

THE EVENING FARMER

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New York Office, 225 Fifth Avenue (New York Building), Room 404. A. A. MENNET, Representative.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1909.

GOOD RIDDANCE, THE POPULAR COMMENT

The General Assembly of 1909 will be the best work when it votes to "riddance," says the Hartford Courant. "We are not proud of it." And so say we. There has never been a General Assembly from which so much of the burden of the people was removed, and from which so little has been obtained. Never one which paid so much attention to public sentiment, or which exhibited so defiantly complete subservience to the public will as the corporations. Its record is a study in stench.

The most important achievements of the details of public utilities, the ability and death-damage bills all three of which may be said to have been, consequently, antagonistic to their death by the united efforts of the several classes of public service corporations. It was probably the largest, most potent and highest lobby ever seen at Hartford, and as open and shameless in its operations as it was potent as witness the people in the House when votes were being taken upon the public utility question.

Of course, some good measures were passed, notably the tuberculosis bill, the new revenue law, and, in connection with the three rejected bills above mentioned, unimportant. The State tax was reimposed, in accordance to an enforcement of such a measure as would reduce expenditures to the revenue limit. We are told that the bill will move the towns' representatives in future General Assemblies to assist and enforce economy; why should the present body do this instead of delegating this duty to its successors, and thus enable the people to escape the new burden. There is just one reason for the expectation of a change in the future, as there is to the case of the present General Assembly. It has become habitual, and the State tax will merely furnish additional fuel for the fire.

The present General Assembly will close this week, and the popular opinion will be "Good riddance, good riddance." We hope, even though without hope, that its successor will be much better constituted.

It seems, a fine trust, and it has appeared before the House committee on Ways and Means when the revision was in progress. He did not suggest a reduction of the tax on this although selling them more cheaply than at home and although his protection was practically unopposed. A clear illustration of the power of their beneficiaries was shown.

England divided equally in the vote on the question of free hides, Massachusetts and Vermont voted in the affirmative; Rhode Island and Connecticut as solidly in the negative, while New Hampshire and Maine divided their votes. There is a surprise over the negative vote, especially as to Connecticut. Senators Henry and Brannan certainly manifested their State upon this matter, and one of them—Bulkeley—is a candidate for re-election by the General Assembly to be elected next year.

Nowhere we republish from the Courant a communication which advocates a limitation of General Assembly sessions to three months, and the enactment of a law "consolidating the little town probate districts within county lines so that every district would comprise a county." There are 100 probate districts, of which 90 are in the towns. The proposed change would abate many of the present inconveniences and would elevate the probate court to a position commensurate with its real importance. What importance may be judged from the fact that the property of every man and every woman must sooner or later pass through the hands of the probate court.

The small towns which can, and when they so choose, control the General Assembly, would probably be against a county probate system, and the fact that it would really benefit them by placing the estates of their deceased citizens in assuredly capable hands, by a certainty of the preservation of probate records affecting the real estate, and in many other ways.

failed to comprehend, and which the people do not understand. The duty of retrenchment was never more urgent than now. The people have borne the burdens of taxation for the last fifteen years with heroic patience. They are now suffering, as never before, from depreciated values and a general stagnation of business, and not a few are distressed with want. They demand everywhere a real economy in public expenditures. The demand is urgent and any party which fails to heed it will perish.

WILL INVESTIGATE WOODMONT EPIDEMIC

DR. TOWNSEND OF STATE BOARD OF HEALTH CALLED INTO THE CASE TODAY.

New Haven, Aug. 24.—As a new development in Woodmont's typhoid epidemic, Dr. J. H. Townsend, of the State Board of Health, has been called into the case by Health Officer Putney of Milford, and a rigid investigation, in connection with the epidemic and its origin, will be conducted. The number of local residents visiting at Woodmont has been stricken with the disease, among them being Ralph G. Fort and his daughter, Miss Fagter, Dr. Vishao, who is attending them, says that there are from ten to twelve cases of the disease in the town. Two cases have been discovered at the Sanford house.

SANTE FE PLACES HEAVY CAR ORDER

Service Over New Belen Cutoff to be Greatly Improved. To provide adequate train service over the new Belen cut-off, and other recently constructed lines, and to fill out its equipment to provide for all emergencies, The Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway has placed with the Pullman Car Company a heavy order for passenger cars.

In speaking of the purchase, Mr. W. J. Gardner, Passenger Traffic Manager of the Santa Fe, said: "Yes we are preparing to handle the heaviest business ever in the history of the road. Every condition points to an unprecedented movement to California and the Southwest during the next twelve months. Business is steadily improving in all parts of the country and when business generally is good, California and the Great Southwest draw an ever increasing percentage of the travel-loving public."

"The passenger car order that has just been placed provides one hundred and thirty cars of all classes and will round out our equipment most satisfactorily. The new cars are to be used in filling out gaps and replacing old cars in making more uniform California Limited trains and in providing adequate service for the Belen cut-off and other lately opened lines and branches."

This is the first considerable order for passenger equipment that the Santa Fe has placed since 1906. The panic of 1907 caused a suspension of orders at that time and business last year did not seem to justify additional expenditures. Now, however, the Santa Fe Southwest is prosperous and the people of the East are being attracted in that direction in such numbers that the ordering of new cars has become a necessity. The new equipment will be built by the Pullman Car Company. The specifications call for cars provided with closed steel underframes and reinforced platforms and vestibules. They are to be finished throughout in hardwood, low-toned in color harmonizing with the interior.

Her Pet Monkey In Gold Cage

Lanox, Mass., Aug. 24.—Mme. Zegrio, of Florence, Italy, who arrived yesterday at the Aspinwall Hotel, brought with her as a pet, mascot, from South America, the animal lives in a gold cage and is so diminutive that a dollar bill would conceal it. It has attracted much attention in the Aspinwall. Mme. Zegrio is a daughter of Mrs. Charles T. Robinson, who is at the Aspinwall.

New Haven Man Commits Suicide

New Haven, Aug. 24.—George G. French, aged years, former manager of the Hygienic Ice Company in this city, and for years head of the ice trust in Connecticut committed suicide at his home in this city last Wednesday afternoon by shooting himself in the head.

Several months ago he retired from the office of the Hygienic Ice Company. At that time it was said that he was suffering from ill health. He returned Sunday from Delaware where it was said he had been offered a responsible position with an ice company. "Worry over business difficulties and the death of his wife last December are supposed to have caused his suicide."

ABOUT PROBATE DISTRICTS A Correspondent Condemns Our Whole Present System

To the Editor of The Courant:—There are two things the people of Connecticut should set themselves to do—pass a constitutional amendment compelling the General Assembly to rise on April 1 of each session and enact a law consolidating the little town probate districts within county lines so that every district should comprise a county. There are 112 probate districts in Connecticut, a state of 908,450 inhabitants (census of 1900). Few of these comprise several towns—Hartford, which includes Bloomfield, Glastonbury, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor Locks; New Haven which has also East Haven, Hamden, North Haven, Orange and Woodbridge, Bridgeport which includes Easton, Meriden and Trumbull; and Norwich, which has Franklin, Griswold, Lisbon, Preston, Sprague and Voluntown. There are also a few two town districts, but all the rest are one town districts—99 in all. Some are so small in population that one can but wonder what a Judge of probate thinks to do. For instance, Bozrah, with 799 inhabitants, is a probate district, so is Lyme with 750, Hebron with 1,016, New Britain with 884, Ashford 757 and so on ad infinitum. The serious loss and inconvenience of this system can best be shown by the actual working. Take for instance a lawyer in New York who wishes to search title in the probate court at Redding, in Fairfield county. On alighting at West Redding station he finds himself four miles from the probate office, which is in Redding Center—and no convenience. He is unable to hire a turnout of some farmer and drive out to the center, where if so fortunate as to find the judge at home, he performs his duty. But suppose next he wishes to search the records of Newtown the adjoining town on the east and nine miles distant. He must drive to Newtown over the hills, and then it may be necessary to search the records of Brookfield, the next town north of Newtown, five miles distant. Unless he can catch one of the infrequent trains he must drive thither also; whereas if the records of Redding, Newtown and Brookfield had all been lodged in Danbury, the county seat, he could have gone on to Danbury by rail and consulted all three districts in one trip.

Again, the character and calibre of the Judges in these small districts vary so much that it should be only the judge was a son of one of the old families, often college bred, took the office from his father, held it during life and handed it down to his son, and was the judicial mentor, guide and father of his townsmen. Now he is more likely to be a third rate politician, sometimes lawyer, and he is given the office as a reward for party services—buying votes, packing caucuses, etc.—and who uses it first, to get out of it, and second, to distress and despoil his political favorites. When one reflects on the almost unlimited power of the office over the persons and property of the people of his district the evils of the system are the more apparent. He has far too much power. He is the almoner of the estates, he is the trustee of those who die intestate, fixes the widow's allowance, names appraisers, can order cherished heirlooms and family pictures sold to pay debts, even though there may be ample money and bonds for the purpose, can keep the estate in his court unsettled a year or more for his own gain, and finally appoint men to distribute it to the heirs.

Again, in the case of property left to persons for life only, he fixes the amount of the surety bond they shall give, or, if they do give one, appoints a trustee for the fund, as to trust funds these men have gone to the Legislature and had such restrictions placed on their care and investment that what with the probate Judge's fees, the trustee's fees and mileage and the fees of the surety company which give the bond, very little is left for the beneficiaries. Of course an appeal from his ruling may be taken to a higher court but that means continued litigation, court fees, lawyers' fees, trouble, publicity.

Last, but not least with the convenience of two physicians he can seize any person and commit him to the insane asylum—which explains perhaps why every few years we have to build a new hospital for the insane.

But suppose the county was made the probate district as is the case in New York and nearly every other State. Then suitable fireproof vaults would be provided for the records, a lawyer trained in the law, of unimpeachable integrity like now on the bench in our cities could be elected Judge, his office put on a salaried basis and the evils and inconveniences of the present system abolished. Very truly yours, Common Sense.

The Hills, Bethel, July 22, 1909. CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Watson



HAMPTON'S MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER—ON SALE NOW Among the twenty other great features that will make you say that this is the "Best Magazine in America" are— "Policing our Lawless Cities," "General Bingham 'speaks out' at last about the rottenness of the New York Judiciary. You must not miss his startling revelations. "The Vow of Silence"—A typical story by Alice Hegan Rice in her happiest vein. "The Crocks O' Goold"—An Irish folk lore story by Hermine Templeton. "The Coming Spectacle in the Skies."—By Garrett P. Serviss. A thrilling and entertaining story about Halley's Comet that will soon be visible and may give us a "bump."

BIG AUCTION SALE 50 HORSES 50 AT AUCTION WEDNESDAY AT 2 P. M.

One car load 23 head of horses just arrived from Ontario, New York State. This is a lot of good second hand horses that are all broken and climated and ready to go to work. There are a lot of good business horses and a very fine lot of good driving horses and a few cheap ones. Mr. He Shelton will put them up and sell every horse for what he can get. Thirty good second hand city horses up for the high dollar; must be sold. A few green ones that Hamilton Bros. will cut at this sale. Wagons of every description. Harness of all kinds. Bring in anything you have to sell to the leading Horse Mart of Connecticut.

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Why Japan Won't Fight Us

Japan wants the Philippines. She wants to keep us out of China. She wants certain rights on the Pacific Coast. Will she fight for them? No! Why? There are five reasons. Every one of them sufficiently interesting in itself to make every man and woman in the country want to read this splendid article. Dr. Thomas Green has just returned from Japan. He went for the purpose of finding out the exact attitude of the government and the people towards the U. S. The facts he found out make intensely interesting reading in

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