sezee, an' wid dat Efalent walk up an' git his haid on an' go twis'in' an' curlin' his trunk an' raisin' up his voice 'twel de groun' plumb shuk wid de soun'.
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> * * * * *
>
> "Jesso twuz wid all de creeturs, f'um de Efalent down ter li'l ol' Mis' Ant, an' dey wuz all please' an' sassified, but w'en it come ter de turn er Mistah Crab, he hilt back an' he say, 'Naw, suh, 'scuse me, suh, ef I ain' come forwu'd.'
>
> "Tu'rr creeturs wuz all scannelize' at his imp'ence an' dey nudge him an' fell him ter go 'long an' quit his foolishness.
>
> "'Come yer, Crab,' sez de Lawd, sezee,. 'an' lemme year w'at 'scuses you kin mek fer dis 'havishness.'
>
> "'Please suh,' sezee, 'you mus' 'scuse me, suh, but I ain't want you ter putt my haid on me; I knows 'tain' gwine feel comf'ble. I wanster putt my own haid on, 'kase hit stan' ter reason dat I mus' know better'n any one else w'en hit feels jes right.'

Mr. Crab got his head on upside down, and Aunt Nancy continues:

> "But, bless yo' soul, his idees wuz all turnt upside down, 'long wid his haid, an' w'at did he done but run backwu'ds stidder forwu'ds.

BOOKS RECEIVED

TRUSTS OF TO-DAY. Facts relating to their promotion, financial management and the attempts at state control. By Gilbert Holland Montague, A. M., of the department of economics and sometime Ricardo prize scholar in economics at Harvard university. New York: McClure, Phillips & Co. Minneapolis: Nathaniel McCarthy. Price $1.20 net.

AT THE BIG HOUSE. Where Aunt Nancy and Aunt 'Phrony Held Forth on the Animal Folk. By Anne Virginia Culbertson. Illustrated by E. Warde Bleisdell. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill company.

There are 1,800 churches in Moscow. They are the wealthiest churches in the world. One, St. Saviour's, cost 28,000,000 roubles—nearly $14,000,000—to build. The Russian church is the nation's great wealth storehouse—the nest egg which will be hatched out when the great crisis comes.

THE NONPAREIL MAN

A Fatal Epidemic of Marrying and Being Given in Marriage Among the Fairmont, Minn., School Teachers—One Room in the Schools in Which No Teacher Can Get by the Second Year Without Becoming a Blushing Bride—A Fierce Rush for This Situation.

The school board and superintendent of schools at Fairmont, Minn., are in a quandary because of the prevalence of the marrying microbe in the schools. Three teachers have already given it out that they each intend to do a stunt as a blushing bride in a June wedding this year. The Fairmont Sentinel "Cynic" says:

"Perhaps the board has been too fastidious in the past. Some of them have gone on the theory that an attractive personality was an essential in teaching and from year to year have endeavored to raise the standard of beauty along with ability to teach, and that they have succeeded is amply proven by the way their teachers persist in getting married."

There is one room in the Fairmont schools that is especially fatal. No young woman has ever been able to get thru the second year without having promised to become somebody's wife. Perhaps, if the conditions in this connection were more generally understood, there would be no trouble in getting teachers in the future, for they would be standing in line, waiting, oh, so tenderly, for the schools to open. Girls, make a note of this.

Job had a few boils, but it is not recorded that Bildad's large yellow dog buried his bone in Job's flower garden.

J. T. Swearingen had a fine farm of 280 acres on Murphy lake, near Truman, Minn.

Peter C. Breiholz had a prosperous general merchandise store at Ceylon, Minn., with a stock in it worth $10,000.

The other day they got to talking over the relative merits of farming and of the general store business, and the result was that they swapped businesses. Swearingen takes the store and Breiholz takes the farm.

This only proves that a Yankee can take hold of almost any business and do pretty well at it.

Attorney Frank Sasse of Fairmont is hurt and threatens a libel suit because of the following notice in the Independent:

"It is reported that Attorney F. E. Sasse is looking for a house to rent. This—in connection with another item in this paper, put together—would indicate a partnership other than for transacting legal business."

The Independent man chasing the illusive item and trying to put it into readable form didn't mean exactly what he wrote. Still, Mr. Sasse feels somewhat damaged.

The Philadelphia police recently destroyed about $8,000 worth of slot machines by means of which the public had been betting against a plugged game. Pasted on the inside of the locked doors of some of these slot machines were secret operating instructions. One rule said: "To change the percentage, plug up the color that is paying too freely, but never have all plugs in at one time."

Last week the pumping station at Mapleton blew up with a loud report. Mr. Osteboe, who was standing in the doorway, was given a free ride thru the air of about twenty-five feet, and his escape from instant death is regarded as surprising. This is the second time in about two months that an explosion has occurred in the pumping station. It is suspected that gasolene from the engine leaked down into the well and that gas formed and caught fire in some way. When the new pumping station is up, Mr. Osteboe threatens to walk around the block rather than pass the door.

Possibly, girls, you may remember the Countess of Warwick, or Lady Brooke, known as "the babbling Brooke," because she told about King Edward's baccarat game at Tranby Croft some years ago. Her son, Lord Brooke, 22 years of age and quite marriageable, is about to pay a visit to this country. A large number of girls in the east are preparing for the event by becoming simple and childlike in their thought so as to come up to the English ideal. A poet in the Indianapolis Sun sings of this variety of girl:

> I am a very pretty girl—
> My eyes are big and blue,
> I walk as if I am afraid
> That I will break in two.
> I keep my eyes upon the ground,
> My voice is sweet and low—

It sounds childlike and innocent, but, look out! They're after you.

> Once I walked a railroad bridge
> And made believe that I
> Was scared to be above the creek
> So very, very high.
> I took the cutest little steps,
> I shuddered at the stream,
> And charmed my beau by gasping out
> A charming little scream.
>
> Whene'er I see a horrid cow,
> I gasp and fight for breath
> And cuddle up to Charley and
> It tickles him to death.
> The thought of how I need his strength
> Brings to his face a smile,
> And so I'll jolly him along
> And ——

But why continue? All that you need more to fascinate this bold and manly Englishman is a papa with a bank account that can be made to rise to the occasion. —A. J. R.

JOURNAL EXCURSIONS No. 54 and No. 55—SATURDAY, June 25.

2 Great Excursions on Largest, Fastest, Finest Steamer on the Mississippi

(Coming From 'Way Down South Specially for These Journal Trips.)

A GREAT 100-MILE TRIP ON THE GREAT "J. S."

DAY TRIP—ONLY 75c
Children under 12 years, 40c

Leave Soldiers' Home	9:00 a. m.
Leave St. Paul	10:00 a. m.
Arrive Hastings	12:00 noon.
Arrive Prescott	12:30 p. m.
Sail up beautiful Lake St. Croix and	
Leave Prescott	2:00 p. m.
Leave Hastings	2:30 p. m.
Arrive St. Paul	5:30 p. m.
Arrive Soldiers' Home	6:30 p. m.

MOONLIGHT TRIP—ONLY 50c

Leave Soldiers' Home	7:00 p. m.
Leave St. Paul	8:00 p. m.
Sail down the Mississippi in the beautiful twilight and arrive St. Paul	11:30 p. m.

Ample street car service on Minnehaha Falls line to accommodate excursionists, who can get aboard the big "J. S." either at the Home at 9 a. m., or St. Paul at 10 a. m.

Lots of room on this great steamer—Splendid Music—Dancing. A well appointed, "moderate priced" lunch room. The only chance you'll have of making such a delightful, cheap trip on such a fine steamer. Ticket Sale limited to comfortable capacity of steamer. On sale at Journal counter June 20.

Set Aside June 25th for These Trips