

# THE TRUE DEMOCRAT

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Russian diplomacy, would be more fully symbolized by the image of a bear than of a bear.

Of the five great gold-producing areas, Russia alone remains unproductive, while the United States and Canada have doubled their product in the last 20 years.

Maybe Dr. Koch's announcement that tuberculosis cannot be contracted by humans from animals will aid in the rehabilitation of American meat products in Germany.

The warden of the Kansas penitentiary has discovered that prison life is hard on the better class of women. The discovery ought to serve as an inducement to them to keep out.

No statistics can do justice to the yield, monetary value or dietic value of the American apple. As the strawberry is the best berry so the apple is the best fruit known to man.

The ideal vacation should represent complete and absolute change of mental and physical employment and environment. To derive benefit from a vacation you must not only "vacate" the scene of your daily labors but also the everyday processes of thinking and acting.

The investigations made by Professor Beyer for the American Ornithological association of the Louisiana Gulf coast for the purpose of stationing wardens to protect the sea-birds shows that nearly all the breeding-places of the birds had been destroyed by killing the birds themselves and taking their eggs. Not a trace of birds was found on several islands, at one time the home of millions of sea-fowl.

The war department at Washington has decided to abandon the use of pneumatic dynamite guns for the defense of our harbors. Tests have demonstrated the fact that better effects can be gained by the fire of shells containing less sensitive but equally powerful explosives. The dynamite guns easily become out of order, and their range is less than that of powder guns. About \$500,000 has already been spent on dynamite guns.

A deposit of lithographic stone has been found near Mount Sterling, Kentucky, which Eugene Leary, of the United States geological survey, believes to be more valuable than any gold mine. "There is no reason," says Mr. Leary, "why the quarry should not control the market in this country. There is no lithographic stone anywhere else, so far as is known, and there will be no difficulty in competing with the German product."

In time science will have so regulated matters that wastage on this earth will be so minute as to be scarcely perceptible. The corn grain has, in addition to its starch element, a tiny germ in which lies the life principle. This germ was formerly separated and thrown aside as waste. Lately it has been found that this germ is rich in oil which can be utilized. The germ is now separated from the starch and crushed. The oil gathered from it finds a ready market and in the last few years millions of dollars' worth of this oil has been exported to Europe.

The Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post observes that in this age of problems it is hard to discriminate, but there are two upon which all may agree. Just now they lead. The first is in regard to consumption. Some one has said that it has "killed more people than all the wars and plagues and scourges of history put together." Doctor Biggs, the New York expert, declares that of every four New Yorkers who die between the ages of 15 and 65 one dies of consumption, that there are 20,000 cases in that city constantly, and that the deaths last year numbered more than 900. According to a New York newspaper, one specialist asserts that of this country's population 10,000,000 "must inevitably expect to die of consumption." The other problem is to get the small cities of the United States to awake to the importance of sanitation. Nearly all of them do nothing until threatened by an epidemic, and then the zeal is only temporary. To arouse these communities to the importance of constant watchfulness and of preventive measures will be to increase the average life for the nation. We have been lifted by the outburst of wealth in the new century, but these strivings for health are worth all the dollars that have passed through Wall street.

Detroit uses more water per capita than any other city in the world—on the streets.

With several New Yorkers planning to spend from \$75,000 to \$250,000 each upon stables, the reign of the automobile is not assured.

Chile is bent on dominating South America and is preparing to raise a fund of \$50,000,000 for the improvement of her naval and military establishments.

The American buffalo is becoming so rare that it has been determined to put his picture on currency of a new series. The bits of currency will be known as the buffalo bills.

The nations of the earth have made great strides in strengthening their armaments since the adjournment of The Hague congress. They recognize that strong armies lengthen peace and shorten war.

A vote of thanks is hereby moved to the Washington Post. It has invented a name for the hot wave—calls it a sizzard. Blizzard, sizzard, sizzard, blizzard. Here is concentrated the whole meteorological history of America.

Glasgow's new aqueduct from Lock Katrine, which is 24 1/2 miles in length, was opened last month, having cost, with its mains, \$6,602,000. That city is now receiving a daily supply of 110,000,000 gallons of water. The reservoirs will hold a 24 days' supply on a basis of 50,000,000 gallons daily consumption.

A report has gained some currency that Russia intends to dig a ship canal between the Black sea and the Caspian at a cost of 200,000,000 rubles. Russia is amazingly energetic and enterprising, but Siberian railroad has taxed her resources so heavily that there is not much probability that she will begin work on a canal of the hundreds of millions kind in this generation or the next. Meanwhile, the freight rates on steam railroads and electric lines in all parts of the world, but especially in the United States, are steadily shrinking.

A great deposit of iron ore lying under the Gulf of Finland is to be mined by a syndicate headed by Baron Nordenskjold. Borings have been made, which show that the capping is sound and water-tight, and the ore body can be mined with safety. It is estimated that the deposit contains at least 50,000,000 tons of ore. The average yield of 1000 tons already raised is 36 percent iron. The presence of this big ore body has been known since 1750 and many shipwrecks have been traced to its dangerous influence upon the compass.

The bay of San Francisco is famous for "earth-bugging" clouds, and one of the scientists of the weather bureau has been studying the subject there to ascertain the cause. The remarkable topography of the region, he says, makes it a regular laboratory of nature, where daily experiments are made in the condensation of watery vapor. There is a peculiar juxtaposition of ocean, bay, mountain, foot-hills and valleys, and the arrangement of bluffs and ridges forces the prevailing westerly air current with increased velocity through the Golden Gate. These are the causes of the heavy fogs.

The "murder as a fine art" question comes up anew apropos of every interesting murder trial. There is no shutting out the public interest in the determination of the guilt or innocence of a man accused of the killing of a human being, and the greater the doubt of the accused person's guilt, and the more circumstantial the evidence, the greater is the interest in following the judicial inquiry. We have had some really interesting murders lately, but they all pale before a case which is brought up anew by the requisition just issued by the governor of Kansas on the governor of Colorado. This generation has mostly forgotten the Bender family, but their murderous operations were of a sort and on a scale which put to shame the Bluebeards of the past, and rendered the old-fashioned dime novel a mild affair in comparison. They kept a roadside house of entertainment, and they had a trap door and an awful place of interment. Their evil genius was a murderous woman named Kate, and metaphorically speaking "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here," was inscribed over their door. They moved before they were found out, and justice has never caught up with them. It is to be hoped, though it is not at all to be expected, that it is on their track at last.

## ARCHERY IN DAYS OF OLD.

A Law Prescribing the Minimum Distance to Be Shot Over.

In England shooting with the long bow was for centuries the chief national pastime, and its practice was enforced by several acts of parliament. Two kinds of arrows were used—first, the flight arrow, a long thin arrow, with plain iron point, which was employed only for long-distance shooting; second, the sheaf arrow, a heavier shaft than the former, tipped with a jagged, barbed iron head, two-pronged like a fork, which was the weapon for short ranges. By an act of Henry VIII, it was forbidden for any man over 24 years old to shoot at a mark nearer than 220 yards with a flight arrow, or 140 yards with a sheaf arrow. The old French archers, however, justly celebrated as they were for the long range and precision of their shots, could not accomplish more than 600 yards. The greatest range which our modern bowmen can attain is from 300 to 400 yards. In 1795 the Turkish ambassador attended a meeting of the Toxophilite society in London, and there shot against the wind 415 yards and with the wind 463 yards. He had a short Turkish bow, and a very light arrow 25 inches long, with small feathers.

In bygone days, therefore, when our ancestors were famous and formidable with the longbow, the shooting grounds attached to every town, if not also village, in the kingdom answered to the volunteer rifle ranges of modern times. It would appear, however, that the annual meetings of the Rifle association had their counterpart in the open competitions which were frequently held in the neighborhood of Finsbury. There is extant "A plan of all the marks belonging to the Honorable artillery company in the fields near Finsbury with the true distances as they stood anno 1737, for the use of longbows, crossbows, hand guns and artillery." Eight or 10 fields are included in the plan, and the whole length of this early Bisley appears to be one mile, by about 400 yards wide. The longest distance between any two marks is 265 yards. What may be termed the first international shooting competition was held on the "Field of the Cloth of Gold," when the English crossbowmen matched themselves in friendly rivalry against the French. The range was 12-score yards; and the English team, which included Henry VIII. in person, came off easy winners.

The bow for several centuries after the invention of small arms was considered the more perfect weapon, and did not disappear from the English army until 1627. Charles II., on his restoration, did much toward the revival of archery. During that reign important meetings were held at Hampton Court and in Hyde Park and attracted as many as 7000 archers and crossbowmen from all parts of the country. The crossbowmen shot nearly 20-score yards, and to the amazement of spectators made excellent shooting at that distance. At one of these meetings in Hyde Park three regiments of foot, which were being drilled in the vicinity, threw down their muskets in disgust and broke their ranks to go and watch the old national pastime. These displays generally concluded with showers of whistling arrows, which are supposed to have been used by the picket guards to give notice to the camp of the enemy's approach during the night. From that period until the latter part of the 18th century, archery appears to have been almost forgotten, and then was revived as a fashionable and pleasing amusement. The Toxophilite society was founded in 1780 by Sir Ashton Lever.—London Globe.

## Hardly Accurate.

She had returned with an M. D from a university after her name, and had been elected to the chair of English Literature in a small local college. On the day before the session opened, the president was explaining to her the duties of her place. "In addition to your work in English literature," he said, with apologetic hesitation, "I should like you to take the junior and senior classes in elocution and also assume charge of the physical culture."

"Is there no teacher of elocution?" asked Miss Jones.

"Well, no; not at present."

"And who has charge of the physical training?"

"To tell the truth we have no teacher as yet. You perhaps noticed in the catalogue that those two departments were 'to be supplied.'"

"And I was elected to the chair of English Literature—"

"Yes," the president answered gloomily.

But he was reassured by her winning smile. "I will take the work and do what I can with it, Dr. Smith," she said, brightly; "but why didn't you write me at first that the 'chair' was a settee?"—M. A. B., in The Drawer Harper's Magazine.

## Get the Information.

The great criminal lawyer was questioning the witness in the murder trial as to the exact location of the wound in the murdered man's body.

"You witnessed the shooting, you say?" he asked.

"Yes, sir, I did."

"Where was Brown shot?"

"In the second floor, sir."—New York Times.

## She Did as He Advised.

Hocus—What happened when you told your mother-in-law to mind her own business?

Pocus—I don't exactly know. When I recovered consciousness I was in the hospital.—Tit-Bits.

## SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

SCIENCE NOTES

Among the marine articulate life is often prolonged for years. Some of the larger crabs and few species may live on to nearly two decades before attaining their fullest growth.

M. Bourget has detected the presence of iodine, not only in the thyroid glands, but also in the blood and in nearly all the organs of the human body. Plants absorb iodine from the soil, to which it is brought by the underground waters; herbivorous animals take the iodine in with their food, and man, in his turn, takes it in with the flesh of animals. It is eliminated from the human body through the sweat, in the cuttings of hair and nails and with excreted blood, etc.

Mr. Arctowski, the geologist of the Antarctic expedition in the steamer Belgica, calls attention to the difference in the distribution of ice around the two poles of the earth. The floating ice of the north, he says, comes from true glaciers which are pushed down through the valleys until they reach the water, but the glacial caps themselves do not meet the sea. At the south, on the contrary, perpetual snow is encountered at the 65th degree of latitude, and it is probable that the floating ice of the Antarctic originates from a layer covering the whole polar crown.

Country folk are firmly of the opinion that the tumble bug is an excellent barometer and that it takes flight only when a season of fair weather is coming. M. Fabre, a French naturalist, has investigated the question thoroughly and has come to the conclusion that this insect is, in fact, more sensitive than the best barometers, and that it can veritably be used to predict fine weather. It is to changes of electric tension that the insect is sensitive. Whether the American variety is likely to be useful in weather prediction is respectfully referred to our weather bureau for investigation.

During an explosion in the crater of Mt. Vesuvius on May 9, 1900, one of the volcanic bombs hurled skyward and the largest one observed attained an elevation of a third of a mile, and then fell back upon the mountain. As it now lies, its height exceeds that of a man standing beside it, and its estimated weight is 30 tons. Mr. Manteuffel, the geologist, says that the energy of the explosion of steam that threw this huge projectile must have equalled about 600,000 horse power. When the masses of partially fluid lava from which such bombs are formed rise in the air they rotate, and are thus caused to assume a more or less globular shape.

In his recent lecture before the Royal society on "The Nadir of Temperature" Professor James Dewar states that the boiling point of helium—i.e. point at which it would change from a gas to a liquid—appears to be about five degrees on the absolute scale. This is 15 degrees below the boiling point of hydrogen. Hydrogen solidifies at about 16 degrees absolute. Professor Dewar has hopes of being able to liquefy helium, although this has not as yet certainly been done. The operation depends on subjecting helium to the same process that has succeeded with hydrogen, only instead of using liquid air under exhaustion as the primary cooling agent, liquid hydrogen must be employed.

## The Farmer's Boy and Success.

A banker, a lawyer and a preacher sat in a parlor on the Hudson River railroad enjoying the beauty of a certain New York landscape after a June rain. "On that farm," said the banker, pointing out of the car window, "14 years ago Dr. James F. McKernon, then a farmer's boy, tended a sick sheep. He was skillful, gentle and patient; the suffering animal got well. There were vague dreams of another life, of study and struggle, on his mind, and the young man borrowed some money the following autumn and came to New York. Eleven years ago he was graduated at the Columbia Medical college—after three years of work and recitation from 7 a. m. until 11 p. m., study until 1 a. m., and as scant time for eating as for sleeping. In six weeks after graduation he was supporting himself, examining applicants for insurance in an industrial company. In five years he was able to study a specialty in the treatment of the throat and ear. He is making \$25,000 a year now, and works just as hard as he ever did. He is one instance of the farmer's boy who comes to the city and conquers fame and fortune, but there are not so many now as there used to be."

And there seems to be considerable food for reflection in this last statement. Perhaps one hears less of these ambitious country lads than in the old days.—Harper's Weekly.

## A Self-Dumping Bucket.

A self-dumping hoisting bucket, for handling coal, ore, gravel and the like, has been perfected which has the ball ends pivoted to its lower half, and the pivots work in slots instead of in round holes. The loaded bucket is kept from tipping by a catch on the ball, which hooks into the top of the vessel. When the bucket strikes the dump pile the slotted ball drops straight down by gravity, releases the catch, and the bucket, being thus unbalanced, turns over.

The man who is his own best friend may also be his own worst enemy.

## VENEZUELAN PEARLS.

How They are Taken from the Depth of the Sea.

Modern methods in pearl fishing have been introduced by a French company on the Venezuelan island of Margarita, which some day may result in shipment of pearls from that island to New York, though just now the Venezuelan merchants, not feeling on too good terms with the United States, say that the Paris market gives better results. The Frenchmen use divers and diving apparatus, and as the divers can select the larger oysters and leave the smaller undisturbed, to grow and increase in value, great results are expected from the enterprise. This company bought the concession from a Venezuelan, and must pay to the government 10 percent royalty on the profits of the enterprise.

There has been extraordinary activity on the island lately on account of the rise in the value of pearls, and buyers have flocked there from various parts of the world. The value of the Margarita pearl industry is about \$500,000 a year.

Four hundred sailboats are used by the natives in the fisheries of Margarita and its neighboring islands of Coche and Cubagua.

The principal beds are at El Tirano, northeast, and Macano, northwest of Margarita. Two thousand men find constant employment in this trade. The native fishers use metal scoops, which are dragged over the oyster beds, and when filled, brought to the surface, where the shells are opened and carefully examined. The boats in use are from 3 to 15 tons, and pay to the Venezuelan authorities \$2.30 each for permits to fish.

The pearls are fine in quality, beautiful in lustre and run from white to yellow, and occasionally a black one, priceless in value, is brought to the surface. One white pearl of large size and good quality was sold in Margarita recently for \$1700. The shell of the oyster is not of much commercial value, being too thin for the manufacture of buttons and other fancy articles, such as are made from the Oriental pearl shell, due to the short life of this pearl oyster, eight years being about the average. Pearls from dead oysters have little value, as they lose their lustre.

The pearls of Margarita have been known to white men since the discovery of the island by Columbus and his followers. It was on this island, and on the mainland adjoining that, the Spaniards found the natives decked with pearls, and history says that these pearls were one of the prime causes of trouble among the adventurers who first visited and settled on these shores.

## How Bank Tellers Pay Checks.

One of the best known handwriting experts said the other day:

"Popularly, banks are supposed to pay checks according to signatures. As a matter of fact, most tellers pay on the face of the man to whose order the check is drawn. If you don't believe this, wait till a paying teller gets on the stand and have him asked if he would cash on hand a check payable to bearer. If he paid it it would be purely on his judgment of the signature, but when tellers called into court are asked that question they crawlfish every time. How can a man who sees the hundreds of thousands of signatures a day tell in the little time he has the difference between a clever forgery and genuine writing? If he is assured of the identity of the payee and the signature represents a good account, he will pay without more than a glance at the drawer's name. You could prove this in another way if you could get from the bank the records of the checks that are paid without signatures, especially of checks of special form or design.

"I demonstrated my proposition to the president of one of the largest banks in the city. I told him that I would forge his name to a check—I have some skill at imitation as well as at deciphering imitation—and if he would have me identified one of his own tellers would honor it. He told me I could have all the money I could draw out that way. I forged the check in his presence, he provided me with an identifier and in 10 minutes I was back with the money the check called for. The president called in the teller and I had to intercede or the man would have lost his job."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

## Artistic Dress for Men.

Artists, writers and musicians at Berlin have formed a men's dress reform club, of which Herman Widmer, the painter, is president. The object of the club is to devise and popularize a dress for men which, while being equally comfortable, will be more artistic than that now worn in everyday life.

The committee appointed for this purpose has submitted designs of a new dress, which have been approved. The short coat or jacket is a modified form of the uniform worn by a Hussar regiment of Germany. It is tight at the waist and indicates the graceful curve of the spinal column by braids on the back.

The trousers are also tight fitting, loosening somewhat below the knee, and have buttons on the sides of the legs. The waistcoat is likewise a reminder of the military style and shows off to great advantage the manly chest of the wearer.

These garments are to be manufactured of gay colored cloths, varied in tones, the idea being to give the portrait painter a relief from the dull monotony of the present colors. The club has written to artists all over Europe soliciting further designs.

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Hunting of any kind on Greenwood plantation, likewise fishing, is positively prohibited under penalty of trespass. Any permission heretofore granted is now revoked. No exceptions.

MRS. P. REED.

From and after this date all hunting of any kind on Ambrosia and Independence plantation is positively prohibited under penalty of trespassing. Any one found on these places without permission will be considered trespassing, and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

MRS. E. H. BARROW.

The public is hereby warned against buying wood, posts or timber of any kind from tenants on Ogden and Oakley plantation.

MISS L. MATTHEWS.

The public is warned against buying fire wood, posts or timber from tenants on Rosedown, Texas and Hazlewood plantations.

JAS. P. BOWMAN.

From and after this date all hunting of any kind on my place, Solitude and Swamp Tract is positively prohibited under penalty of trespass. Any one found on these places without permission will be considered trespassing and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

W. B. SMITH.

From and after this date, all hunting and fishing on the Cottage plantation is positively prohibited under penalty of trespassing. Anyone found on this place without permission will be considered trespassing and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

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Hunting of all kinds, with dog or gun, on the Rosebank, Pecan and Indian Mound plantations, is hereby prohibited under penalty of trespass. Persons found so engaged on any of these places will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

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From and after this date all hunting of any kind on the Pecan Grove plantation is positively prohibited under penalty of trespassing. Anyone found on this place without permission will be considered trespassing and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

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