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Romance of Indian Days.

There is a flavor of historical romance in a claim presented to the interior department by General Isaac R. Sherwood, member of congress elect from Toledo, in behalf of James M. Wolcott of Maumee, O. Wolcott is a descendant of the famous Indian Chief Little Turtle, who was the head of the Miama Indians, one of the most powerful tribes of the northwest, and is proud of his Indian ancestry.

He lays claim to 320 acres of land in the city of Fort Wayne, Ind., which is covered with residences and business houses, and with the improvements thereon is worth many millions of dollars. He has no expectation of getting possession of the property in its present condition, but insists that he has an equity in it and hopes to establish it by the government records.

Many of General Sherwood's predecessors from the ninth congressional district have sought to prove up this claim, but have been unsuccessful, and now he is undertaking to do it from a sense of duty to one of his constituents.

The claim of Wolcott is for letters patent to a half section of land to Ann Turner under the treaty of St. Mary's of Oct. 6, 1818. After the notable battle of Fallen Timbers, in which General Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians of northwestern Ohio and their British allies, the government of the United States made a treaty of peace with Little Turtle.

The Miama chieftain had one son and three daughters. One of them, called Wa-Han-Ga-Futh, married Captain William Wells, a Kentuckian, who at the age of 10 years was captured by the Miama tribe and adopted by the Little Turtle. By that marriage Ann Wells was born, and named by the Indians, Ah-Fiz-Zach-Quah. When she grew to womanhood she married a man by the name of Turner.

Ann Turner, her two sisters and her brother were each granted 640 acres, or a section of land by the treaty of 1818. By a special act of congress, approved March 8, 1818, Captain Wells was granted the right of preemption of 320 acres, or half a section of land, situated at Fort Wayne, on the banks of the Wabash river, in what was then Indiana territory.

The full section which Ann Turner received under the treaty was conveyed to the United States in 1884 for a consideration of $1280, but it is claimed that the half section referred to was never technically ceded to the government for the reason that the official records do not show that the transfer was submitted to the president for his approval.

General Sherwood says that the bureau of Indian affairs will make a further search to determine positively whether or not there is any record of the presidential approval of the transfer. He thinks it will not be found, and in that event believes Wolcott will be able to prove up his claim to an equity in the property.

Herr Dernburg, the Hero of the German Elections.

In the campaign preceeding the elections Chancellor von Bulow introduced a number of American electioneering methods into his propaganda. He, himself, on more than one occasion, went into districts where political feeling was intense, and made speeches. He also issued manifestoes in the name of the Emperor, calling upon the voters to declare against the Socialists, whom he characterized as unpatriotic and dangerous to the State. The head of the German colonial department, the vigorous and untiring Frederich Dernberg, also electioneered. In fact, Herr Dernburg is really the hero of the contest, the Kaisar's organizers of victory. He provoked the battle and bore the burden of the fray. In lectures, speeches and conferences he told the people about Germany's empire in Africa, with the eloquence of a company promoter and the fervor of an apostle. Herr Dernburg is an interesting figure and a man of wide experience in modern methods of admiration. W. T. Stead calls him a thorough-paced American hustler suddenly let loose in the china shop of German bureaucracy." He is making the German colonies a matter of business rather than of politics, and his watchword is: "We make railways; we make no wars." He is now preparing for a tour around Africa, to study the industrial development of Germany's possessions in that continent.—From "The Progress of the World," in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for March.

They are alarmed in French government circles over the increase in the drinking habit and are disposed to charge the alarming augmentation in the number of lunatics to this cause, more particularly to the consumption of absinthe. It is urged that the fondness for drink is excercising a generally deteriorating effect on the nation and for this reason the French ministry is planning a vigorous campaign against the evil. It is evident that the French have changed their drinking habits for the worse during the last few years. They are substituting strictly alcoholic beverages, especially the destructive absinthe, in place of the light wines and simple mixtures that were once so generally popular.—Cleveland Plaindealer.

A Man Without a Country.

A novel problem—what to do with a man who is apparently without a country—is puzzling the authorities of Trenton. The expatriated individual who is causing all the bother is Charles Buck, who left Salem, N. J., thirty-five years ago to wander around the world. He turned up at Westminster, Brittish Columbia, some months ago, and after a sojourn in an insane asylum was ordered returned to his native state.

In the custody or company of D. B. Slater, a Canadian government inspector, Buck reached Trenton after a series of exciting adventures on the way. The State Hospital for the Insane refused to receive Buck because Slater had no commitment papers. The police also declined to take charge of him, as he was not a ward of the city.

The "man without a country" was then taken by Slater to a hotel but he escaped and raised excitement among the guests and on the streets. Buck was captured after a long chase. The police were again appealed to and consented to let Slater and his charge sit in the assembly room at headquarters until Buck's fate could be legally settled, warning Slater, however, that he would be arrested if he made any attempt to abandon the man.

The National Servant Girl.

(From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

In his efforts to find a permanent chief engineer for the canal the President is learning to appreciate as he never has before the well-nigh unsolvable perplexities of the national servant-girl problem.

A Victory of Peace.

From the Baltimore News.

The Boers have a clear majority in the Transvaal Parliment, and have organized the administration with one of their generals at its head. It is rare that a people defeated in war so quickly regain control of their own affairs.

John Willoughby, a citizen of Minneapolis, is almost the exact counterpart of George Washington as the father of his country is shown in portraits. He is a pioneer of Minnesota, having lived in St. Anthony as early as 1844. His grandfather fought in 1776 and was on terms of intimacy with Washington. Mr. Willoughby, who is 88 years old, never fought for his country, never engaged in politics and never required the services of a doctor or lawyer.

Professor Brashear says the statement of Professor Mateucci of the Mt. Vesuvius observatory, Italy, that the earth will be in danger if it is struck by the tail of a new comet recently discovered is nonsense. The Italian astronomer declares that the substance of the comet just discovered will come in contact with the earth's atmosphere toward the end of March, with consequences probably disasterous to the world. The Professor's opinion is that the danger will be brief but acute. He fears the atmosphere will be ignited and that death will follow. "Stories of that kind make me angry," said Mr. Brashear. "The tail of a comet is more attenuated than a puff of steam and if one should strike the earth it would not be perceived so readily nor have as much effect as the aurora borealis. It takes 100,000,000 miles of a comet's tail to obscure a star of the first magnitude. Of course the comet itself is more solid. The tail of a comet swept the earth in 1861 with no harmful result. I don't know which comet it was that Mateucci discovered. Several new ones have been found lately."

Sacred Monkeys of India.

In "Living Animals of the World" some curious stories are told about the habits and characteristics of the monkey tribes. It seems that the entellus monkey is the most sacred of all in India. It is gray above and nutty brown below, long legged and active, a thief and an impudent robber. In one of the Indian cities they became such a nuisance that the faithful determined to catch and send away some hundreds. This was done, and the holy monkeys were deported in covered carts and released many miles off. But the monkeys were too clever. Having thoroughly enjoyed their ride, they refused to part with the carts and, hopping and grimacing, came leaping all the way back beside them to the city, grateful for their outing. One city obtained leave to kill the monkeys, but the next city then sued them for "killing their deceased ancestors."

Ways of the Flying Fish.

Flying fish swim in shoals varying in number from a dozen to a hundred or more. They often leave the water at once, darting through the air in the same direction for 200 yards or more, and then descend to the water quickly, rising again and then renewing their flight. Sometimes the dolphin may be seen in rapid pursuit, taking great leaps out of the water and gaining upon his prey, which take shorter and shorter flights, vainly trying to escape, until they sink exhausted. Sometimes the larger sea birds catch flying fish in the air. The question whether the flying fish use their fins at all as wings is not fully decided. The power of flight is limited to the time the fins remain moist.

Women In Medicine.

First Lady Doctor—He is sleeping now and is certainly recovering. He proposed to me this morning. Second Lady Doctor—Indeed! He was probably delirious.—Boston Transcript.

A coward never forgave; it is not his nature.—French Proverb.

Earth's Angels.

None ever saw an angel
Except the ones in books;
I don't believe a mortal
Knows how an angel looks.
We guess at something misty,
With trailing wings of white,
With amber tresses floating,
And garments strangely bright.

But I believe that angels
Walk here in mortal guise,
Though we discern but faintly
Through heavy-lidded eyes,
Or see them as they leave us,
Who Walked before us here,
Their angelhood quite hidden
Because it lived so near.

I can remembr angels
Who seemed but common folks,
Who wore old fashioned bonnets
And faded winter cloaks;
Who came when dire disaster
Crowned lesser home mishaps,
Or when new claimants crowned
The dear maternal lap;

With curving arms wide opon
To take the weary in,
With patient love to listen
To childish wants and sin.
What better thing could angel
For childish sinners do
Than listen to their story,
And bid them start anew?

And there are fireside angels
Upon whose faded hair
We see no crown of glory—
And yet the crown is there!
Then, there are mother angels—
With patient love and true,
Whose loving hand upholds us
The darkest trials through.

Ah, me! the childish angel
Who beckons as I write—
Perchance I should not know him
In mystic robes of white.
He wears a schoolboy's jacket,
And where the shadows fall,
I wait through long and lonely years
To catch the long-hushed call.
—Selected.

About Alfalfa.

By Dr. W. H. Steele.

EDITORS OF DEMOCRAT: Alfalfa, though new to this country, is not a new product by any means. It has been one of the best paying crops grown in Europe for over two thousand years. It was introduced into this country by the early Spaniards, in the valley of the Rio Grande.

Very likely the first "Yankee" who ever saw a field of alfalfa, was Lieutenant Pike at the time he was captured by the Mexicans and marched down through the irrigated fields of the beautiful Rio Grande Valley.

Though it has been less than three decades since the first little patch was sown in the Platte Valley, it has grown in favor so rapidly, with the Nebraska farmer, that the crop of 1905 will be cut from over 300,000 acres, and the average will be greatly increased by this year's seeding.

There is a reason for this growing popularity of alfalfa. It is particularly adapted to the soil and climate of the west and is the surest and best paying forage crop that can be grown in this part of the country, year after year, under all conditions.

The great value of alfalfa as a corn saving and stock growing food is well known and the certainty of a crop, even in the driest season, makes it invaluable to the farmers of the west. Cattle and hog feeders say that, by a judicious use of alfalfa, a much larger profit and much better results are being obtained than from any other method. The dairy, cattle and sheep feeding industries are greatly increased, and several minor industries, such as honey and poultry raising are being stimulated and are capable of much greater development.

Alfalfa is destined to work wonders in the dairying industry. It has the two paramount qualities to enable it to do this; low cost of production in localities adapted to it, and the superior quality of butter produced while feeding it. Prime alfalfa hay is very palatable, and being easily digested and of a cooling or laxative tendency has an effect on the butter fat similar to green pasture. With it the June conditions, which are the most favorable to the production of the finest quality and largest quantity, can more nearly be maintained and at less cost than with any other single food.

Professor Otis, of the Kansas Agricultural College, in speaking of the benefits of alfalfa to the dairyman, says: "Who can estimate the gain to agricultural industry which will come when the alfalfa districts producing an excess of protein, become the dairy districts in which the cows will double or triple their accustomed yield?"

The best mutton on the market comes from the alfalfa districts and the sheep growers who have alfalfa hay can put lambs on the market in less time and at less cost, and with greater profit, than with any other kind or forage feed.

It is becoming more popular every season as a poultry food. It is rich in nitrogen which is necessary for the production of the albumen in eggs and essential to the growth of young fowls. All kinds of poultry relish the tender, green alfalfa, especially if they are kept in small yards. It is very succulent and makes good poultry food as a silage.

Alfalfa is the greatest honey plant known to modern agriculture. It is superior to white clover, sweet clover or buckwheat, and honey is being produced in sections of the west, now, and sold at a low price, where it was a luxury before the introduction of this plant. When it is understood that alfalfa produces from three to four crops each season, any bee-keeper will readily understand what a grand bee-pasture an alfalfa field would make. Thousands of acres in Nebraska and Kansas produce four crops each year on the uplands, where the bee flourishes, producing from 40 to 100 pounds of honey per hive. In speaking of alfalfa as a hog pasture on his ranch near Kearney, Mr. Watson says: "In April I turned sixty hogs, some of which were brood sows, into an eight acre piece of alfalfa, and kept them there all summer, without grain, during which time they increased to 120 in number. In the early fall, a little corn was given them to help out the alfalfa, as the number of hogs increased. It is my judgment that a little grain should be given to growing pigs when pastured on alfalfa, to stimulate their growth and harden them. Both as a pasture and hay crop, the lasting qualities of an alfalfa field is one of its strongest points. I have seen fields of this plant in good condition that the owner claimed had been cropped for twenty-five years. Others are reported to have lasted a much longer period. It requires three and under favorable conditions even four years for alfalfa to reach its prime, and after seven years a decline may sometimes be expected, yet by no means is this general, for if properly cared for there is no reason why this should be so. Alfalfa unquestionably holds first place as a valuable crop and stock food in the mid-west, and its value to this section of the country could not be estimated.

Hastings, Nebraska, March 1, 1907

Barrowing Always Pays.

A very large per cent of all grain now sown in the spring is put in ground prepared with the disk harrow, on corn stalk ground. The usual way is to disk one way and then cross-disk, or disk both times the same way, lapping half; then harrow and either sow broadcast and harrow in or sow with a drill. The object of this is not to advance any new found theories, but to lay stress upon the use of the old-fashioned steel harrow. Stalk ground is more or less rigid before disking, and the disking, even though it has been done twice, does not level the ground as it should. One harrowing does not level it enough, either, but that is all it usually gets in the rush of work at this season of the year. The Farm Gazette believes in getting a wider harrow and doing more work, covering more ground with it than is usually the case. Harrowing twice where ground is now harrowed but once will always pay.—Farm Gazette.

The Strawberry Patch.

It will be but a short time until spring is here, then comes the general rustle about the farm getting ready for spring work and it is very essential that the work of putting out the first garden and berry patch be planned far ahead of time, otherwise, with the rush of spring work it will be neglected until too late. There is no fruit on the farm that fills so large a place in the home as the strawberry. They are as easily grown as weeds; they need only a proper soil and to be planted out at the proper time. If you cannot give them the attention they need the good wife will look after their cultivation. We believe in planting strawberries in rows, two and one half feet apart and in giving them cultivation the same as any other crop. Any soil that is rich and retentive of moisture, will do for strawberries, water being one of the main elements of success in growing this fruit. Varieties cut but little figure, but do not plant all of any one variety. Plant several varieties and by mixed planting you will get perfect fertilization of bloom. The standard varieties are Senator Dunlap, Bederwood, Crescent and Warfield. Make at least one-half of the planting Dunlap. It is one of the strongest and one of the best leafed strawberries we know of for this section of the country.—Farmers Tribune.

In the past some makeshift methods as applied to the testing of grain have been recommended by expert grain men. It has resulted in no special harm to the grain growing industry, and yet the day has arrived when more natural methods should be resorted to.

We have in mind the discarding of the plan of testing seed corn between strips of blotting paper or between cloths. That plan while in a measure indicating the germinating ability of grain, did not supply anything like natural field conditions. It is by no means uncommon to find corn that would send out a fairly good root and stem when placed between wet cloths, and yet at the same time not be able to show well-developed organs when these were to encounter the actual soil.

We have no hesitation in recommending to our readers the plan of testing seed corn in the spring of 1907 by making it come up through at least two inches of soil. Every man can make boxes and adopt methods to suit his condition, the important thing being to put the seed in the real earth.

If four or six kernels are taken from each ear of corn that is to be used for seed and planted two inches deep in a soil, and this in turn is placed in a room where the temperture is not abnormally high, say between 60 and 70 degrees F., the result will give an almost absolutely accurate index to the character of seed. If there is anything delicate about one or two blades in a given cluster there need be no hesitation about discarding the ear from which the kernels are taken. We believe that only in this way is it possibly to select out seed capable of giving you uniform and strong stand under field conditions.—Farm Gazette.

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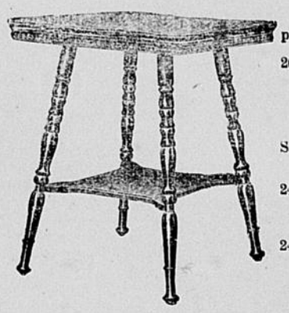
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