

THE LACLEDE BLADE.

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LACLEDE MISSOURI

DOCTORS IN UNITED STATES.

To one who observes the considerable number of physicians' signs in the average city or large town the report of the last census that there are in the United States only 130,000 physicians, including osteopaths, psychopaths, hydropaths and doctors of every description, may come as a revelation and a surprise. The additional information, afforded by the census, that this country has only one doctor to every 650 of its population is not likely to relieve the observer's wonderment until he reflects that a physician to every 650 people is, after all, a fairly liberal safeguard to the public health, says the Manchester Union. The figures, of course, represent the average the country over, some sections of communities having fewer doctors in proportion to their population and some having more. Manchester, for instance, on the basis of the census figures, would have 107 or 108 physicians. The city directory gives 98. The census report on the matter is not incredible, yet a person traveling along the streets of almost any New England city and remarking the numerous doctors' "shingles" would have been almost certain to estimate the percentage of doctors higher than that given by the census.

Surprise is frequently expressed because there are so many school children who are bad spellers, but there is a substantial reason for it. In Kansas very few of a short list of words were spelled correctly by 112 school and college students. Now these pupils are not taught the way their fathers and mothers were, says the Boston Globe. Under the old public school system there were spelling bees in the schools and the pupils took pride in excelling. Under the spelling bee system children between the ages of eight and twelve can acquire quite a large vocabulary by the practice of spelling words of several syllables. The rising generation is full of poor spellers, but it is not their fault, for little attention is paid to that accomplishment. It would be well for all teachers to put their pupils through a course of spelling every few days, and also to teach them to read aloud. Reading, writing and spelling should go hand in hand. Those lacking these accomplishments are not far removed from the illiterate class.

George Wehler, director of physical education at the University of Wisconsin, has instituted rest classes for fidgety girls whose nervous systems "go to pieces" under the fatigue following undue exertion. In a report to the United States Bureau of Education he says: We do not go on the theory that the gymnasium is good for every one, and, therefore, every one must take gymnastics. The purpose of these classes in rest is to teach girls who are restless from the performance of tasks that ought not to produce fatigue how to acquire control over their own nervous systems. Putting every one—girls as well as boys—through a stiff regimen of gymnasium work has had bad results in many instances, and is a thing to be avoided. If the director of physical culture in the University of Wisconsin makes allowance for constitutional differences students not built to endure overstrain will have reason to thank the good fortune which made him arbiter of their physical destinies.

San Francisco custom house officials have just made the first arrest ever recorded at that port for the offense of smuggling diamonds—and the diamonds in the case were valued at only \$477.50. When the New York custom house looks at the San Francisco custom house it will have to laugh.

The assertion that caviare has supplanted the oyster as the appetizing opening of banquet menus may be premature. Hotel managers may prefer the Russian delicacy, but it will be well to hear from "the general" before taking everything for granted. American blue points on the half shell are very good.

A poultry paper tells us that hens stop laying in cold weather because they cannot lay eggs and grow feathers at the same time. As yet no ingenious poultry raiser has tried the experiment of fitting out his hens in the fall with warm red flannel overcoats.

BAD EUROPEAN EXAMPLES



PRISON CONSTRUCTION IS SLOW

DELAY AT LEAVENWORTH TO BE SUBJECT OF INQUIRY.

Chairman of House Committee Drops in Unexpectedly, Seeking Information.

Leavenworth, Kansas.—Representative Jack Beall of Texas, chairman of the house committee on expenditures in the department of justice, visited the United States prison here, his coming being unexpected. Mr. Beall said it would be decided whether his committee would visit the local prison after his return to Washington. He said it was probable that a sub-committee would investigate the institution. He said he knew nothing wrong with conditions in the prison, but believed that an occasional congressional investigation benefited any public institution.

There are no charges of "graft" pending. It isn't even intimated that anybody is doing any grafting. But it is intimated in strong, broad terms by the representative from Texas that in letting a contract to a firm of architects for preparing plans and supervising the erection of buildings at the federal penitentiary the bars have been let down by the government for somebody to carry off a large chunk of the government's revenues for very little returns. The government set out 11 years ago to build a model penitentiary at Leavenworth. Already more than \$1,000,000 has been expended for raw material and the work isn't half completed. Beall went about the grounds and viewed the piles of building material which has been lying there since 1909. He made notations of questions which he will ask when the investigation reaches the testimony stage.

KANSAS SCORES IN WATER SUIT

Wins Another Point in First Real Test of Federal Control Over Streams.

Garden City, Kansas.—Kansas has won the second point in the suit for the waters of the Arkansas river. Judge Riner in Denver sustained exceptions of the Kansas companies to the multitude of claims set up by the Colorado companies. The present suit is that of Kansas irrigation companies in the Arkansas valley for their share of the river water, on the ground that Colorado companies, having later decrees and priorities, have gradually taken away the water, leaving Kansas companies without an adequate supply. It is the first real test as to federal control of interstate streams.

Indian Dies at 109.
Tulsa, Oklahoma.—James Walker, 109 years old, at one time chief medicine man of the Shawnee Indians, died here. Walker fought in both the Mexican and Civil wars and attracted attention last fall when, despite his advanced age, he submitted to the amputation of one of his legs.

Car into a Canal.
Peru, Indiana.—Eleven persons were injured when a car on the Fort Wayne & Indiana Northern traction line, traveling at the rate of 25 miles an hour, struck a pile of cinders and plunged into the Wabash and Erie canal about two miles from Peru.

AMATEURS PLAN TRAIN HOLDUP

Captured by Police as Train Drew Into St. Joseph—Had Terrorized Passengers.

St. Joseph, Missouri.—Two armed men who had terrorized passengers on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy train No. 43 from Kansas City were captured by two police officers, Berenberg and O'Brien, after a fight in the chair car as the train drew into the Union depot here. They gave their names as Don and John Ray, 22 and 19 years old, respectively. Tickets from Franklin, N. C., to Billings, Mont., were found on them. Huge revolvers and a quantity of ammunition were taken off the men.

Passengers on the train became nervous when the two were discovered examining their weapons just as the train drew into Armour Junction, 22 miles from St. Joseph. The conductor, anticipating a holdup, wired the St. Joseph police. They awaited the train at one of the stops in the depot yards.

EXPECT BIG CHEESE FACTORY

McPherson Farmers Asked to Pledge 2,000 Cows Before Construction Begins.

McPherson, Kan.—A \$30,000 cheese factory for McPherson is practically assured. Before beginning the construction of the plant the builders demanded that at least 2,000 cows should be pledged within a radius of six miles of McPherson as a source from which to obtain the milk necessary for a plant of that size. Through the influence of the board of trade agreements have been made with the farmers within the prescribed territory for 1,850 cows and it is expected that next week will see the required number pledged to the support of the plant.

WHIPPED BOY TO MAKE HIM CRY

School Teacher at Easton, Mo., Indicted by Grand Jury for Brutal Punishment.

St. Joseph, Mo.—Miss Iva White, a school teacher at Easton, this county, was indicted by the grand jury for an alleged brutal whipping of Harold White, a pupil. Witnesses declare that the boy said he liked to be stood in a corner and that the teacher in an effort to make him cry, whipped him for several minutes, being forced to take a rest between efforts. Miss White says she was compelled to whip the boy to maintain discipline.

Sabetha is to Have a Library.
Sabetha, Kansas.—By the terms of the will of Mrs. Mary Cotton, just made public, this town is to have one of the finest libraries in Kansas. Mrs. Cotton willed her residence and grounds, her private library and \$2,000 in cash, to be used for a free public library and given to the town. She left an estate valued at \$300,000.

Rebel Cartridges Seized.
El Paso, Texas.—Two "gun runners" who attempted to get 4,000 cartridges across a ford of the Rio Grande a few miles west of this city were arrested by American soldiers. "Gun runners" are paid \$10 a thousand for getting cartridges across the river to the rebels.

KANSAS CORN CROP IN DANGER

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE SAYS SITUATION IS CRITICAL.

Plans Made for Seed Test in Every Town—Fifty Per Cent Will Not Grow.

Manhattan, Kansas.—The Kansas state agricultural college believes that the seed corn situation in Kansas is critical. Realizing this, the agronomy department has formulated a plan which, if carried out now, before planting time, should prevent a poor corn crop this year. A co-operative germinator in every town is the suggestion of the crop experts. The campaign for more seed testing, as outlined at the college, is this:

To have some individual or local organization in every town take the responsibility for obtaining a germinator and conducting a general germination test for all the farmers of the community. In many places the bankers of the town already are doing this work. When the test is completed a crop expert from the college will visit the town, open the germinator in the presence of farmers and explain the results. If necessary the agronomy department will use its entire force in this work. Circuits are being arranged now for these seed corn testing demonstrations.

"Although we have been for the last two months urging farmers to make germination tests, comparatively little has been done," said W. M. Jardine, professor of agronomy. "In some parts of the state more than one-half of the corn saved for seed will not grow. With a germinator in every town I believe we can, within the next few weeks, determine what seed in the community is fit for planting and what seed will not grow." Whoever undertakes to conduct the test should buy a germinator or make one, and begin to collect seed samples at once. The agronomy department will furnish complete information about making the test.

EXCELSIOR LOSES CONVENTION

Odd Fellows to Meet in St. Louis on Account of Hotel Conditions at Springs.

Burlington Junction, Missouri.—The officers of the Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., announced that the annual session of May 21, 22, 23, 1912, would be held in St. Louis instead of Excelsior Springs, as voted by last session. This change is being made on account of the temporary hotel conditions at Excelsior Springs. The burning of the Snapp hotel, the failure of the contractors to have the New Elms completed, coupled with the fact that the Royal hotel is to be remodeled and enlarged at once, has brought about a condition which would seriously interfere with the entertainment of the grand lodge and the state assembly of the Rebekah branch of the order—both grand bodies meeting on the same dates.

ATTACK IN PAPER CAUSED RIOT

Rock Island's Mayor Called Out Fire Department to Suppress Mob—Several Persons Injured.

Rock Island, Illinois.—Mayor H. M. Schriver called out a company of the fire department to disperse a mob which had gathered in front of the office of a weekly newspaper expecting to get copies of the paper which contained an attack upon the mayor. The mayor suppressed the issue of the paper last Saturday and later attacked the publisher, John Looney, who is now in a hospital. Despite the arrival of members of the fire department, several thousand copies of the newspaper were distributed. Several persons in the crowd were injured and a score were arrested.

Present "Feeder" Rate Stands.
Washington, D. C.—The interstate commerce commission decided that the proposed increase of 33 1-3 per cent in the transportation rate on "feeder" cattle and sheep made by all of the Western railroads was not justified. The commission expects all of the carriers to cancel the proposed advances by April 15. If they should fail to cancel them voluntarily the commission will issue a peremptory order.

Held for Stabbing Texan.
Parsons, Kansas.—Wanted for the murder of Pleas Wells, a ranch owner in Denison, Tex., which occurred in a gambling room in that city, Dock Miller, a negro, was arrested here by the police as he stepped from a Katy passenger train.

Train Ran into a Slide.
Sand Point, Idaho.—Three of the train crew were killed when the west-bound freight on the Great Northern plunged into a rock slide six miles west of here. The engine and three cars rolled over an embankment and into the river.

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OR THREE OR FOUR.



Green—I wouldn't marry a widow. They are always looking after number one. Wise—I differ with you. I think they are usually looking after number two.

No End to His Bad Luck.
John D. Shoop, at an Anti-Cigarette league banquet, explained his feelings in the story of the colored man. "How are you getting along, Lazarus?" asked his master, interestedly. "I gets along poorly," replied Lazarus, who complained of his misfortune at length. "Master John, I has such bad luck," says he, "that when I dies and is laid away in the tomb and the good Lord says to me, 'Lazarus, come forth,' I know I is sho' to come fifth."

Memories.
"My lad, I was a newsboy once." "Aw, what cha tryin' to do—git me downhearted?"

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