



The Daily Press. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING (Except Monday) at the DAILY PRESS BUILDING, 211 Twenty-Fifth Street, by the DAILY PRESS COMPANY.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES. The Daily Press is delivered by carriers anywhere in the city limits for 10 cents a week. Any irregularities in delivery should be immediately reported to the office of publication.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS. (Payable Invariably in Advance.) One Month \$1.50 Three Months \$4.50 Six Months \$8.00 One Year \$15.00

TELEPHONE NUMBERS. Editorial Rooms... Bell 'Phone No. 14 Business Office... Bell 'Phone No. 181

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Entered at the Newport News, Va., Postoffice as second-class matter.

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1905.

PROPOSED NEW STATE.

Representative Brownlow, of Tennessee, is optimistic or nothing. After standing sponsor for the proposition to appropriate something like \$20,000,000 for the improvement of the public roads of the country, he now holds up smilingly as one of those who proposes to push the proposition to manufacture a new State from the odds and ends of four other Commonwealths.

Of course, it will be readily admitted that there might be force in that argument, but even if the entire question were decided upon a political basis, Mr. Brownlow should remember that a number of offices, the politician's stock in trade, would go a glimmering from control of the Democrats with the formation of the Brownlow Slump Commonwealth. From a material standpoint it is not at all likely that Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky or North Carolina would agree, under any circumstances, to part with some of the most valuable territory of those four States.

We have no doubt at all that Mr. Brownlow and his associates are in earnest, but we believe that he largely underestimates the difficulties in the way of the consummation so devoutly wished. An old fable tells of the fox who accidentally lost his tail. He figured out that it would be a clever scheme to convince all other foxes that tail were useless and that fashion had decreed that tails were an abomination.

THE COUNTRY CORRESPONDENT.

The country correspondent is a thing of wonder and a joy forever. He lets no detail escape his eagle eye. In case of an accident we are always informed that someone "immediately" went after a doctor, with emphasis on the "immediately," as if it would be the most natural thing in the world to wait a couple of hours before securing the necessary medical attention.

John Jones, as if it would have been possible for her to have been the "widow" of the "present" John Jones, while if Sammy Smith has the misfortune to fall from a window he always strikes the ground "below," this fact being strongly emphasized, as if there were a lurking suspicion that some one might infer that he struck the "ground above" the window.

These thoughts have been suggested by an interesting item appearing in a recent issue of the esteemed Washington Post, recounting the freaks of a bolt of lightning which struck a tree on the farm of John Laney, near Bunker Hill, W. Va. We are informed that the lightning killed seventeen hounds and seven ewes and then followed the startling information that "the dead bodies of the sheep were piled in heaps under the tree."

We have heard of many peculiar freaks on the part of lightning bolts, but this seems to about cap the climax, and, in view of the fact that the voracious chronicler refrains from furnishing a complete diagram of the nother portion of his proposition there always will be room for serious doubt as to whether or not the bolt really did tear holes through Carey's socks. Of course, Carey's testimony cannot be received. Naturally he would be prejudiced in favor of the lightning theory.

At its last meeting the Senate of the Young Men's Christian Association passed a resolution requesting the city council and the board of aldermen to repair the symbolic figure of "Justice" posing above the courthouse. It is to be hoped that the resolution will be productive of councilmanic action. The figure certainly ought to be removed from the courthouse or else should be placed in such shape that it will not be a travesty upon the idea which it is intended to convey.

If the Wisconsin anti-tipping bill could be applied to the man who insists on telling one what stock to buy and what horse to play, the labors of the legislature would not have been in vain.

Bernard Shaw is quoted as saying that he wrote some of his plays "on an empty stomach." That was inexcusable when the cheapness of stationery and typewriting is considered.

With a quarterly dividend of \$9 per share Standard Oil does not seem to feel any of the repressive influences aimed at it.

We are informed that a "Pennsylvania man drank water and died." Evidently he was not used to it.

ZANZIBAR.

Its Fragrant Clove Forests and Its Malodorous City Streets.

It is difficult to describe in fitting language the clove gardens of Zanzibar. The "spicy breezes" which are said to "blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle" blow with equal softness and perhaps no less spiciness through Zanzibar's beautiful clove forests. The whole island abounds in richest vegetation, but the clove forests are its real beauty spots. And what a grateful change their fragrant shade from the oriental odors and genuinely bad smells of the stuffy streets of the old town itself! For Zanzibar is not like an American city in the width of its streets and the architecture of its buildings. There is scarcely a thoroughfare in the whole place wide enough to permit two vehicles to pass, and the system of sanitation is almost as primitive as that of the garden of Eden; hence some of the smells. Fortunately the clove forests are not far away. Zanzibar has no docks or wharfs. All goods are landed or shipped by means of lighters. The tidal rise is about fourteen feet and the fall necessarily the same. Vast stretches of beach are thus left bare at low water; hence more smells. But, with all its drawbacks, Zanzibar is not particularly unhealthy. It is hot, vigorously, viciously hot, but still the people, the white people, manage to live there in comparative comfort and in spare hours play golf, tennis and sometimes even football. —E. Verne Richardson in American Syren and Shipping.

The Spinning Mule.

Samuel Crompton, a boy of sixteen, copied the best features of the spinning machine invented by Hargreaves and Arkwright, added to them some of his own and, after three months of anxious and secret experimenting, produced the first spinning mule, so called because it was a kind of hybrid between Hargreaves' Jenny and Arkwright's water frame. The raw apprentice had, however, no match in cunning for the cotton lords, who soon found out the secret of his new machine and shamelessly robbed him of the fruits of his ingenuity. Many years after, it is true, they used their influence to secure for him a parliament grant of £5,000, but he was then a broken hearted and disappointed man, to whom the money came too late to be of any real service.

When a girl has a corn that causes her to limp she always apologizes by saying she must have twisted her ankle. —Chicago News.

MADNESS IN PLANTS.

Mexican Weeds That When Used Will Drive Men Crazy.

Marihuana is a weed used by people of the lower class and sometimes by soldiers, but those who make larger use of it are prisoners sentenced to long terms. The use of the weed and its sale, especially in barracks and prisons, are very severely punished, yet it has many adepts, and Indian women cultivate it because they sell it at rather high prices. The dry leaves of marihuana, alone or mixed with tobacco, make the smoker wilder than a wild beast. It is said that immediately after the first three or four drafts of smoke smokers begin to feel a slight headache; then they see everything moving, and finally they lose all control of their mental faculties. Everything, the smokers say, takes the shape of a monster, and men look like devils. They begin to fight, and of course everything smashed is a monster "killed." But there are imaginary beings whom the wild man cannot kill, and these inspire fear until the man is pale stricken and runs.

Not long ago a man who had smoked a marihuana cigarette attacked and killed a policeman and badly wounded three others. Six policemen were needed to disarm him and march him to the police station, where he had to be put into a straitjacket. Such occurrences are frequent.

There are other plants equally dangerous, among them the tolvache, a kind of loco weed. The seeds of this plant boiled and drunk as tea will make a person insane. Among some classes of Mexico it is stated that Carlotta, the empress of Mexico, lost her mind because she was given tolvache in a refreshment.

There is in the state of Michoacan another plant the effects of which upon the human organism are very curious. The plant grows wildly in some parts of Michoacan, and natives have observed that whenever they traverse a field where there were many of such plants they lose all notion of places. For this reason when a person reaches a place where there are many of these plants he forgets where he is going, where the place is and even where he is and what he is doing there. It takes from three to four hours for a person affected by the smell of the plant to recover the full control of his mental faculties.

Another very curious plant is the one called de las carreras in some places where it grows. When a person drinks a brew of the leaves or seeds of the plant he feels an impulse to run and will run until he drops dead or exhausted. —Mexican Herald.

FROM A WIFE'S DIARY.

A word to the wise is resented. Many are called, but few get up. Where there's a will there's a way.

Fools rush in and win—where angels fear to tread. Misery loves company, but company does not reciprocate.

Love is romantic. Matrimony is decidedly a matter of fact. When we hear of other people's troubles it reconciles us to our own.

We never know how good we are going to be until the opportunity has passed. If you bestow a favor forget it, but if you receive one it is wise to remember.

It is the greatest of tonics, the best of cosmetics and the envy of dyspeptics. —Detroit Tribune.

Advice About Eggs.

A writer in the Delinquent gives some sensible advice about eggs. There is a general impression that eggs, acknowledged to be a complete food, may be safely eaten on all occasions. On the contrary, as the writer alluded to points out, invalids and young children should never be given eggs unless they are very fresh. Persons suffering from biliousness, gastritis and several other troubles find difficulty in digesting even fresh eggs. Some physicians declare that the slightest tendency toward rheumatism makes eggs undesirable. The white of eggs whipped to a froth with a little water is a good thing to give fever patients, as a rule, but the physician should be consulted before even this is given to a sick person.

IN JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

How the Warring Nations Celebrate the Festival of Peace.

Every nation has its Easter. In far-away Japan this celebration of the birth of the year is called the feast of the cherry blossoms and is attended with much merrymaking and jollification. The blossoming cherry trees are hung with innumerable paper lanterns. The boats on the rivers at night are similarly decorated, and there are processions of singing girls, actors, tradespeople and monks.

In Russia Easter is a festival celebrated much like our Christmas, with gifts and rejoicings. Dolls and eggs are bought for the little ones by every household, and the week immediately preceding is devoted to what has been called the "great annual Muscovite wash." Every housewife makes an elaborate cleaning of her dwelling, and the public baths are crowded with people who deem cleanliness at this particular season a religious duty.

Valuable presents are interchanged. Formerly every one had a right to kiss everybody else, though this curious custom now prevails only in rural districts. Among the rich gorgeous artificial eggs, sometimes worth thousands of dollars apiece, are given and received. Such eggs often contain costly jewels, and in this sense the czar each year bestows upon his wife a precious token of his imperial regard. —New York World.

BUYING A WATCH.

Filled Cases, Plated Cases and Good and Bad Movements.

"Not many men know how to buy a watch," said a jeweler, "and to a large extent they have to rely on the honesty of the dealer. So complicated is the business that even we go to the factories ourselves and arrange for special work in order to get the proper article, for, of course, we could not assay every case we receive.

"Now, how many people know the difference between a filled case and one that is plated? A filled case, you see, is a composition that resembles steel, with a plate of gold on each side, that on the outer being thicker than the inside. Such cases are guaranteed not to wear through within five, ten, fifteen or up to twenty-five years, the limit of the guarantee made by the reputable houses. If a man offers you a case warranted for thirty or forty years you are going to be bunked if you buy it. When you see watches offered for sale as gold filled for \$3 or \$4 depend upon it they are plated, and mighty thinly too.

"In the matter of watch movements," he continued, "the buyer is really at the mercy of the dealer. In one big factory about 3,000 movements are made every day. There is certain to be haste in that sort of output, and the name on the dial does not make up for imperfections. To avoid these a first class jeweler arranges for several hundred movements to be delivered a year hence.

"A strictly first class movement requires six months exactly in its passage through the factory from the beginning to the finished product ready to offer for sale. Such goods are then stamped with the name of the firm for which they are made and that firm has to stand sponsor for them. The Swiss watch, in its higher class, is the best movement in the world today. Of course there are cheap Swiss movements that you can buy for \$3 or \$4, but they keep good time." —Kansas City Star.

BOOKS.

What a sense of security in an old book which time has criticised for us.—Lowell.

Books are men of higher stature and the only men that speak aloud for future times to hear.—E. B. Browning.

We should make the same use of a book that the bee does of a flower. She steals sweets from it, but does not injure it.—Colton.

Books are the masters who instruct us without rods and ferules, without hard words and anger, without clothes or money.—Richard de Bury.

My maxims are never to begin a book without finishing it, never to consider it without knowing it, and to study with a whole mind.—Buxton.

A book is good company. It is full of conversation without loquacity. It is not offended at your absentmindedness nor jealous if you turn to other pleasures.—Beecher.

Peculiar Occupations.

The trade of toothstainer, followed in eastern Asia, is as odd a calling as any. The natives prefer black teeth to the whiter kind, and the toothstainer, with a little box of brushes and coloring matter, calls on his customers and stains their teeth. The process is not unlike that of blacking a boot, for a fine polish is given to the teeth. The pigment used is quite harmless. In Arabia the trade of "gossiper" has many followers. The "gossiper" collects all the news, little-tattle, jokes and stories he can get hold of and then goes from house to house retailing them. If he has a good manner and can adapt his recitals to his audiences he makes a very fair income.

A Chinese Trick.

An English gentleman who resided in China for many years tells the following story in illustration of the peculiar knavery of the Chinese character: A stout gentleman well known in China was some years ago feted at Taiwan for two or three days, "the observed of all observers," he being an immense man and a good specimen of a transatlantic Anglo-Saxon, but the series of crowded visits he received at length became troublesome, and he found he was being made too much of. The fact was he was being exhibited, a charge being made for the exhibition.

The First Shave.

Which of us does not recall with a gentle flutter of emotion the unutterable delight we experienced when we gravely set about that delicate operation, "the first shave," an innocent subterfuge to which a youth resorts by way of proving to his own satisfaction that he has reached the stage of full manhood? He has a beard! —Le Petit Parisien.

Her Mental Exercise.

"Why does your wife belong to so many clubs and debating societies?" "Well," answered Mr. Meekton, "I think Henrietta feels the need of mental exercise. She likes to get away from home and be among people where she can't have her own way without an argument." —Washington Star.

No Further Necessity.

Maud—Well, I see Mabel Garling horn after all these years has given up trying to get Phil Sikes. Irene—What's the reason? Maud—Haven't you heard? She's got him. —Chicago Tribune.

Two Blessed Factors.

Beautiful is the activity which works for good, and beautiful the stillness which waits for good; blessed the self sacrifice of the one, blessed the self forgetfulness of the other. —Robert Collier.

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