

HAPPENINGS IN CHICAGO

A Chapter of Little Tales from the Western Metropolis.

The Book-Makers Conduct the Biggest Business in the Town—Things That Go to Make Metropolitan Life.

Chicago.—Judged by financial transactions, race betting is the biggest business in Chicago. One million dollars passes daily between the public and the book-makers, either at the racetracks or the hand book men in the city, and, as a rule, the bookmakers receive more than they pay out.

Occasionally the layers of turf odds are hit by the public, but they can afford to lose now and then. When McChesney came in first at the recent Harlem national handicap the public was ahead to the extent of about \$100,000, it being estimated that the bookmakers had lost about that amount, but they made it back, with interest, on other races the same day.

Race betting has never been stopped in Chicago. At times the police close the poolrooms and the bookmakers at the track have to step down from their stands, but the hand book man is ever present.

The business of the bookmaker offers opportunities for nice calculation. The ideal "book" is one on which the maker cannot lose, no matter which horse wins, and to secure this result it is necessary not only to keep a close watch on the betting, but to regulate it by constantly changing the odds to keep the book balanced.

A bookmaker once said to me: "Don't try to buck the game unless you want to lose. We pay big prices for the privilege of making books at a track, we pay big salaries for our help, and we are not in the business for our health."

What was good advice for me is good advice for the general public, and it was given to me by a friend.

A Rise in Real Estate.

Every large city is a place of strange contrasts in the matter of real estate prices. In New York it is possible to buy a building lot within five miles of the city hall for \$500 or less, while around the city hall ground is worth more than that price per square foot.

The same is true in Chicago, and the time is coming when ground in the business center of Chicago will be worth more than it is in New York, or the business conditions of the city will have to change. The latter, however, is happening now to some extent. For several years the elevated loop marked the boundaries of the business section of the city. In this little section, not much more than one-half mile square, practically all the enormous wholesale and retail business of the city was transacted. Now the big wholesale houses are spreading beyond the loop, and a number of immense business blocks are being erected to be occupied by large wholesale concerns in a section that for years has been the home of the tough element.

As an evidence that Chicago has not yet lost faith in the final completion of the federal building may be noted the rise in real estate values around federal square. The federal building has been under construction for more than six years, and to-day has more the appearance of a historic ruin than a new building. It is safe to say that immense sky-scrapers, for which the foundations have not yet been begun, will be completed and occupied before Uncle Sam's mails, and Uncle Sam's courts are occupying the building which is being constructed for them. Within a few years this entire square will be lined solidly with buildings that are 16 stories or more high, and they will so overshadow the government building as to make it appear small beside them.

Games of City Children.

City children these days are old-fashioned children so far as games are concerned. Nor are the old-fashioned children to be found in the poorer districts only, but they are numbered among denizens of the avenues and boulevards where the rich reside.

The out-door games that a generation and more ago furnished amusement for the small boys and girls of the country are to-day in vogue in Chicago. "Topy" has its devotees in every section of the city; "blind man's bluff" is equally pop-

ular; so, too, are "tag," "leap frog," "duck on a rock," jumping ropes, and others equally as rural. Of all of these "tag" is probably the most popular with the children. It affords amusement for an indefinite number, and is a game at which the novice may play as well as those educated in it. It is the great evening game of the ghetto district when that section is alive with the little folks after their day of labor in the sweat shops.

Two things are responsible for the introduction, or rather rejuvenation, of these old games. One is the kindergarten, the teachers of which make every effort possible to instill a love for such games for the reason that they afford amusement and exercise without an attendant expense. The other is the play grounds of the public schools. The board of education have at a number of schools exerted their best efforts in providing the children with the means for healthy exercise and innocent amusement during the play hours, and here these games hold sway for the reason that they are not limited as to numbers. The teachers find in such games an educational value as well as a means of healthy exercise.

The French Colonies.

Anyone who has ever visited the cities of Quebec or Montreal, or any of the villages of that section of the Dominion inhabited by French Canadians, might easily imagine himself under the British Canadian flag in three different sections of Chicago. These three places constitute the three French Canadian colonies of Chicago, the center of which is Notre Dame cathedral.

Altogether there are in the neighborhood of 30,000 French in this city, and of this number much more than two-thirds are of Canadian stock. Judged by comparison with other foreign people who inhabit the poorer sections of the city they are most desirable citizens. They are quiet and industrious and the majority of the men are skilled artisans. It is easy to tell when one enters the confines of a French Canadian colony because of the neatness that surrounds their homes. In them are no dirty windows, and but few whose panes are not covered with dainty white curtains, cheap to be sure, but clean, while the window ledges and the miniature yards, when they have one, is a mass of flowers throughout each summer.

By example they instill a desire for better things in other classes of the foreign population. The Italians, the Jews, the Greeks and a host of other people from the nations of both Europe and Asia, including not a few Servians, copy their flower gardens, their clean windows, their white curtains, and by so doing make of themselves better citizens and genuine Americans with American ambitions of their children.

But they cling tenaciously to the customs of the fatherland. Their children are educated at the parish schools, and often the only English they know is that picked up promiscuously by association. It takes more than one generation to make Americans of these people, but they are desirable citizens when they cross our borders.

The eastern provinces of Canada are sending into the United States each year a large number of these French Canadians, who, in a way, take the place of the immigrants western Canada is drawing from this country.

Yerkes in London.

While Chicago is wrestling with the transportation problem left it by Charles T. Yerkes, the latter city is but beginning to realize the intentions of that gentleman in the English metropolis.

London has been behind the times in the way of transportation for many years, Chicago, thanks to Yerkes, was at one time abreast of the times, if not ahead of it. He took railway lines of the North and West sides when the city was clamoring for something better and more modern than the mule car. He gave them what they were asking for—the cable and the trolley—and then, when he had made a fortune from the operation of the lines, and when the franchises were about to expire, he unloaded at a good round figure, and stepped out to begin anew in London.

In that city he has already gained a foothold, and when it is practically too late the newspapers and the public seem to find that he is asking for more than the city should give. With him he has associated American capital, much of it from America, and among the men interested are a number of his financial associates in Chicago who profited by his management here, and are not afraid to trust him in London.

Another five years will see Mr. Yerkes and his American friends in control of the transportation lines of the British metropolis, while within the same time it is hardly too much to expect to see Chicago freed from the grasp in which he held this city and on the high road to municipal ownership.

A GREAT DEPARTMENT.

Grand Achievements of the Postal Service Belittled by Democratic Malcontents.

The slow, piecemeal manner in which the little scandals of the postal service, in Washington and a few other places, the offensive, more or less vague accumulation of years, are dragging into light, is calculated to spread abroad a very false impression of general corruption, or, at least, blundering and improper methods, in the conduct of the vast post office department. It is sure to obscure, in many minds, the remarkably high average of correctness, in every detail and sense, which has long distinguished a tremendous business done by the national government, says the Cleveland Leader.

Even in these days of huge corporations, the post office department is one of the biggest organizations of human industry and enterprise in the world. It has a great army of employees, most of them working in comparative isolation and much trusted, in the very nature of things. They cannot be watched constantly or completely. The patrons of the postal service are the whole American people. They include millions of women and children, unskilled in business, and millions of men dependent upon the honor and efficiency of those who serve the government for fair and proper attention to their needs. It would be impossible to imagine a vast business demanding more honesty and good sense from the scores of thousands of men and women who work under the postmaster general.

Yet in transactions aggregating about \$150,000,000 a year, at the present rate, and in a service which calls for the handling of many millions of separate parcels, the wrongdoing of any kind is very rare and the errors are wonderfully few. Anyone who compares the work of the post office department with that of other immense business concerns which have to deal with enormous numbers of patrons and handle myriads of packages must be impressed with the splendid showing made by the postal service of the United States.

That is one of the proud facts of American public life. It is a credit to the country and a great object lesson on the possibilities of honesty, efficiency and fairness in the management of the people's affairs. In the vital point of just and equitable dealing with all classes and conditions, the post office department has made a record which must excite the admiration of every fair-minded American. It is never accused or suspected of handling mail more carefully or quickly for the rich and powerful than for the poor and lowly. It does not discriminate on political or social grounds. Always and everywhere, the principle of equality and good work for all is made the rule of the entire service. That is very high praise.

The petty misconduct and small peculations, in form or fact, which are now being exhibited before the country are the merest specks upon the wonderfully good record of the great postal branch of the federal government. Viewed fairly and broadly, it is a very notable achievement of the American nation, a source of pride in history and a promise of good for the future.

The "Solid South" Again.

The democratic newspapers are beginning to figure on the possibilities of securing the next president by renewing the "old alliance"—that between the "solid south" and certain northern states, which, the democrats fondly hope, will place their electoral votes in the democratic column. Among these northern states are New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Indiana. But that is very much like counting chickens before they are hatched. In the first place, the democrats are not sure of the "solid south," including in that term Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia, for all three have of recent years been safely republican in national campaigns. And Kentucky is getting pretty shaky. In the second place, professing confidence in ability to carry New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Indiana for the democratic presidential candidate is pure "bluff." Not one of these states has gone democratic in a national campaign since 1892. However, this sort of speculation may amuse the democratic newspapers, and they are welcome to the enjoyment they can get from it. The votes next year will show how badly out of their reckoning they are.—Troy Times.

Political conditions certainly are peculiar and anything but promising to the democratic party. Yet this should furnish no excuse for relaxation of effort by the republicans, though there is not likely to be any special attempt to win the south away from the democratic party. But judging from the present drift a great many democrats there as well as elsewhere will not be heartbroken should the elections of next year result in the retention of the republican party in power at Washington.—Troy Times.

Mr. Bryan's friends declare they will not vote for any presidential candidate approved by Mr. Cleveland. Mr. Cleveland's friends declare they will not vote for any candidate approved by Mr. Bryan. Under the circumstances where will the next democratic presidential nominee alight?—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Bryan only needs to reflect a little on the prospects of the man who must run against Theodore Roosevelt, next year, in order to be quite reconciled to his own position in private life.—Cleveland Leader.

THE WALL STREET VIEW.

Fear Expressed That the Presidential Election Will Create Financial Disturbance.

The Wall street view of the business situation is reported to be more hopeful than the view entertained at this time last year, says the Chicago Inter Ocean.

This hopeful view is due to the fact that "there is no limit to the natural resources of the country or to the material results of the industry, energy and inventiveness of our people;" to the belief that the situation in the world of labor is much better than it was a year ago, and to the probability that, in spite of floods and droughts, we shall have heavy crops of wheat, corn and other grains.

On the other hand, we are told that this hopefulness is discounted in part by the fear "very general among what may be called the larger interests in the financial community of the economic and financial disturbances which may be caused by the forthcoming presidential election."

The Wall street theory seems to be that the campaign will be a struggle between classes; that the chief topic discussed will be the various methods of restraining corporations, and that this will be unsettling to business because the republicans will support the policy of the president, and the democrats will insist upon a revision of the tariff.

It is difficult to understand why a campaign for the continuance of the prosperity policy and for the proper regulation of trusts should be called a struggle between classes. It is also difficult to understand why the great business interests of the country, if they fear a reopening of the tariff question, should play into the hands of the radical tariff reformers.

It is undoubtedly true that the possibility of a reversal of the policies that have given the country six years of prosperity will be a disturbing element in business, but no more in 1904 than it was in 1900.

In the campaign of 1896 the prospect of republican victory gave a better tone to business. The victory itself, before any legislation had been enacted, caused perceptible improvement in business. In 1900 the reelection of McKinley was regarded as a certainty, and there was no business disturbance.

President Roosevelt has continued the McKinley policies which were supported generally by the business interests in 1900. If they are supported by the same interests in 1904 there will be as much certainty of the election of the republican candidate next year as there was in 1900.

The democratic party, no matter by whom it will be led, no matter whether the supporters of Mr. Cleveland or the supporters of Mr. Bryan are in control, will favor radical changes in the tariff. This is as well known now as it will be when the platform is adopted. Therefore, the business interests represented to be so much concerned about the overthrow of the tariff may decide now which party policy they will favor.

If they favor the republican policy, the presidential election will have little depressing influence upon the business situation. If, for political effect, they pretend that they prefer the policy of the Cleveland administration, they may overreach themselves. In fact, they will be more likely than not to overreach themselves.

PARAGRAPHIC POINTERS.

The Cleveland cult, which showed sundry signs of recrudescence a few weeks ago, seems to have fallen back into innocuous desuetude.—Indianapolis Journal.

They are talking of organizing a democratic club in this city, but no one has yet suggested where they are going to get the democrats.—Philadelphia Press.

Between the radicalism of Mr. Bryan and the conservatism of Mr. Cleveland the democratic mule will be likely to take the bits in its teeth and strike out for the tall timber.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

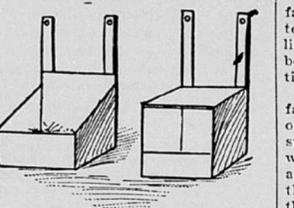
Mr. Bryan denies the story that he is "renouncing interest in public questions and removing himself from the arena of politics." Some denials are taken with allowances, but nobody will have any difficulty in accepting this one at its face value. It would be a riotous imagination that could conceive of Mr. Bryan's voluntarily renouncing politics as long as he retained his health, which is at present good.—N. Y. World (Dem.).

AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

MOVABLE NEST BOXES.

They Are Easily Taken Down for Cleaning and the Hens Seem to Like Them.

Various arrangements for nesting boxes in the henhouse have been suggested, but the best, for all general purposes, the plain box hung on two nails so that it can be taken down easily. The groceryman's box pile will furnish an abundance of material to select from, as the boxes do not need to be uniform in size. About 12 inches square and five inches deep is what is wanted. Nail two cleats to the back, allowing them to project six inches above the box. Through these bore holes by which the box is hung on two tennenny nails driven in the walls of the building.



PLANS OF NESTING BOXES.

The ease with which they can be taken down for cleaning, etc. About once a month they are taken to some convenient place to receive an application of insecticide and new filling. One part of crude carbolic acid and two parts of kerosene make an excellent mixture for disinfecting, and for repelling vermin. Where boxes are stationary they are inconvenient to take care of, and contents are apt to become foul and the breeding place of lice.

These movable boxes are just the thing where hens are used for incubation. When a hen becomes broody eggs are given to her, and at night the box, hen and all, is carried to an apartment of the brooder house, where she can serve out her time unmolested, and at the same time get off to take food and exercise.

The boxes should be all made uniform as to distance apart of the holes by which they are suspended, so that a box may be removed from one pair of nails to another pair anywhere else.

I have torn down the long nest rows and the patent "hide away boxes," which are said to tempt the hen to lay a few extra eggs, and now use the movable boxes, excepting a few trap nests in the breeding pen, where it is serviceable to know the best layers.—E. Grant Davis, in N. Y. Tribune-Farmer.

ALFALFA IS VALUABLE.

It Supplies the Missing Link Between the So-Called Mixed Farmer and the Stock Raiser.

The uses and value of alfalfa make that wonderful clover a most desirable addition to the list of products of any state. R. A. Haste, writing in the Northwest Magazine, quotes one authority as saying: "Alfalfa is the big thing in Colorado agriculture; it makes flesh, bone and muscle for the farmers' horses; it makes flesh and fat for the stockholders; it makes milk for the dairy; it makes nectar for the honey bee; by rotation of crops it fertilizes the soil and makes the larger profits in our wheat; it makes money for the farmer and beauty and wealth for the state."

As an example of what alfalfa is doing as pasture in Nebraska, Mr. Haste says he found on the Hoffman and Hollis ranch in Antelope county 165 steers and 250 hogs were pastured on a 65-acre field from April 25 to October 1 and were not able to keep down the grass. Another field of four acres supported 11 head of cows during the season and yielded in addition one crop of hay.

"From a careful examination of the reports of experimental stations and from information gained by conversations with alfalfa farmers, I am convinced that, as pasturage, one acre of alfalfa hay is worth five acres of other grasses. In milk producing capacity one ton of alfalfa hay is worth three tons of prairie grass. When this estimate is considered in connection with the fact that alfalfa yields an average of four tons a year, per acre, the influence of its cultivation on the beef and dairy interests can be readily seen. By increasing the pasturage capacity of the farm and ranch it enables the farmer and ranchman to increase his herd. By increasing the flow of milk it enlarges the monthly revenue from that herd. By furnishing an excellent food for calves it enables the farmer to increase his herd while receiving a monthly check from the creamery for his butter-fat. Alfalfa makes the combination of dairying and beef raising not only possible, but the most profitable thing to do. It fills the gap—supplies the missing link—between the mixed farmer and the stock raiser."

The habit of feather pulling is liable to be contracted by hens that are overfed and have little exercise.

A dry place free from draughts is what the poultry, old and young, need now for healthful quarters.

COMMON SENSE TALK.

"Look Before You Leap" is an Axiom That Must Be Considered by Would-Be Farmers.

With enthusiasm for their capital, misled by the fatal lead pencil which figures "millions in it," many "would-be" ask us if we advise going into the poultry, cranberry, ginseng, fruit, goat or some other outdoor business. A good rule of life is "Don't get in a rut." Don't stay in a place just because you are in it. Another is "Don't change too readily. Look before you leap." We do not encourage the sailing of strange seas by unfamiliar craft, yet there are pioneers, and one wise man has said: "To retain youth, change your occupation every ten years."

To all those who long for country life, we will say that as a business proposition any branch of farming is no different from other industries. The wise man does not say: "Lo, I will be a merchant prince," and forthwith rule the commercial world with a ready-to-wear scepter. The captains of industry have all risen from the ranks. If there is any better rule than "begin at the bottom of the ladder," we do not know it.

We do not understand the strange fatality which leads hopeful innocents to embark in bucolic enterprises with little money and no training. It must be the result of the popular misconception that "anybody can farm."

The whitening bones of countless failures show where these luckless ones dropped by the wayside. They started across the unknown sands, without food, water or provision against the scorching noonday sun, or the deadly miasms of night, led on by the mirage of great profits.

It was once said of a very able lawyer that he was "the best farmer in the state—on paper."

To succeed in any branch of farm life the following requisites, while general principles only, may be of advantage to those who think of trying a new thing:

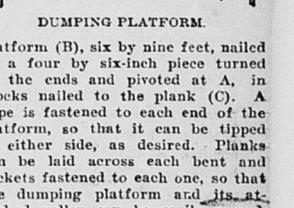
1. Good health.
2. Love for the work.
3. Persistent and patient endeavor.
4. Some capital.
5. Common sense.
6. A knowledge of the business.

The beginner may acquire health in the process; this will be his first victory. He may lose his first enthusiasm for the work; this will be fatal. "Persistent and Patient Endeavor" means work; we are not considering "gentleman farmers." "Some capital" is broad enough to suit all purses; sometimes the less the better. I don't know why it is called "common sense" when it is so uncommon; anyway it is indispensable. A knowledge of the business may be obtained after embarking, by study and experience, but don't look for success until the experimental stage is past; fortunate is he who lasts through this period.—Colman's Rural World.

HANDY IN HAYING TIME.

A Dumping Platform That Saves One Handling and Lessens Labor in Other Ways.

A Wisconsin correspondent sends the Farm Journal a model of a convenience for use in hay time. In wide mows or bays when the fork delivers the hay in the center in the usual manner it must be forked laboriously to the sides. To remedy this the correspondent has a board



DUMPING PLATFORM.

platform (B), six by nine feet, nailed to a four by six-inch piece turned at the ends and pivoted at A, in blocks nailed to the plank (C). A rope is fastened to each end of the platform, so that it can be tipped to either side, as desired. Planks can be laid across each bent and sockets fastened to each one, so that the dumping platform and its attached roller can be easily moved. In order to be effective the bay must drop every time near the center of the platform. On a wooden track this can be effected by boring a hole in the track and putting an iron pin through it. On an iron track the same end can be secured by a clamp screwed on.

Two Classes of Farmers.

There are two classes of farmers, says a recent writer: First, the man who is bigger every way than his farm. To such a man it doesn't make much difference how many acres he has, he runs the farm on close practical business principles and makes a profit. Second, the man whose farm is bigger than he is. No matter how many or how few acres he has, he doesn't run the farm. The farm runs him. E. P. Snyder gives an account in the Ohio Farmer of a dairyman living near Toledo, who keeps 35 Jersey cows on 100 acres of land and has made them earn the past year \$4,400 gross, from which he has a profit of \$2,200. He makes butter and sells it in Toledo at 25 cents in summer and 30 cents in winter. His cows, counting butter, skim-milk and everything, earned him over \$12 apiece. This is an extraordinary herd.

Mix powdered charcoal and finely crushed bone with the soft feed to diarrhea.