

A Big Family.

Iowa is not in the show ring when it comes to talking about large families. Our far famed family of eighteen is very good for Iowa and is a source of great gratification to President Roosevelt. But Utah wins the prize. Lerin Farr of that state is the father of 20 sons and 10 daughters. He has 296 grandchildren. His living descendants today number approximately 406 souls. Of his 39 children 30 are still living, 18 sons and 12 daughters. All are strong, healthy and vigorous, not one has made a failure in his line of business. They are prosperous farmers, merchants, lawyers and doctors.

FOR SALE—1 corn planter, 1 mowing machine, 1 14-inch stirring plow cheap R. A. SIGLER.

From a Mexican Veteran.

HUMESTON, IOWA, May 16, 1903. LEON REPORTER:—I see from the Advocate of this place an extract from THE REPORTER the sad news of the death of Capt. E. H. Alexander, of Leon. This is sad news to the little group of Mexican veterans who with our departed comrade met at the Woodmansee Hotel last fall, in which meeting Capt. Alexander so feelingly participated. I will never forget the earnestness of his feelings as to all future meetings of the comrades. The brotherly attachment that should exist between us and an effort to attend in a body as near as possible the funeral of a departed comrade. Sorry am I that I was not a participant in his last request.

Will the secretary of our camp take up the work of our departed comrade and friend for the year and notify all of the next fall meetings.

WM. MCHENRY.

If a brand of soap runs along month after month, showing healthy and permanent growth in the number of friends won, it will be generally admitted that it possesses unusual merit. For fifteen years Maple City Self-Washing Soap has been recognized as the leading hard water soap in the world.

A Most Liberal Offer.

All our farmer readers should take advantage of this unprecedented clubbing offer we this year make, which includes with THE REPORTER, The Iowa Homestead, its special Farmers' Institute edition 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 \$1.70. Never before has so much superior reading matter been offered for so small 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 readers' favorable attention upon mere mention. The Iowa Homestead is the great agricultural and livestock 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.

O. E. HULL, Publisher LEON REPORTER.

"The wages of sin is death, and the wages of the Iowa country school teacher is the next thing to it," observes Joe Trigg of the Rockford Register.

Isn't it a bit strange that some men will pay other taxes without the least compunction but draw the line when it comes to handing over the dog tax?

An Elliott woman called on her grocer by telephone, and after she had sufficiently scolded the poor man who had answered the 'phone' she said: "And what's more, the next order you get from me will be the last I'll ever give." "It probably will, madam," came from the other end of the line. "I am the undertaker." She had been given the wrong number.

There seems to be a growing discord in the prosperity chorus. The most of the trade and commercial journals of the country who make their living off the protected industries have been howling in one continuous and harmonious chorus about the abundant and republican-sent prosperity. Some of them are beginning to "back-pedal" and to assert that we have already ceased to be prosperous. The most pessimistic of these is perhaps the "Wool and Cotton Reporter," which explains the poor sales of woolen goods this year and the prosperity of the shoddy industry by saying that the coal and other trusts have brought about such high prices that the purchasing power of the people is curtailed and that they cannot afford to wear any but cheap clothes, which according to the republican idea makes a cheap man. Is it possible that the trusts are going to begin making mouths at one another, that the pot is going to call the kettle black? If so, honest men may get their dices.

It's Different in Leon.

Ida Grove, Iowa, May 21—The Ida Grove citizens have to go away from home to see the baby.

There is a population of 2,000 people and last year there were but three babies born in Ida Grove, so the assessor says. Under the new law the assessor takes the vital statistics and his canvass of the town this year was very thorough as is shown by the fact he increased the assessment \$140,000. His books show that he called upon 414 families and in each case asked for the births and deaths, with the startling result that but three babies were born in the year 1902, and there were eight deaths.

Weather Crop Bulletin.

The past week was warmer than usual, with excessive rainfall in about two-thirds of the state. The relative dry portions of the state are in the three eastern districts, and in some localities the need of rain to soften the clods is strongly emphasized. The excessive downpours occurred, for the most part, in the counties where the rainfall for the season had been greatest. Plowing and planting operations have been delayed in the saturated sections, but wherever field work was practicable it has been vigorously pushed. In the most favored localities corn planting is well advanced, and reports indicate very prompt germination in all well drained and properly tilled fields. Unusual care has been exercised in the selection of seed corn, and the results are so far encouraging.

Grass in pastures and meadow and small grain have made very satisfactory growth. With normal weather conditions in the near future the general crop situation in the larger part of the state will be much improved. Fairly good reports are received as to apples and some of the most important small fruits.

IOWA TO UNCLE SAM.

Buys Land In Georgia and Gives it Away.

The state of Iowa has purchased land in Georgia and the deed goes to the United States. This is one real estate transaction out of the ordinary. The circumstances are interesting. The Iowa commission on Lookout Mountain monuments went down to Chattanooga last fall and looked over the ground to locate the Iowa monuments. It was easy enough to locate the monuments for the six regiments on Lookout and five that fought on Missionary Ridge, but the general monument for all Iowa soldiers was not so easily decided. Finally the commission decided that a triangular tract of land, about a hundred feet on either side, located at the junction of the Chattanooga pike and the government boulevard, was just the place. The tract has splendid roads on all three sides. It is about five miles from Chattanooga and near the town of Rossville. It was purchased for \$100, and the deed was made to the United States government.

Senator Young of Washington, member of the commission, paid the cash for the land and stated that if the state did not want to pay he would stand the expense himself. But the bill has been ordered paid. It was outside the strict authority of the commission, but the commissioners believed their action would be approved. Other state monuments are located along the highway and boulevard, which is a part of the park system. By making the deed to the government the triangle for the Iowa monument will be improved by the government and cared for perpetually.

JOINING THE OCEANS

WHAT IT WILL COST TO COMPLETE THE PANAMA CANAL.

Why Uncle Sam Will Pay \$40,000,000 to the French Company—Work Already Done—Ten Years Required to Finish the Cut.

Now that the Panama canal treaty has been duly signed by the representatives of the United States and Colombia it is expected that work will be begun on the big ditch as soon after the ratification of the treaty by the senate and the Colombian congress as the American commission that will have charge of the work can organize a working force.

The official estimate of the time required to complete the Panama canal is ten years, and the estimated cost is \$184,000,000. The Walker commission thought it would take eight years to build a canal at Nicaragua, with a greater probability of exigencies arising to cause delay than at Panama. The estimated cost of maintenance and operation of the Panama canal is \$1,300,000 a year less than the proposed canal in Nicaragua. The Panama route from sea to sea has fewer locks and less curvature, both in degrees and miles.

There seems to be some doubt in the public mind as to what the \$40,000,000



MAP SHOWING ROUTE OF CANAL AND MARINE RAILROAD.

to be paid by the government to the Panama Canal company is for. The sum was agreed upon as a fair valuation for the plant and work already done. Very little of it represents the rights and concessions of the old company.

It is estimated that the excavation done on the route is worth \$27,000,000, while the Panama railroad stock at par is worth nearly \$7,000,000. The maps, drawings and records of the company are quoted at \$2,000,000 more, making \$36,000,000. To this has been added 10 per cent to cover omissions, bringing up the total to \$40,000,000.

The government will have turned over to it for this sum about 50,000 acres of land, which, with the land belonging to the railroad, will cover nearly all the ground required for building the canal. About 2,300 buildings will come into Uncle Sam's possession, among them being offices, quarters, storehouses, hospitals, shops and numerous other buildings of a miscellaneous nature.

There is also an immense amount of machinery, consisting of a floating plant of tugs, launches, dredges and spare parts, rolling plant of locomotive cars, etc., stationary and semi-stationary plant, including excavators, cranes and pumps. In addition to all this, there is a quantity of surveying and other instruments, office supplies and stationery, surgical and medical outfits and miscellaneous supplies covering thousands of items.

It is said that millions will have to be spent by the United States engineers in making Panama, Colon and



THE GREAT CULEBRA CUT.

the canal route sanitary before much work on the canal can be done. The Panama fever has already destroyed thousands of lives, and no one can live there long under existing conditions. As most of the natives are too lazy to work it is thought that negroes and Chinese will have to be imported to dig the canal.

The average temperature at the isthmus the year round is 80 degrees, and very few Americans can stand it. At present there are less than 100 Americans on the isthmus. They run the railroad and act as agents for steamship companies and home merchants.

The Culebra cut, where the new Panama company is still working, is the deepest artificial cut in the world. Here the ditch is 600 feet deep. About 600 West Indian negroes are working. Nothing has been done on any other part of the canal since the collapse of the De Lesseps company in 1889.

Uncle Sam has a big job before him, but he has the money and the men to push this mighty undertaking, so ten years hence in all probability the voyager by sea from the Atlantic to the Pacific will pass through the isthmus of Panama.

As Usual. Housemaid—I overheard the missus tellin' a caller the other day that I was "no good."

Butler—Well, isn't that what listeners generally hear of themselves?—Chicago Tribune.

The Result of Moral Suasion

Little Tommy—I want the hammer. Mamma—No, Tommy can't have it. Papa—My dear, you do not adopt the right course with that child. Now, instead of—

Tommy—I want the hammer. Papa—Instead of meeting his request with a blunt refusal you should use moral suasion. Never arouse the—

Tommy—I want the hammer. Papa—Never arouse the spirit of antagonism in his young breast. Use a little judgment, and—

Tommy—I want the hammer. Papa—Use a little judgment, as I said, and seek to divert his mind in some other way.

Tommy—I want the hammer. Papa—Now, Tommy, come look at the pretty pictures in the paper.

Tommy—I want the hammer. Papa—Come. Papa will draw you a horse and an elephant with his pencil.

Tommy—I want the hammer. Mamma—It doesn't seem to me—

Papa—No system is ever successful at the first trial. Besides, look at the example you—

Tommy—I want the hammer. Papa—Look at the example you have set the child by always acceding to his wishes.

Mamma—! —! Well, I never! Tommy—I want the hammer.

Papa—Doesn't papa's little boy know that if he had the hammer he might hit his little finger with it and make a bad little sore place?

Tommy—I want the hammer. Papa—Or he might break the glass in the window or scar the chairs. Nice little boy—

Tommy—I want the hammer. Papa—Nice lit—

Tommy—I want the hammer. Papa—Come here! (Yanks Tommy over his knee and spansks him.) Now, will that be a lesson to you?

Tommy—I (boo hoo) I want the (boo hoo) hammer.

Papa—Jane, take that child upstairs and put him to bed.

Tommy—I want the ham—

Papa—Oh, thunder! Here, take the hammer!—Chicago Tribune.

Altruistic. "What do you consider the greatest object of interest in England?" asked the interviewer.

"Well," answered the great lecturer from abroad, "I arrived here yesterday and"

"Of course," exclaimed the interviewer apologetically, "I meant the greatest object of interest next to yourself."—Tit-Bits.

Two Souls Without a Thought. "Don't you sometimes have thoughts," asked the soulful young thing, "that are absolutely unutterable?"

"I do, miss," answered the old poet. "And sometimes when I am digging for a rhyme that won't come I have thoughts that are absolutely unprintable."—Buffalo Commercial.

After Which He Departed.



Augustus Aubrey—Do you know, I much prefer the society of ladies to any other.

Miss Cutting—So do I.

Retort. Fuscious—And what would you say, sir, if I were to tell you you were not a gentleman?

Frosticus—I would immediately reach the conclusion that you and I really had more in common than I had thought we had.—Baltimore American.

Had His Approval. "Did you enjoy the musicale?" inquired the friend.

"In a way," answered Mr. Cumrox. "It was a great deal better than listening to the conversation that would have occurred if there hadn't been any music."—Washington Star.

Woman's Way. He—I hope you didn't believe what they said about me.

She—I make it a point never to believe more than half I hear.

He—But the trouble is you women generally believe the wrong half.—Brooklyn Life.

A Notable Locality. "Are there any historic spots in this vicinity?" queried the tourist.

"Well, mum, right over there by that tree Bill Jorkins once had a pile of coal that weighed pretty nigh two ton."—Bryan's Companion.

Same Thing. Foreigner—What do you mean by "land poor?"

American—Just what you mean by "title poor."—Detroit Free Press.

The Golfer's Revertie. [Evening in winter.] The shadows fall along the hall, The hills look old and hoary;

The day, at dawn so fair, is gone— Another finished story. Out in the breeze among the trees The sparrows sit and shiver, And lonely I sit here and sigh And fret about my liver.

The sun is down behind the town. The workman homeward hurries, And now and then it snows again In angry little furies.

Out on the hill the clubhouse still Above the bunkers rises; Oh, for the day when people may Resume their exercises!—Chicago Record-Herald.

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