

# Ratcliffs

Wish every-  
one within  
the fifty mile  
zone of Vinita  
a Merry  
Christmas  
and a more  
prosperous  
Next Year

# Ratcliffs

W. H. Moore, president of the National Good Roads Association, has secured the co-operation of the trans-continental railroad lines and will inaugurate a series of Good Roads Special Trains during 1905, the chief object of which will be to visit some thirty-six states and territories with a view of demonstrating the desirability of furthering the movement, and to secure the co-operation of the state and territorial legislatures for the enactment of feasible good roads legislation. The first trip will be made via the M. K. & T. railway system. The good roads special train will leave St. Louis on or about January 9, on a tour through Missouri and Kansas and Indian and Oklahoma territories and Texas. United States government officials, officers of the National Good Roads association, expert engineers, and other good roads advocates, together with the Associated Press and press representatives of leading newspapers, official photographer and press agent will accompany the train.

We believe that the subject of good roads is of the utmost importance to everyone, and the object of the trip being arranged by the Good Roads association will be to enlighten and instruct those interested in the desirability and feasibility of the good roads movement. Frequent stops will be made by the special train, and instructive meetings held, to which all will be cordially invited. Short talks, lectures and practical demonstrations will be made. A prior announcement of each meeting will be made, and with the co-operation of the railroads in making reduced rates for the meetings, it is expected to bring together a large number of farmers, business men and others interested in the movement.

The Democrat hopes to be an "I told you so" on the passage of the Hamilton bill, not so much for the sake of

being that, as for the future welfare of Muskogee and the Territory. The committee on territories has put up the bars against hearings, suggestions or anything else looking toward amendment of the bill. It seems that the enactment of the bill at the present session is a foregone conclusion, and that the separate statehood advocates are confronted with the acceptance of the Hamilton bill or the other alternative of obstructing it with the effect, if any effect whatever, of deferring statehood of any kind indefinitely. Senator Beveridge seems to have taken command of the bill, taken the bits in his teeth and is riding at a lively gait for its enactment as it came from the house. It has many objectionable features—a few most objectionable ones, but there seems to be a preponderance of sentiment in the Territory everywhere for the acceptance of statehood on almost any terms a radical Republican majority sees fit to hand it.—Muskogee Democrat.

Bent Murdock, in the El Dorado Republican, says: "It is discouraging, distressing, humiliating, to hear any one use coarse, vulgar, indecent or profane language anywhere or at any time. How much worse is it to meet with a young man whose entire conversation is punctuated with oaths, whose every breath is both vulgar and brutal, who damns everything and everybody in his ordinary conversation, who cannot speak without an oath, a vulgar suggestion or a vile epithet. And it might be said that some young men would be surprised if they were reminded that they are chronically vulgar. Cut it out, young man. It does not make you any bigger to swear, nor does it command respect from others. People are not afraid of you because your every word is an oath. Never use an expression at any time that you would be ashamed to use before your mother, and you will be a lot happier for it."

## THE ADVANCE

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## Clipped from The Exchanges.

### THE WOMEN AND THE BILL.

(Freeman E. Miller, in Oklahoman.)

(EXPLANATORY NOTE:—The press reports state that the women opposing America are strenuously opposing the statehood bill, and demanding that it provide for equal suffrage and prohibition in the new state.)

It was years and years in coming, but it hove in sight at last. And we hoped our cares were over and our disappointments past:

It was fought for on the hustings, in the platforms was declared, And with all the big campaigners it has every honor shared;

And we thought we surely had it where our evil hands could kill,

Tell the women went to knocking on the statehood bill!

Don't the last of you remember how we whooped it up with might Through the speeches of the daytime and the orations of the night:

How resolved and re-resolved, and then resolved again, That our people were the people, and our men the very men?

And we shouted out the story of our deeds with honest will:—

But the women now are knocking on the statehood bill!

Don't you recall distinctly how we speechified till hoarse Trying to convince the people what was just the proper course?

How much time and toil we lavished in the beauty of our schemes

Just to save the state from danger to the dearness of our dreams!

But, alas! we see the finish! And, alas! for manly skill!

For the women all are knocking on the statehood bill!

We have seen the new star rising from the territorial seas,

We have seen it mount the zenith where the old flag split the breeze;

And we boasted of our glories in rejoicing grand and great

As we thought we raced for honors in the new-created state!

Vanished now the dreams of glory and the offices to fill,

For the women all are knocking on the statehood bill!

O, the grave and mighty senate! Mr. Beveridge mighty, too!

We can understand your pickle and we know just what you'll do:

There is only one escaping, only one to ransom us From the rumpus we have kicked up and the madness of the muse:

Give the women all they ask for! We were chumps to treat them ill.—

We're undone if they keep knocking on the statehood bill!

### POOR RICHARD JUNIOR'S PHILOSOPHY.

Then Yule remember me.

Christmas levels all ranks.

Celebration is the thief of time.

A fair exchange is no certainty.

One good gift deserves another.

Presents speak louder than words.

The patient club waiter is no loser.

Never put a gift cigar in your mouth.

Presents make the heart grow fonder.

Gifts show which way the wind blows.

A friend in need is a friend at Christmas.

The proof of the Christmas is in the eating.

A gift in the hand is worth two on the tree.

It is more expensive to give than to receive.

A man is known by the Christmas he keeps.

You must understand before you are understood.

One touch of Christmas makes the whole world kin.

A present is not without honor save in your own family.

A little Christmas now and then is relished by the wisest men.

Take care of the holly and the mistletoe will take care of itself.—Saturday Evening Post.

When the grand review of the armies of the North took place in Washing at the close of the Civil War, the applause which greeted a woman in a calico dress and a sunbonnet, riding a horse with the men from Illinois, was almost as enthusiastic as that with which the uniformed generals were welcomed. The woman was "Mother" Bickerdyke, the army nurse who went to the front with supplies for the soldiers, and stayed there to take care of the wounded. When other needed supplies did not reach the camps, she went north and secured more. She accompanied Sherman on his march to the sea. She cleaned out a smallpox hospital in Memphis while seven men lay dead of it in the building. Indeed, she did not think of herself when there was something to do for others. The old soldiers of Illinois have at last decided to honor the memory of Mrs. Bickerdyke with a statue, to be erected at Galesburg, the town from which she took the first supplies to the front. The statue represents an army nurse giving a drink of cold water to a wounded soldier on the field. The inscription is eloquent in its simplicity—only the woman's name followed by the one word, "Mother."—Youth's Companion.

## THE COUNTRY NEWSPAPER.

The editor of the Linneus (Mo.) Bulletin knows all about journals, or, at least, all about country newspapers. We clip the following article:

"When you consider that the country weekly is owned by its editor, and that the man who writes the funny things about country papers in the city journals is owned by the corporation for which he writes, it doesn't seem so sad. When you know that the average city newspaper man's idea of the country was gained from a back area with a plot of grass on it about the size of a handkerchief you know he can't know much about country newspapers and their making, and you don't shed tears on account of what he says. When you see an item in the city papers poking fun at the country editor for printing news about John Jones' new Barn you laugh and laugh—for you know that over on the 'steenth page of that same city daily is a two column story in regard to the trimmings on the gowns of the Duchess of Wheelbarrow, and another illustrated double-header about the trivial 'goings on' of Mr. Harry Lehr. And it is all the more amusing because you know the Duchess and Mr. Harry do not even know of the existence of the aforesaid city paper, while John Jones and many of his neighbors take and pay for the paper which mentioned this new barn. When you consider that the average city newspaper man gets Fulton in Pike county and Fayette in Boone county, and that he doesn't know whether corn is harvested in spring or winter or fall, and that he says (as was done in a Kansas City paper the other day) that the 'hand' in measuring a horse is three inches, you cease to feel sorry for the country editor.

"When you consider that the city daily is subscribed for over the state more for its market reports than anything else, and that a well written article from a country editor gets more attention locally than most of the city papers get in the same vicinity, you need not pity the country editor. The fact is, the country newspaper man knows his business and attends to it; is more independent, morally and financially, than the city newspaper man who pokes fun at him. The greatest newspaper man this state ever produced—and he was a king-pin—drew a salary of \$7,000 a year at the time he died of over work. There are a few country newspaper men who make more money than that; one of them is now traveling with his family in Europe. Of course, he is an exception; but so was the city man. Don't waste your pity on the country newspaper worker. He will get along."

### WORST BEATEN MAN YET.

Leslie's is out with a series of tables showing the result of presidential elections, by pluralities and majorities, from Lincoln's term down to the late Democratic disaster. The complete official returns of the last election are not quite all in, but nearly so, and they show Parker to be the worst beaten nominee of the Democratic party since the war, not even excepting Groely. Parker polled only 38 per cent. of the total vote of the country, while 55 per cent. of the popular vote went to Roosevelt. Seymour in 1868 polled 47 per cent. of the total vote, and Greeley in 1872 44 per cent. In 1876 Tilden's vote was a little more than 50 per cent. of the total. Even Hancock, in 1880 received 42 per cent. of the total vote. Parker received 1,500,000 fewer votes than Bryan in 1900, nearly 1,600,000 fewer than Bryan in 1896, and nearly 250,000 fewer than Cleveland in either 1888 or 1892. In 1888 the population of the United States was 60,000,000, and there should have been 16,000,000 voters.

The secret is out at last. There have been a great many people in Indian Territory who have wondered why the editorial department of the Kansas City Journal had set up as a tin god and worshipped, in season and out, J. Blair Shoenfelt, proclaiming him the only real official, the only honest man the government had in authority in Indian Territory. When the big rush of leases came the other day it leaked out from the Indian offices that leases were held by several of the editorial writers and others in the office of the Kansas City Journal. That is explanation enough for the initiated as to why Shoenfelt has been oddled and Wright, Bixby and Needles cursed by the Kansas City Journal.—Muskogee Times.

Exchange: There was once a man who wanted to sell a piece of land, but he was so close and stingy that he would not advertise it for sale, but put a written notice up in the postoffice. A man who was inquiring for a small farm was referred to the written notice, when he replied: "I can't buy land at a fair price from a man who advertises in that way. He would steal the fence, the pump handle and the barn doors before he gave possession."

### ANOTHER IDOL GONE.

And now Magna Charta is a myth. The G. Washington hatchet story and the William Tell apple incident have gone glimmering, and now untidy hands have put their iconoclastic touch on Runnymede.

An English idol-breaker—appropriately named Edward Jenkins, is the writer and historian who tells us about it.

He says the wrenching of the great charter from the hands of King John was not a victory for the English people and the barons, but almost entirely for the barons.

Moreover—he says Magna Charta was opposed to the interests of the people and delayed the coming of their fuller freedom. Instead of using a progressive movement it was reactionary.

Of twenty-seven concessions, he says, only five were made to the people. The "free men" named in the instrument were gentleman proprietors. They were not of the plain people.

In short, this historian says the celebrated charter was "a positive stumbling block in the path of progress."

We are accustomed to having our dearest traditions spoiled by those who delve in dusty tomes in order to contradict the world.

But we are not quite sure that scattered throughout the history of democracy are deeds of heroism and epoch-making occasions that deserve our admiration.

The trouble appears to be that the historians of those times failed to catch the significance of their day. Just as we, perhaps, fail to understand the current of our modern life.—Kansas City World.