

THE DAILY MISSOURIAN

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ARE STREETS SUPERANNATED?

When Columbians started paving streets a decade ago they worked wonders. Mile after mile of costly but firm pavement was laid. We are not through with the last yet but the first is calling to be done over again.

A five-block stretch on South Fifth street has been almost ruined by the town's negligence. While paving other streets nearby heavy traffic in wet weather was forced upon South Fifth street and the macadam gave way.

Ruts and dust or ponds of mud are always found while near at hand is Stewart road, nearly the same age, well oiled, and a comparatively clean, pleasant drive.

A heavy expense to the property holders has been and is still being caused by the oversight of Columbia in keeping its streets in repair.

BAND WAGON FOLKS

Certain persons always wait for the band wagon when any movement that takes public spiritedness is started. These individuals express themselves neither for or against a movement until the big show is on. It is proved to be a failure they are the loudest among the "I told you so" howlers. On the other hand if it becomes evident that the movement is going to be a great success you will at the last moment, find them aboard the band wagon loudly crying "We did it." They are all for the glory and nothing for support.

The Open Column

Criticism of the City Council.

Editor the Missouriian: Every taxpayer ought to protest at the coming council meeting, next Tuesday, August 29, against buying another automobile for the fire chief as an extravagance.

Any city can become too stylish, too extravagant, and entirely neglect the taxpayer, who pays all the bills. Every expenditure of the city's money ought to be made only for absolute necessity. The present council, during the term of office of three policemen and contrary to Missouri law, increased the salary of these three policemen from \$70 a month each to \$80 a month each at the expense of the taxpayers, in addition to which each policeman receives a fee for every arrest.

On top of this, either because they are too proud to walk for their salary, the city council has bought the police an automobile, in which joy-riding has become so popular and so beneficial to the health of the different city employes, that the police committee has just had to pass rules for the use and abuse of said city joy-machine.

Now, our efficient and capable fire chief announces that he must have another automobile for the discharge of his duties. In the Missouriian of August 13, he gives as his plea for another automobile these reasons: First, that he must have an automobile riding over the city making inspections; Second, that only with such automobile can he get to a fire from where he is making an inspection; Third, that another automobile is necessary to be ready for the fire department in case the present one breaks down.

As a taxpayer I will answer the fire-chief's three reasons. He is receiving a salary of \$100 or more a month for his services to the city of Columbia. He ought to be willing to work for that salary as any other laboring man. After all Columbia is not such a large city and many of us taxpayers are able to go over it with our own feet and legs.

First: Possibly not with as much dignity and ease, but certainly with greater satisfaction to the taxpayers who pay the bills, the fire-chief can just as well go over the city making inspections on his motorcycle instead of an automobile at extra cost.

Second: With such motorcycle, which is used by all traffic police to catch speeding automobiles, the fire-chief can get to the scene of the fire to which the fire department automobile has already responded with speed enough.

Third: In case the present auto-

mobile of the fire department should break down, or two fire alarms come in at the same time, what would the fire department do? We answer this question too. The fire-chief himself states that the possibility of two fire calls at the same time is only about 1 out of 495 alarms, as actual experience shows. However should the automobile of the fire department break down, the fire department has at its service the automobile of the police department.

The fire department and the police department both belong to the same master, the people of Columbia. Both serve the same owners, the taxpayers, and both should co-operate to that end. Therefore, the fullest use should be realized by the city of Columbia out of the automobile just purchased for the police department, instead of only joy rides. Therefore, instead of the extra expense of another automobile for the fire department, equip the police automobile ready also for the service of the fire department.

Attach to it ready for use a chemical tank or tanks, as well as fire axes and lanterns. Equip it with hooks ready to receive the ladders of the regular fire automobile, also to receive the hose of the other automobile.

That is service, Mr. Fire-chief, that will serve the fire department as well as the pockets of the taxpayers. When Columbia needs also another and second fully equipped fire automobile, it will buy it. As it does not, the police automobile will serve all other present needs.

At this time the purchase of another automobile for the fire department is unnecessary, unwise, and unjust, and the taxpayers will no doubt show where they stand.—TAXPAYER.

WEEDS SHOULD BE MOWED NOW

J. O. Rankin Tells How to Improve Farm's Appearance.

Have you mowed those weeds? Then your farm is worth more and you are a better neighbor and a better citizen than if you hadn't. Everyone thinks more of the farmer and farm if he sees the weeds neatly mowed as he drives along a well-dragged road. As he passes the end of the line fence he sees a fence row, not a weed row, and the same is true of the cross fence.

Does this describe your farm? Then rabbit shooting may not be so good on it next winter but buyers will offer you more an acre on it because they know it will take less work to make crops on it for a number of years than if all that weed seed had not been harvested. If you still have that weed crop to harvest, you will have to hurry. Weed seed is getting nearer ripe every day. The hot dry weather has hurried ripening instead of belating it. Bur pulling time is coming and the horse weeds in the fence rows are getting harder for the mower or scythe to handle, but there is some consolation in the thought that there is still time to do a great deal of good and that too early mowing might have let the weeds come up and make another crop of seed.—J. O. Rankin, Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station.

PARALYSIS DEATH TOLL 1,597

New York Suffers Heavily—New Jersey Also Afflicted.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—Infantile paralysis attacked 134 more children in the city in the twenty-four hours ending at 9 o'clock this morning, an increase of nine over yesterday's figures. Thirty-six, four more than yesterday, died from the disease, according to the report of the health department today. The total deaths to date are 1,597 and the cases of infection 7,066.

The state board of health of New Jersey reported a total of 1,950 cases in that state up to this morning, eighty new names having been sent in today. One hundred and ninety-two municipalities are affected by the epidemic, Newark having the greatest number of cases, which is given as twenty-nine.

Houston Gives Free Haircuts.

By United Press.

HOUSTON, Tex., Aug. 22.—Houston today claims the long distance hospitality championship. A company of New York militia was passing a fire station during an exercise stroll while firemen were shearing a horse with electric clippers. One of the guardsmen, whose head was hot beneath a heavy thatch, broke ranks and asked for a haircut. Not only was he accommodated but also were a score of his fellow militiamen—and it didn't cost 'em a cent.

No Fruit Jars in London.

By United Press.

LONDON, Aug. 22.—The housewife's season for putting up fruit is on here today but she has no glass jars therefore. Specially prepared cardboard cans are used by manufacturers and housewives. They are all right except for liquids.

\$110 A MONTH FOR A 4-ROOM FLAT That's the Rent in Buenos Aires—Soap Costs \$1.71 a Cake—\$3 American Hats Sell for \$7—Cigars are 44 Cents Each.

By CHARLES P. STEWART (United Press Staff Correspondent)

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Aug. 1.—(By Mail)—A cake of toilet soap retailing at 25c in the United States costs \$1.71 here. This is typical of Argentine prices generally. They are perfectly terrific, stupefying, incredible.

Drugs cost three to four times what they cost in North America, ordinary tooth brushes 80 cents each, everyday gloves \$7 a pair.

A four-room, steam heated flat in a good, but not aristocratic part of this city, cannot be had for less than \$110 a month. A similar flat, minus the heat, may be had at \$52.80. There are four or five months here during which heat must be had; and Cardiff coal, practically the only kind on the market, costs from \$28.16 to \$32.80; sometimes a bit more.

Cottage Rent is \$32.50 a Month.

In the remote suburbs tiny little boxes of houses may be rented for \$32.50 a month, sans heat, sans light, sans everything else except four walls. These quarters are too far away from the business center to be considered by a man whose business hours are at all exacting. Expensive heating and lighting must also be considered, transportation is cheap. If he can spare the time, he can travel twice daily for \$4.40 a month.

Meat is not high, as Argentina is a meat country. The very fanciest cuts of beefsteak may be had at 25 cents a pound. Ribs and rump steaks cost 17 1-2 cents a pound, mutton 13, veal 20 1-2 cents and pork 22 cents.

Other items of household expense will be about like this: Butter 44, bread 5 1-2, coffee 44, tea 39 1-2, granulated sugar 11c, chickens 35c a pound.

Milk costs 8 cents a quart. Eggs are 48 cents a dozen. Potatoes cost 35 cents for 22 pounds. Oranges are 66 cents a dozen, bananas 22 cents a dozen and apples 6 cents each.

A suit which would cost \$25 in New York or Chicago or San Francisco, costs \$45 in Buenos Aires. A pair of \$5 or \$6 American shoes costs \$15. A \$3 American hat costs between \$6 and \$7. An ordinary suit of winter underclothing costs \$10, United States money.

Dresses Cost \$50 Each.

The man who buys his wife a not over-fashionable walking suit must pay \$50 for it. If she is not too particular, he can get her a bonnet for \$20.

If he wants to keep up with the news, each paper costs him 4 cents. The price of a 15 cent American magazine is 26 cents.

The beer is good but it costs 13 cents per glass. A waiter must bring each glass to a small table and every time he expects a tip of 4 cents. Whiskey, including the tip, is 22 cents a glass.

There is practically no such thing as a cigar for less than 8 cents and these are practically unsmokable. Havana cigars cost from 44 cents up.

The man who falls ill will have to pay an ordinary family doctor \$5 a visit. If his teeth hurt him, it will cost him \$5 an hour to have repairs made, unless he goes to an expensive dentist, in which case there is practically no maximum limit.

People who like to keep clean must pay to their washerwomen approximately the same prices as are charged by the highest-priced New York laundries.

Everything is High.

Roughly speaking, it costs about twice as much to live in Buenos Aires as it costs to live, not perhaps in New York, but in Chicago.

A citizen of the United States who goes to the Argentine metropolis to live, on the same salary he received at home, may consider that his income has been cut in two, and will be financially wise if he readjusts his expenditures accordingly.

Living expenses are higher in Argentine than in any other country in South America.

In Brazil the average is only a little higher than in the United States. Chile and the countries in the South American north are rather cheap. This does not refer to all commodities. Some articles are very expensive. It applies, however, to the average cost of living.

As an offset against their lower prices, incomes are generally lower in the countries where living is cheap.

Why prices are so high in Argentine is not entirely clear. For one thing, the country's population is small and it has plenty of money, so that, if the cash were evenly distributed, the per capita wealth would be high. Furthermore, it is not a manufacturing country. It lacks workmen in sufficient numbers, it has little water power and it has almost no fuel.

There is considerable prospecting for oil. If it should be found in adequate quantities, it will be a God-send and ought to make billionaires of the discoverers. In the meantime, manufactured articles have to be brought from a long way off, which costs money.

Transportation Facilities Poor.

Finally, internal transportation facilities are primitive and shipping plying to foreign ports, is in a few hands.

To a considerable extent, however, it looks as if it is expensive to live in Argentine simply because the people who furnish the necessities of life are able to extort the money.

The average Argentine is not paid for his work in proportion to what he has to pay for his living.

A comparatively small number of men, mostly cattle and wheat kings, make huge sums. There is a fair proportion of rich middlemen. A great deal of the big money the country produces belongs to foreign investors and goes abroad.

A salaried man is considered in possession of a good, round income if he receives \$150 to \$200 monthly. Of course this does not go nearly so far as it would in the United States.

A first-class printer or locomotive engineer may make as high as \$175 monthly.

Bricklayer Gets \$2.50.

Bricklayers are paid from \$2.50 to \$3.50 daily but do not have work all the time. A carpenter, who also has periods of unemployment, earns from \$1.50 to \$2.50 daily.

There is a wide variation, according to season, in what an unskilled laborer receives. At times he gets as low as 20 pesos and as others as high as 80 pesos monthly, or, in United States money, from \$13.20 to \$35.30. On a farm, it is possible to imagine how a man might live on the latter of these two sums, even in Argentine. How he succeeds in doing it in Buenos Aires, and how, in particular, he succeeds in doing it part of the time on \$13.20 per month is a puzzle.

It seems to be the consensus of opinion that he can get enough of a poor quality of food but that his shelter is such as would revolt a self-respecting hog in the United States. He wears whatever clothes he can pick up.

PREPARED FOR CAMPING CROWDS

If you are planning a camping party or week's outing during August, Morean Lodge accommodates crowds from 13 to 20 persons for only \$2.50 a week a person; Dew Drop Inn, 8 to 12 persons; and Fraternity Lodge, 4 to 6 persons, at same rate per week. Fine boating and bathing. All Banquet halls screened. Full line of picnic supplies sand fresh vegetables right on the farm. Phone 4W or write to F. W. Daultmeyer, R. F. D. No. 1, Box 16 Jefferson City, Mo.

ON THE PRETTY MOREAN RIVER

INVESTIGATION BEING MADE IN COLUMBIA FOR CRUDE OIL

That the fabled pot of gold may be found at other places than the end of the rainbow, and that it may be in the shape of an oil well is the feeling that a few Columbians, who own property on the Stewart Addition on Forrest avenue, hold today. Coal oil has been discovered in eight different wells sunk on the property of eight different men in the addition which is enclosed by North Boulevard, Garth avenue, Sexton road, and Jefferson street.

Last December J. H. Sapp drilled a well on his property for the use of his cattle. He disposed of his cattle, and having no further use for the well, which had no pump and was merely a cistern, he let it alone. Neighbors using the well noticed a scummy deposit on the surface of the water. Three weeks ago, A. M. Schwabe took a sample of the water to G. W. Martin, State Chemist, who analyzed the water and found that it contained a good percentage of crude oil. E. B. Branson, a geologist in the University, has also examined the water and has pronounced the oil found on the surface to be white oil, the best grade of crude oil. Several oil men from Oklahoma have also examined the water and have reported favorably.

On the strength of these reports it has been decided by those interested to survey the property, to get a map and plan of the ground wherein oil is found and to decide on a suitable place to sink a test well. The survey will be made tomorrow and next day

under the direction of E. B. Branson and if results are promising a company to develop the enterprise will be formed and operations will start immediately. Arrangements to that effect are already on foot \$2,000 having already been promised to begin construction work. There is no way of determining the probable yield until the survey is made, so there is no way of telling whether the property is worth anything as oil land or not until the test well has been sunk.

Among those interested are S. C. Hunt, Frank Conley, R. B. Price, Jr., Gib Spencer, Ira T. G. Stone, Carl and George Kher, Will Farley, J. H. Sapp, Jasper Murry, A. M. Schwabe, N. E. Estes and H. H. Banks.

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