

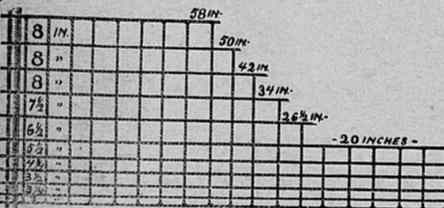
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A Most Liberal Offer. All our farmer readers should take advantage of the unprecedented clubbing offer we this year make, which includes with this paper The Iowa Homestead, its Special Farmers' Institute Editions and The Poultry Farmer. These three publications are the best of their class and should be in every farm home. To them we add, for local, county and general news, our own paper, and make the price of the four one year only \$1.90. Never before was so much of an amount of money. The three papers named, which we club with our own, are well known throughout the west, and commend themselves to the reader's favorable attention. The Iowa Homestead is the great agricultural and live stock paper of the west; The Poultry Farmer is the most practical poultry paper for the farmer, while The Special Farmers' Institute Editions are the most practical publications for the promotion of good farming ever published. Take advantage of this great offer, as it will hold good for a short time only. Samples of these papers may be examined by calling at this office. 33-31
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F. E. RICHARDSON. Real Estate, Loans and Insurance. Office over the Racket Store Manchester, Iowa.

Grover Cleveland says he was misquoted and that he is not out of politics. We suppose then he will continue to support the republican ticket as he did in 1896 and 1900.—Creston American.

The Bellefontaine, O., man who has built two houses on one lot so that his wife may gratify her mania for moving by going from one to the other as often as she pleases deserves a high place on the roll of honor. He is at least certain of her propinquity and can keep her actionarily under his kindly eye. The Bellefontaine man need not fear being Burdicked.—Chicago Chronicle.

The Biggest Job in the World. The Panama canal has passed out of the domain of politics into that of business. Congress and the politicians are done with it. The president, the war department and the business of the country are to take charge of it now. It is the biggest job of engineering ever undertaken in the world's history. It is expected that we must do it from the beginning. We are to pay \$40,000,000 to the French company for work done on the canal, concessions, plans and machinery.

The actual value we are to get from this, apart from the concessions, for which we must pay \$10,000,000 more to Columbia, is not much. Practical engineers, who have been on the ground, think everything in the shape of work done and plant accumulated that we are getting from the Panama company could be duplicated for \$5,000,000. The rest of the payment to the company is for good will or a bonus to get out of the way.

To complete the canal will cost at least \$140,000,000. The money is to be raised by sale of bonds and is to be spent under direction of the war department. Here is a double opportunity for ambitious American engineers and builders. There is the opportunity for historic achievement and the opportunity to make a lot of money out of the government. It is said that large financing and contracting circles are in a state of excitement over the prospect and are organizing syndicates at a great rate to build the canal under contract. The government will not let the matter go out of its hands. The administration will remain with the commission appointed by the president, and the technical work will be done by the army engineers. Construction work may be done by contract, like most river and harbor work; but it is by no means certain that the government will care to make such a contract with a single company covering the whole ten years' work. Luckily the law and the treaty give the president a free hand in this matter.—Farmers Tribune.

Coal Strike Settlement. The finding of the Anthracite Strike Commission is a victory for the miners even if they have not won recognition of their union in direct terms. The fact that the operators must, during the life of the prescribed agreement, three years, settle all differences by conference with the miners, is in itself a virtual recognition of the union. If disputes shall arise requiring settlement by conference or arbitration, it will be found that the miners' representatives will be members of the Mine Workers' Union. For all practical purposes, therefore, the commission might as well have extended recognition to the union.

The general wage advance of 10 per cent amounts to 20 per cent in many cases. This finding was anticipated by the public which became convinced early in the hearing that the miners were underpaid. The shortening, in many instances, of the hours of work from ten to nine hours, with pay for ten hours, is another miners' triumph. That they will have representation at the scales where the coal is weighed is but simple justice to them and would have been conceded long ago by any but a corporation which was seeking to oppress its employees with unfair treatment.

It was eminently proper that the commission condemned the lawlessness and violence that marked the strike. That there was much less crime than charged by the operators is apparent in the finding, but three of the nine deaths from violence being attributable to the strikers. When it is considered, however, that there were 175,000 persons who had been idle for months and who were on the verge of want, and who each day confronted their wives and children suffering from the necessities of life, denied them by avaricious employes, it is remarkable that so little violence occurred. Crime will always be associated with idleness and want. That the union is not responsible for the violation of law is proven in this excerpt from the report: "It is also true, and justice requires this statement, that the leaders of the organization, which began and conducted the strike, and notably its president, condemned all violence, and exhorted their followers to sobriety and moderation."

It is not a serious blow to the union, as some might conclude, that the Mine Workers are denied the privilege of discriminating against non-union workmen. The victory won by the miners will strengthen their organization everywhere. Men not having membership appreciating the benefits the union has effected, will join the ranks. The unionists in their efforts to employ moral suasion in their efforts to swell their membership unless a federal judge shall enjoin them from using persuasion. The result is a triumph of right over greed. It is a victory for justice. It is what we can hope for always and expect in this republic.—Dubuque Telegraph-Herald.

A RAZOR'S EDGE.

Minute Teeth, Like Those of a Saw, Make Its Keenness. The edge of a razor consists of innumerable points or "teeth," which if the razor is of good material follow each other in order and clearness. The unbroken regularity of these minute "teeth" goes to make up the blade's excessive keenness. The edge acts upon the beard not so much by the direct application of weight or force as it does by a slight "sawing" movement, which causes the successive "teeth" to act rapidly on one certain part of the hairy growth. The best razors, according to the microscopists, have the teeth of their edges set as regularly as those of a perfect comb. This explains the magic effect of hot water on the razor's blade—the act of dipping it thoroughly cleansing the teeth of any greasy or dirty substance with which they may have been clogged. Barbers often claim that razors "get tired" of shaving and that they will be all right after awhile if permitted to take a rest. When in this "tired" condition a microscopic examination of the edge shows that constant stropping by the same person has caused the teeth or fibers of the edge to all arrange themselves in one direction. A month of disuse causes these fine particles to rearrange themselves so that they again present the heterogeneous saw-toothed edge. After this little recreation each particle of the fine edge is up and ready to support his fellow, and it again takes some time to spoil the grain of the blade.

Verdi Was Right. When Verdi was putting the last touches to his "Il Trovatore," he was visited in his study by a privileged friend, who was one of the ablest living musicians and critics. He was permitted to examine the score and run over the "Anvil Chorus" on the pianoforte. "What do you think of that?" asked Verdi. "Trash," responded the connoisseur. Verdi rubbed his hands and chuckled. "Now look at this," he said. "I forbish" said the other, rolling a cigarette. The composer rose and embraced him with a burst of joy. "What do you mean?" asked the critic. "My dear friend," cried Verdi, "I have been making a popular opera. In it I resolved to please everybody except the purists, the great judges, the ecclesiastics like you. Had I pleased you I should have pleased no one else. What you say assures me of success. In three months 'Il Trovatore' will be sung and read and whistled and barrel-organged all over Italy." And so it proved.

A Safe Proceeding. Lord Lyons, the English minister at Washington during the civil war and afterward ambassador to France, was a diplomatist to the core. He was exceedingly tactful in action and had the rare art of keeping his own counsel. When Sir Edward Elton called upon him one day at the embassy in Paris he found that a well known journalist had preceded him. The visitor was laying down the law in a loud tone, and when, after his departure, Sir Edward was received, he took the liberty of saying: "May I be allowed to ask if it is quite wise to discuss state secrets in such a loud tone? I heard every word that was said, my lord, as I sat in the ante-room." "Ah!" said Lord Lyons. "But even then you could not hear what I said, for I said nothing."—Youth's Companion.

The Cherokee and Polytheism. The Cherokee Indian was originally a polytheist. To him the spirit world was only a shadowy counterpart of this one. He had no great spirit, no happy hunting ground, no heaven, no hell—all of which ideas were first introduced to the American aborigines by Christian missionaries. Consequently death had for him no terrors, and he was not the inevitable and with no anxiety as to the future. All his prayers were for temporal and tangible blessings—for health, for long life, for success in the chase, in fishing, in war and in love, for good crops, for protection and for revenge.

Dreams Explained. "Dreams," says an eminent lecturer on theosophy, "consist of recollections of the combined impressions received and workings of the physical and astral mind. The soul, the subconsciousness, are independently active, and it is the confusion arising from the founding of the thoughts of the soul with the exaggerated interpretation of the impressions received by subconsciousness which makes it so often impossible to remember dreams."

Softer. "I have no doubt you have heard some stories to my discredit," he said. "I don't like to put it in that way," she quietly replied. "How then?" he hopefully asked. "I have never heard any stories to your credit," she said.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Precocious Youth. Walter (aged five)—Papa, when I grow up may I get married? Papa—My son, I regret to see you anticipate trouble so early in life.—Chicago News.

One on the Minister. Rev. Tubthumper—I've been preaching this morning to a congregation of asses. Lily Sugarcreek—Yes, I noticed you called them "beloved brethren."—Lily Slopser.

The Earthly Frogs. A story told of Lord Holt, who was lord chief justice of England in the eighteenth century, shows what a deadly enemy to wild superstition a sense of fact may be. A man presented himself to Lord Holt and said: "I have a world and told me that in your next case you must enter a plea of non proe—that is, refusal to prosecute." Lord Holt looked at the man a moment and then smiled. "Do not believe that such a message was ever sent to me by any man."

"It is absolute." "And do you believe that the messenger had a full knowledge of the law of England?" "Yes, and of all law. By following this heaven given advice you will be doing justice." "Well, you tell your messenger if he comes again that he should have sent his message to the attorney general. The lord chief justice of England never prosecutes, and if the spirit knew anything about the English law he would know a simple thing like that."—Youth's Companion.

Helping Out a Poet. Shortly after the publication of Teneyson's famous poem, "A Vision of Sin," the laureate was somewhat startled to receive from Mr. Babbage, the renowned arithmetician, a letter which ran as follows: "Dear Sir—I find in a recently published poem of your pen, entitled 'A Vision of Sin,' the following unwarrantable statement: 'Every moment dies a man. Every moment one is born.' I need hardly point out to you that this calculation, if correct, would tend to keep the sum total of the world's population in a state of perpetual equilibrium, whereas it is a well known fact that the said sum total is constantly on the increase. I would therefore take the liberty of suggesting that in the next edition of your excellent poem the erroneous calculation appearing in the above passage be corrected as follows: 'Every moment dies a man. And one and a sixteenth is born.' I may add that the exact figures are 1,187, but something must of course be conceded to the laws of meter. I have the honor to be, sir, yours, sincerely, C. BABBAGE."

Miss Thin—Don't you think my new dress is just exquisite? Fannie—Oh, lovely! I think that dressmaker of yours could make a clothes prop look graceful.

The Menominee Seamless. NO SEAMS TO RIP OR HURT THE FEET. GUARANTEED TO OUT-WEAR ANY SHOE ON THE MARKET.

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ELWOOD Steel Fencing. I have just received a car load of the Elwood fencing; the best fencing made. Respectfully, Geo. S. Lister. They are made from the best leather on the new foot form last with tip or plain toe, congress or lace, price \$1.25 to \$2.00 a pair. We will be glad to show them to you whether you buy or not.

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